

Creating Expressions in IDProducer

This topic covers how to display specific data using the Expression Builder - such as truncating the time from a date/time field, or concatenating fields to display the full name of the cardholder

After an *expression* is created, it will appear in the **Drag-drop Elements menu** (left side-panel). Expressions also appear in the "Text and font" section of the **Properties menu** (right side-panel) of the template canvas.

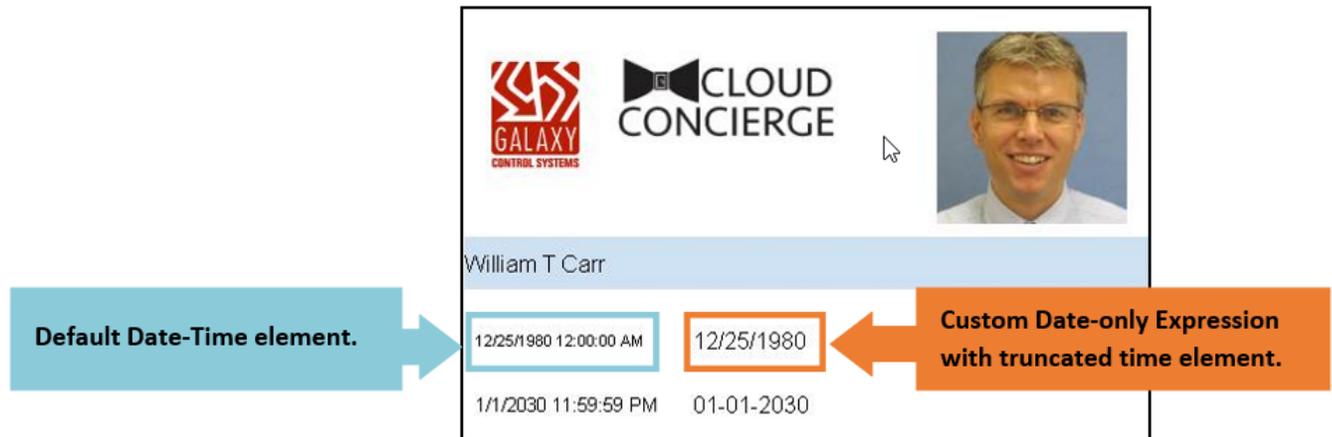
Template Design workspace: Showing where Custom Expressions are located

The screenshot displays the IDProducer software interface. On the left, the 'Drag-drop elements' panel lists various data fields and custom expressions. The central canvas shows a template for 'GCS Template 1' with fields for 'Date 1', 'Date 2', 'Date Added', 'Department', 'Expire Date', 'FirstName MI', 'Lastname', and 'Expire Date'. Custom expressions like 'Date1Expression' and 'ExpireDateExpression' are shown being applied to the 'Date 1' field. On the right, the 'Properties' panel shows the 'Text and font' section with 'Date1Expression' selected. An orange arrow points from the 'Date1Expression' in the Properties panel to the 'Date1Expression' on the canvas, and another arrow points from the 'Date1Expression' in the Properties panel to the 'Date1Expression' in the 'Drag-drop elements' panel. A zoomed-in view of the rendered ID card is shown below, with an orange box highlighting the date '12/25/1980' in the 'Date 1' field.

Creating an Expression to Truncate Time

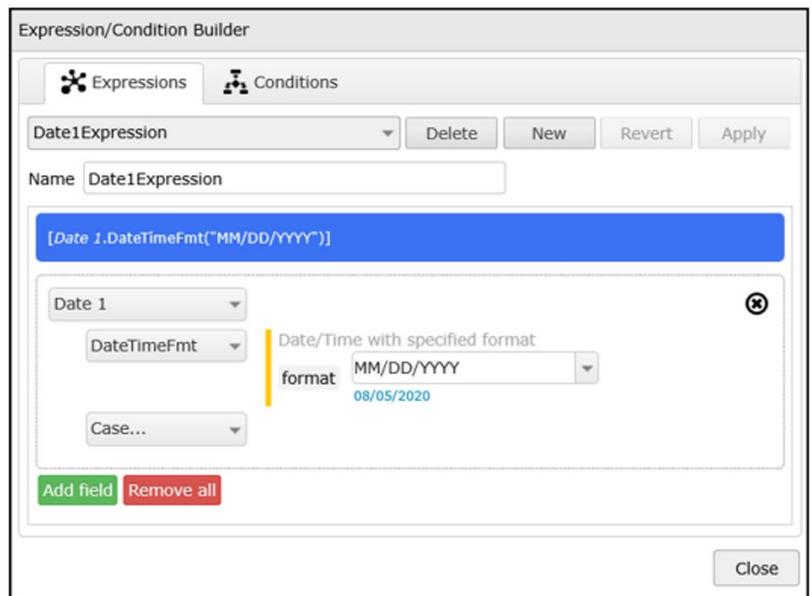
This section describes building a custom Date-only expression that you can add to a badge template.

- In this example, the default “Date 1” element will print the Date & Time (i.e., 12/25/1980 12:00:00 AM).
- You can build an expression that will truncate the time and print only the date (i.e., 12/25/1980).



QUICK STEPS

1. Open the *Expression Builder* by clicking the **Expression Builder** button  on the toolbar.
2. Enter a **custom name** for your expression.
3. Select the **Date 1 Element** and choose
4. Select the **DateTimeFmt** attribute and in the **format** property, choose a date format that does not include the time component.
5. Click **Apply** and **Close** the Expression Builder and your custom expression will appear in the Elements menu.
6. Add your new custom expression to the Badge Template and format/embellish it as needed.
7. **Save** your Badge Template when you are finished.



Creating an Expression to Concatenate Name Fields

This section describes building a custom *Full Name expression* by concatenating data fields to create one element.

- The default name elements for First name or Last name are separate database fields.
- You can build an expression that will concatenate the First, MI, Last Name fields (i.e., William T. Carr).

QUICK STEPS

- You can *append* a blank space between name fields by putting a space in the Append text field.
 - You can *append* a separator (i.e., comma or period) to a data field by entering the separator into the Append text field.
 - You can print the middle initial by setting *start* and *length* to "1" for the Substring attribute on the Middle Name data element.
 - To print the Last Name first, choose the Last Name as the first data element in the expression. Then concatenate the First Name to the Last Name. You should append a comma and space in the Append text field of the Last Name element.
1. Open the *Expression Builder* by clicking the **Expression Builder button** on the toolbar.
 2. In the Expressions tab, enter a **name** for the new custom expression.
 3. Select the **First Name** field.
 4. Select **Append "text"** and enter a space.
 5. Click **Add**
 6. Select the **Middle Name** field.
 7. Select the **Substring** and enter "1" for both the **start** and **length** properties.
 8. Select **Append "text"** and enter a space.
Or if you want a period after the MI, enter a "." followed by a blank space character.
 9. Click **Add**.
 10. Select the **Last Name** field.
 11. Click **Apply** and **Close** the Expression Builder. Your custom expression will appear in the Elements menu.
 12. **Drag-&-drop** your *custom expression* onto the Badge Template and add any embellishment or formatting needed.
 13. **Save** the Badge Template when finished.

The screenshot shows the 'Expression/Condition Builder' window with the 'Expressions' tab selected. The name of the expression is 'FirstName MI Lastname'. The expression text is: `[First Name.Append(" ")] [Middle Name.Substring(1,1).Append(" ")] [Last Name]`. The builder consists of three stacked elements:

- First Name element:** Selected field is 'First Name'. The operation is 'Append', and the text field contains a space character.
- Middle Name element:** Selected field is 'Middle Name'. The operation is 'Substring', with 'start' and 'length' both set to 1. The operation is 'Append', and the text field contains a space character.
- Last Name element:** Selected field is 'Last Name'. The operation is 'Append', and the text field is empty.

Buttons for 'Delete', 'New', 'Revert', and 'Apply' are visible at the top. A 'Close' button is at the bottom right.