Dates and Clocks

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Because ecFlow was designed with ECMWF suites in mind, the date is a very important notion.
ecFlow defines time using clocks. A *clock* is an attribute of a *suite*.
Different suites can have different clocks.
There are two kinds of clocks:

- *real clock*
- *hybrid clock*

A suite clock can be modified by a gain. This is useful for suites running on older data (e.g. cleaning up old data).
The value of the date is in the generated *variable* ECF_DATE, and the value of the time is in ECF_TIME.
ECF_CLOCK contains other information such as the day of the week.
It is safer for a job to always use the suite generated time and date *variable*'s,
and not access directly the system date to prevent confusion.

What to do

1. Try to modify the *suite* to run with a *clock* date from the previous week.
   use :*ecflow_client* --alter change clock_date <day>.<month>.<year> /test
   i.e. *ecflow_client* --alter change clock_date 1.4.2020 /test
2. Check the values of the ecFlow *variable*'s
3. Set the suite clock to sync with the computer
   ecflow_client --alter change clock_sync /test
   Check with:
   ecflow_client --get /test | grep clock

- Be aware that *cron* with a single time dependency will automatically resubmit indefinitely
- Altering the clock requires that the suite is re-queued