

Unusual Date

by Gary S. Flom, MSPE

October 2020						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31



For many reasons, 2020 was an unusual year. That shouldn't be news to anyone! But did you know that October 10, 2020, was also a most peculiar date? You may not have realized it, but at 55 seconds past midnight on that day, the time and date was as shown below.

00:55, 10/10/2020

This can be represented by the following pattern, where $x = 5$, $2x = 10$, and $4x = 20$:

00:xx, 2x/2x/4x4x

From the year 0 AD (or 0 CE) until today, there have been only five occurrences of this time/date pattern. The most recent one was given above.

1. What were the other four time and date combinations that also fit the pattern above?
2. What time and date in the future will fit the same pattern?

(Answers can be found in the *Solutions* section at the back of this issue.) 

Unusual Date: Answers

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1. The previous four time and date combinations were as follows:

00:44, 8/8/1616

00:33, 6/6/1212

00:22, 4/4/0808 (the year 808)

00:11, 2/2/0404 (the year 404)

2. Never! That was the last time that the time/date combination will fit the pattern 00:xx, 2x/2x/4x4x, which makes it even more unusual! Ω

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