

Introduction

Natural ISPF is the application development tool of Software AG and provides a full range of application programming and system programming facilities in any mainframe environment that includes Natural.

This documentation describes the special programming facilities provided by Natural ISPF to help you realize advanced application development. For a description of the Natural ISPF user interface and object-types, consult the Natural ISPF User's Guide.

This section covers the following topics:

- Contents of this Documentation
 - Other Natural ISPF Documentation
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Contents of this Documentation

This documentation is subdivided into a number of sections. Below is an overview of their content.

- **The Macro Facility**
Describes the special Natural macro facility, which allows you to generate source lines of any type automatically.
- **Incore Database**
Tells you how you can use Natural to maintain complex data structures (texts, tables, graphics, etc.) in the user memory, and how you can integrate the new Software AG Editor in your Natural applications.
- **Open NSPF**
Explains how you can modify and enhance Natural ISPF according to your site's requirements. You can define new objects and relate them to functions. The integration of site-specific objects is made easy by the ability to define new menus.
- **Natural ISPF API**
Describes the programs that can be used to access Natural ISPF internal information from applications written in Natural.
- **Authorization Classes**
Contains a table of authorization classes which you need when defining new objects and relating them to functions (relevant to Open NSPF).

Other Natural ISPF Documentation

Apart from the present Programmer's Guide, the following technical documentation is available for Natural ISPF.

- **Introduction to Natural ISPF**
Contains a brief introduction to the Natural ISPF system and gives an overview of its facilities and features.
- **Natural ISPF Installation Documentation**
This documentation is intended for the system administrator. It contains instructions as to installation procedures in the various environments.
- **Natural ISPF Administration Documentation**
This documentation is intended for the system administrator. It describes user authorization and explains how Natural ISPF can be customized to the requirements of the site, including user definition.
- **Natural ISPF User's Guide**
This documentation explains the Natural ISPF user interface and gives a full account of all object-types accessible with Natural ISPF.
- **Software AG Editor Documentation ***
Gives a detailed account of Editor functionality and command syntax.

* For instructions on how to install the Software AG Editor, see the section **Installing Natural** of the **Natural Operations Documentation** (Version 2.2.6 or higher).
For information on administrator utilities dealing with the Software AG Editor, see the section in the **Natural Utilities Documentation** (Version 2.2.6 or higher).