

System Variable *LENGTH(field)

The size of the currently used value space of a dynamic variable can be obtained from the system variable *LENGTH. *LENGTH is set to the (used) length of the source operand during assignments automatically.

Note:

Due to performance considerations, the storage area that is allocated to hold the value of the dynamic variable may be larger than the value of *LENGTH (used size available to the programmer). You should not rely on the storage that is allocated beyond the used length as indicated by *LENGTH: it may be released at any time, even if the respective dynamic variable is not accessed. It is not possible for the Natural programmer to obtain information about the currently allocated size. This is an internal value.

*LENGTH(field) returns the used size of a dynamic Natural field or variable in bytes. *LENGTH may be used only to get the currently used size for dynamic variables.

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