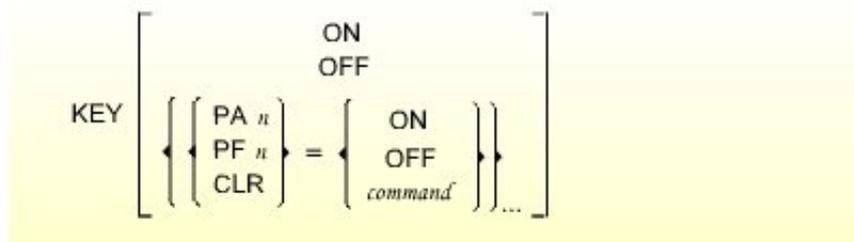


KEY

This Natural system command is available for Mainframes and for UNIX.



With the KEY command, you can assign functions to keys on the keyboard of video terminals. Moreover, you can change, activate and deactivate the assigned functions.

This is possible for the following keys:

- PA1 to PA3,
- PF1 to PF24
- CLEAR

To each of these keys you can assign one of the following functions:

- a Natural system command,
- a Natural terminal command,
- a user-defined command.

Natural will execute the assigned command whenever you press the corresponding key in command mode (Mainframes: NEXT prompt, UNIX: direct command window).

Notes:

- Assignments made with the system command KEY are totally independent of assignments made with a SET KEY statement in a program.
- Function-key assignments can also be made by the Natural administrator via the **profile parameter** KEY.

The following topics are covered below:

- Assigning Commands
- Activating/Deactivating All Keys - KEY ON/OFF
- Activating/Deactivating Individual Keys - KEY key=ON/OFF

Assigning Commands

If you enter only the command KEY (without parameters), the "Function-Key Assignments" screen will be displayed. On this screen, you can assign commands to the individual keys (Mainframes: by entering them in the "Command" column).

To assign a different command to a key, you overwrite the existing entry **in the "Command" column**.

To delete an command assignment, you delete the entry **in the "Command" column** or overwrite it with blanks.

You can also assign commands to individual keys by specifying them directly with the KEY command; that is, you specify `KEY key=command` (*key* being the name of the key and *command* the name of the command that is to be assigned to the key). For example:

```
KEY PF1=CLEAR
```

If the assigned command contains blanks, it has to be enclosed in apostrophes. For example:

```
PF13='UPDATE OFF'
```

Activating/Deactivating All Keys - KEY ON/OFF

With the command `KEY OFF/ON`, you deactivate/re-activate all function-key assignments:

KEY OFF	If you the press a function key, Natural will return an appropriate message indicating that the key is not active.
KEY ON	Re-activates all function-key assignments that have previously been deactivated with <code>KEY OFF</code> .

You can also activate/deactivate the keys by overwriting the entry `ON/OFF` in the field `Activate Keys` at the top right-hand corner of the `Function-Key Assignments` screen.

Note for Mainframes:

The `CLEAR` key cannot be activated/deactivated. Unless another function is assigned to it, it has the same function as the **terminal command** `%%`. The command `KEY ON/OFF` and the "Activate Keys" field have no effect on the `CLEAR` key.

Activating/Deactivating Individual Keys - KEY key=ON/OFF

With the command `KEY key=OFF/ON` you deactivate/re-activate the command assigned to a specific *key*.

KEY key=OFF	Deactivates the command assigned to a specific <i>key</i> . For example: <code>KEY PF24=OFF</code>
KEY key=ON	Re-activates a previously deactivated command assignment. For example: <code>KEY PF24=ON</code>

The command `KEY CLR=ON/OFF` is not possible (see also note above).