

Initial Values (and the RESET Statement)

The following topics are covered:

- Assigning Initial Values to a User-Defined Variable
 - Default Initial Values
 - RESET Statement
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Assigning Initial Values to a User-Defined Variable

You can assign an initial value to a user-defined variable. You specify the initial value in angle brackets with the keyword "INIT" after the variable definition in the DEFINE DATA statement.

If the initial value is alphanumeric, it must be enclosed in apostrophes.

Example:

```
DEFINE DATA LOCAL
1 #FIELD1A (N3) INIT <100>
1 #FIELD1B (A20) INIT <'ABC'>
END-DEFINE
...
```

The initial value for a field may also be the value of a Natural system variable.

Example of system variable *DATX as initial value:

```
DEFINE DATA LOCAL
1 #MYDATE (D) INIT <*DATX>
END-DEFINE
...
```

As initial value, a variable can also be filled, entirely or partially, with a specific single character or string of characters (only possible for alphanumeric variables).

With the option FULL LENGTH<character(s)> the entire field is filled with the specified *character(s)*.

With the option LENGTHn <character(s)> the first *n* positions of the field are filled with the specified *character(s)*.

Example of FULL LENGTH:

In this example, the entire field will be filled with asterisks.

```
DEFINE DATA LOCAL
1 #FIELD (A25) INIT FULL LENGTH <'*'*>
END-DEFINE
...
```

Example of LENGTH n:

In this example, the first 4 positions of the field will be filled with exclamation marks.

```
DEFINE DATA LOCAL
1 #FIELD (A25) INIT LENGTH 4 <'! !>
END-DEFINE
...
```

Default Initial Values

If you specify no initial value for a field, the field will be initialized with a default initial value (null value) depending on its format:

Format	Default Initial Value
B, F, I, N, P	0
A	blank
L	F(ALSE)
D	D' '
T	T'00:00:00'
C	(AD=D)

RESET Statement

The RESET statement is used to set the value of a field to a null value, or to a specific initial value.

- RESET (without INITIAL) sets the value of each specified field to a null value.
- RESET INITIAL sets each specified field to the initial value as defined for the field in the DEFINE DATA statement.

Example:

```
DEFINE DATA LOCAL
1 #FIELDA (N3) INIT <100>
1 #FIELDDB (A20) INIT <'ABC'>
1 #FIELDDC (I4) INIT <5>
END-DEFINE
...
...
RESET #FIELDA           /* resets field value to null
...
RESET INITIAL #FIELDA #FIELDDB #FIELDDC /* resets field values to initial values
...
```