

DF - Date Format

Parameter	Possible Values	Default Value	Applicable Statements
DF	S, I, L	S	COMPRESS DISPLAY FETCH FORMAT INPUT MOVE PRINT RUN STACK WRITE

When the value of a date field is converted to alphanumeric format (for example, in a MOVE, DISPLAY, WRITE or INPUT statement) and no edit mask is specified for the conversion, the default date format as determined by the **profile parameter** DTFORM is used as edit mask. The same is true for the input validation of a date variable used in an INPUT statement: If no edit mask is specified, the input is validated according to the date format determined by the DTFORM parameter.

With the DF parameter, you determine the length of a date when converted to alphanumeric representation without an edit mask being specified:

DF=S	8-byte representation with 2-digit year component and delimiters (yy-mm-dd).
DF=I	8-byte representation with 4-digit year component and no delimiters (yyyymmdd).
DF=L	10-byte representation with 4-digit year component and delimiters (yyyy-mm-dd).

Note:

The sequence of the day, month and year components and the delimiter characters used are determined by the **profile parameter** DTFORM.

With DF=S, only 2 digits are provided for the year information; this means that if the date value contained the century, this information would be lost during the conversion.

By using DF=I or DF=L, you can gradually change your applications to use 4-digit year representations and at the same time continue to make use of the flexibility provided by the **profile parameter** DTFORM.

The DF parameter is evaluated at compilation. It can be specified with the FORMAT statement, the statements INPUT, DISPLAY, WRITE and PRINT (at statement and field level), and the statements MOVE, COMPRESS, STACK, RUN and FETCH (at field level).

See also the section Processing of Date Information in the Natural Programming Guide.

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