

# Work Files

This section describes work files and valid formats that apply to the unload, load and scan functions of the Object Handler.

See also Work File Options in the section Settings.

**Note:**

Whenever you enter a work file name that exceeds the available space, press PF11 or PF1 (Help) for this field to enter a longer work file name.

Below is information on:

- Work File Assignment
  - Work File Format
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## Work File Assignment

File	Explanation
Work File 1	Used for the unload, load and scan functions. Contains the data unloaded.
Work File 3	Internal report file.
Work File 4	Report file. Used when the option Write Report is set.
Work File 5	Target file for the FDTs loaded.
Work File 6	Applies to the load function only.  Restart information file. Used when the option Write Restart Information (see the section Settings) is set.
Work File 7	Internal work file.
Work File 9	Internal work file.
Work File 10	Trace work file. Used when the trace mode is set.  See SET TRACE WORK in the section Commands for CUIs.

## Work File Format

There are two file formats for unloading objects in the source environment into work files and for loading them from work files into the target environment: an internal format and the Transfer Format. To transfer binary data, the work files must be of internal format. To transfer text data, the work files must be of Transfer Format.

Below is information on:

- Internal Format
- Transfer Format

## Internal Format

This format enables you to transfer Natural sources and cataloged objects, error messages, command processors, Adabas FDTs and non-Natural objects from one environment to another. To achieve this, the Object Handler uses the internal format, an internal record layout for the work files.

With the internal format activated, Natural objects are read from the source environment and written to a Natural work file using the Unload function of the Object Handler. This work file can be transported to another environment with standard file transfer services. In the target environment, the objects can then be read from the work file and loaded into the local file or database system with the Load function of the Object Handler.

To transfer objects between identical platforms, use work files of internal format. Use portable work files of internal format if you want to transport objects between different Open Systems platforms (UNIX, OpenVMS or Windows), for example, from a little-endian machine to a big-endian machine. See also Portable Work File in the sections Settings, Portable Natural Generated Programs (Natural Programming Guide) and DEFINE WORK FILE (Natural Statements documentation).

The Object Handler uses internal format by default. Using the internal format (Transfer Format unchecked), Work File 1 must be of binary format. To achieve this, omit the file extension or use the file extension ".sag".

**Note:**

Work files created by the utility NATUNLD must be processed with the internal format. Work files created by the Object Handler in internal format can be processed with the utility NATLOAD. However, this only applies to objects which can be transferred with NATUNLD or NATLOAD: Natural programming objects, DDMs and Natural error messages. Other objects are ignored. The work files must be created on a server of the same platform where NATUNLD or NATLOAD is applied. See also NATUNLD/NATLOAD Utilities.

## Transfer Format

See also Transfer Format in the section Settings.

This format allows you to transfer the sources of Natural objects, Natural command processors, error messages and Adabas FDTs from one hardware platform to another. To achieve this, the Object Handler uses the Transfer Format, a general record layout for work files containing load or unload data. The Transfer Format is independent of any hardware platforms.

With the option Transfer Format set, the Unload function of the Object Handler reads Natural objects from a hardware platform and then restructures them.

Formatted records are written to a Natural work file which can be transported to another platform with standard file transfer services. On the target platform, the Load function of the Object Handler then reads the objects from the work file and loads them into the local file or database system. The objects read from the work file are restructured according to the structure of the new hardware platform.

Use work files of Transfer Format to transfer Natural objects between mainframe and Open System platforms (UNIX, OpenVMS or Windows).

If Transfer Format is specified (option Transfer Format set), Work File 1 must be of test (ASCII) format. To achieve this, a file extension must be used, but not the file extension ".sag".

**Note:**

Use Transfer Format to process work files created by the utility SYTRANS (see the relevant section). Work files created by the Object Handler in Transfer Format can be processed with the utility SYSTRANS on all platforms.