

# Operations Environment

This section describes the Natural operations environment for Windows and Windows NT. Natural takes full advantage of PC hardware flexibility.

- Host Communication and System File Simulation
- Configuration Files
- Work Files
- Natural Buffer Pool
- Invoking Natural Subprograms from 3GL Programs
- Natural in Batch Mode
- Natural Output Window Information
- Natural Exit Codes
- Issuing System Commands from a Natural Program

With Natural, you can access and update data stored in various types of databases. The Natural language statements used to access this database are the same as those used on mainframe and UNIX computers. Each Natural statement performs the same function regardless of the database management system or access method used.

Natural also provides the ability to include programs written in other programming languages (for example, C, PASCAL or Assembler) within Natural applications. In such cases, the respective compiler and linker are required. For additional information, see the CALL statement in the Natural Statements documentation.

The way in which Natural report pages are scrolled or sized and online terminal commands are used is quite unlike those on the mainframe. Input/output fields can be checked instantaneously, regarding valid range, correct type, or edit mask. Graphical user interface (GUI) elements such as buttons, drop-down menus or bitmaps can be used to enhance the user interface of a Natural application.