

Reporting Mode and Structured Mode

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General Information

Natural offers two ways of programming: *reporting mode* and *structured mode*.

Generally, *it is recommended to use structured mode* exclusively, because it provides for more clearly structured applications.

Reporting mode is only useful for the creation of adhoc reports and small programs which do not involve complex data and/or programming constructs. (If you decide to write a program in reporting mode, be aware that small programs may easily become larger and more complex.)

Structured mode is intended for the implementation of complex applications with a clear and well-defined program structure. The major benefits of structured mode are:

- The programs have to be written in a more structured way and are therefore easier to read and consequently easier to maintain.
- As all fields to be used in a program have to be defined in one central location (instead of being scattered all over the program, as is possible in reporting mode), overall control of the data used is much easier.

With structured mode, you also have to make more detail planning before the actual programs can be coded, thereby avoiding many programming errors and inefficiencies.

Setting the Programming Mode

The default programming mode is set by the Natural administrator. You can change the mode by using the system command GLOBALS:

- **GLOBALS SM=ON** - Structured Mode.
- **GLOBALS SM=OFF** - Reporting Mode.

Functional Differences

The major functional differences between reporting mode and structured mode are summarized below:

- The syntax related to closing loops and functional blocks differs in the two modes.
In structured mode, every loop or logical construct must be explicitly closed with a corresponding END-... statement. Thus, it becomes immediately clear, which loop/logical constructs ends where.
Reporting mode uses (CLOSE) LOOP and DO ... DOEND statements for this purpose.
END-... statements (except END-DEFINE, END-DECIDE and END-SUBROUTINE) cannot be used in reporting mode, while LOOP and DO/DOEND statements cannot be used in structured mode.
- In reporting mode, you can use database fields without having to define them in a DEFINE DATA statement; also, you can define user-defined variables anywhere in a program, which means that they can be scattered all over the program.
In structured mode, *all* data elements to be used have to be defined in one central location (either in the DEFINE DATA statement at the beginning of the program, or in a data area outside the program).

The Natural Statements documentation provides separate syntax diagrams for each mode-sensitive statement.

The two examples below illustrate the differences between the two modes in constructing processing loops and logical conditions.

Reporting Mode Example:

The reporting mode example uses the statements DO and DOEND to mark the beginning and end of the statement block that is based on the AT END OF DATA condition. The END statement closes all active processing loops.

```

READ EMPLOYEES BY PERSONNEL-ID
  DISPLAY NAME BIRTH POSITION
  AT END OF DATA
  DO
    SKIP 2
    WRITE / 'LAST SELECTED:' OLD(NAME)
  DOEND
END

```

Structured Mode Example:

The structured mode example uses an END-ENDDATA statement to close the AT END OF DATA condition, and an END-READ statement to close the READ loop. The result is a more clearly structured program in which you can see immediately where each construct begins and ends:

```

DEFINE DATA LOCAL
  1 MYVIEW VIEW OF EMPLOYEES
  2 PERSONNEL-ID
  2 NAME
  2 BIRTH
  2 POSITION
END-DEFINE
READ MYVIEW BY PERSONNEL-ID
  DISPLAY NAME BIRTH POSITION
  AT END OF DATA
  SKIP 2
  WRITE / 'LAST SELECTED:' OLD(NAME)
END-ENDDATA
END-READ
END

```

Closing a Processing Loop in Reporting Mode

The statements END, LOOP (or CLOSE LOOP) or SORT may be used to close a processing loop.

The LOOP statement can be used to close more than one loop, and the END statement can be used to close all active loops. These possibilities of closing several loops with a single statement constitute a basic difference to structured mode.

A SORT statement closes all processing loops and initiates another processing loop.

Example 1 - LOOP:

```
FIND ...
  FIND ...
  ...
  ...
  LOOP (closes inner FIND loop)
LOOP   (closes outer FIND loop)
...
...
```

Example 2 - END:

```
FIND ...
  FIND ...
  ...
  ...
  END (closes all loops and ends processing)
```

Example 3 - SORT:

```
FIND ...
  FIND ...
  ...
  ...
  SORT ... (closes all loops, initiates loop)
  ...
  END (closes SORT loop and ends processing)
```

Closing a Processing Loop in Structured Mode

Structured mode uses a specific loop-closing statement for each processing loop. Also, the END statement does not close any processing loop. The SORT statement must be preceded by an END-ALL statement, and the SORT loop must be closed with an END-SORT statement.

Example 1 - FIND:

```
FIND ...
  FIND ...
  ...
  ...
  END-FIND (closes inner FIND loop)
END-FIND  (closes outer FIND loop)
...
```

Example 2 - READ:

```
READ ...
  AT END OF DATA
  ...
  END-ENDDATA
  ...
END-READ (closes READ loop)
...
...
END
```

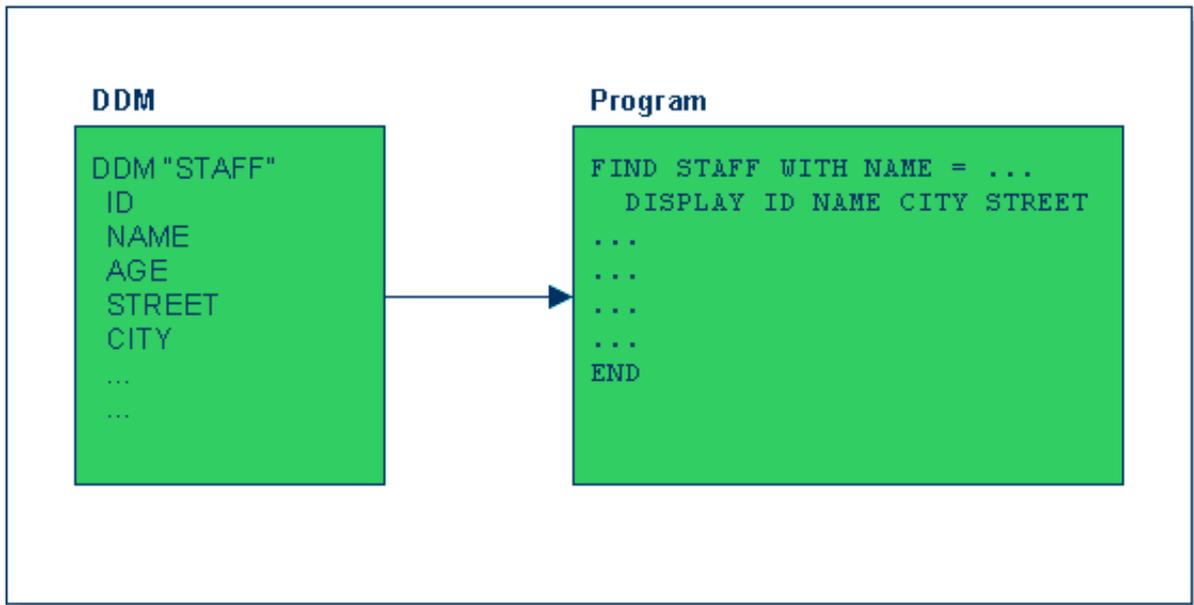
Example 3 - SORT:

```
READ ...
  FIND ...
  ...
  ...
  END-ALL (closes all loops)
  SORT   (opens loop)
  ...
  ...
  END-SORT (closes SORT loop)
END
```

Database Reference

In reporting mode, database fields and DDMs may be referenced without having been defined in a data area.

Reporting Mode:



In structured mode, however, each database field to be used must be specified in a DEFINE DATA statement (as described in the sections Defining Fields and Database Access).

Structured Mode: