

Natural Construct

Generating high-quality business applications

To safeguard your organization's competitive edge, you need to develop and deploy new enterprise applications within the shortest possible timeframe. The answer to this challenge is Natural Construct: a powerful application generator that enables you to create production-ready applications quickly and easily.

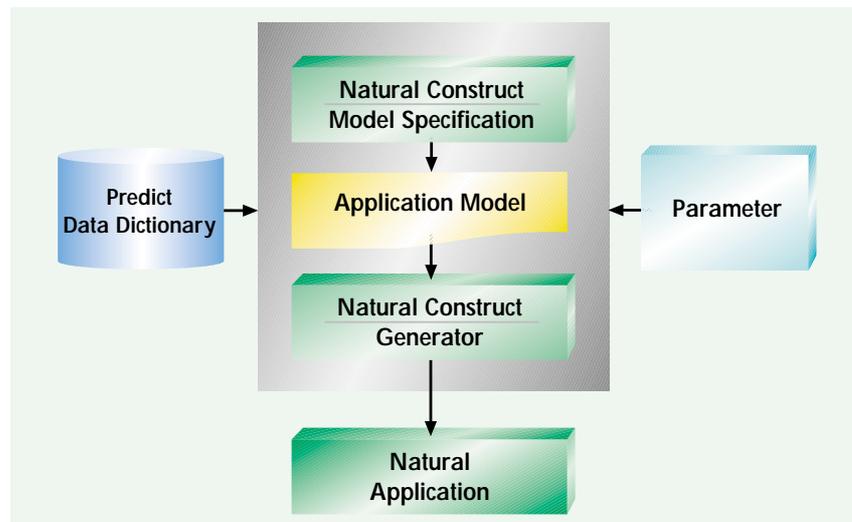
REUSABLE MODELS FOR RAPID, RELIABLE APPLICATION DEVELOPMENT

Natural Construct helps you create and implement high-quality, robust Natural applications. Building on Software AG's proven Natural language, Construct offers a wide range of models, i.e. reusable program structures, that enable business processes to be expressed using high-level, fill-in-the-blanks specifications. With this approach, you can generate fully working programs quickly and easily. The applications are superior in quality and functionally rich. They address the full range of your organization's needs: from simple end-user query systems to robust, high-volume mission-critical applications.

THE BENEFITS IN BRIEF

With Natural Construct you can:

- Dramatically improve development productivity while significantly shortening your time to market
- Define your application requirements at a higher business level
- Generate high-quality and high-performance transaction-based enterprise applications



- Maximize reuse of previously generated and Construct-supplied components
- Reduce your maintenance costs thanks to its powerful built-in regeneration capability

MORE THAN JUST A WIZARD

Natural Construct employs a dictionary-driven approach to application generation. Data defined during the design phase of development using Predict can be selected and used with ease for the rapid implementation of functionality-rich business applications. This distinguishes Natural Construct from narrowly focused wizards designed

to craft bits of specialized code or SQL generators built for query tools.

CONSISTENT QUALITY

With Natural Construct, quality standards are built into the models and reusable application components. As a result, you benefit from:

- Consistent application interfaces that are easy to use
- Standard application logic that is simple to maintain
- Corporate development standards that can be readily established and automatically incorporated
- Efficient Natural code and access to data

A WIDE RANGE OF PREDEFINED MODELS

Natural Construct generates production-ready programs from high-level specification. There are more than 100 predefined models to select from, and you can easily add to or modify them to meet the unique requirements of your organization. There are three types of pre-tested and fully reusable models:

Program models: generate recurring application transactions such as data entry, browsing and menu selection using an integrated suite of models.

Statement models: generate blocks of code directly into a Natural program.

Object models: support client/server application architecture using specialized program models. Super models can generate many objects at once using a simple high-level specification.

MADE-TO-MEASURE MODELS

Natural Construct includes a set of standard models, but also allows you to create model sets geared to your company's primary application requirements or specific models for specific needs. Moreover, existing standard models can easily be modified to suit your organization's precise requirements; models do not have to be built again from scratch.

FEWER MISTAKES, GREATER SPEED

There is no need to Master cryptic, difficult-to-learn meta languages. With Natural Construct, you use user-friendly, clearly structured fill-in-the-blanks forms to enter the generation parameters. In many cases, you merely have to check against parameters that are already listed. This speeds up the entire procedure and makes mistakes and oversights far less likely. Once parameters have been defined, they can be reused or adapted with ease for further generation tasks.

EASILY UNDERSTOOD, EASILY MODIFIED CODE STATEMENTS

The resulting modules are generated in conventional Natural code. In other words, they can, if necessary, be viewed, modified and tested with ease. The Natural developer remains within a familiar environment, and has no difficulty understanding code statements generated using Construct. Moreover, valuable testing time can be saved.

THE BENEFITS OF STANDARDIZATION

The use of models facilitates the induction of new staff and ensures consistent results and low error rates, reducing the need for maintenance work. Moreover, experience has shown that the standardization of user interfaces significantly increases the acceptance of new applications.

HIDES COMPLEXITY AND EMPOWERS THE NON-EXPERT

Construct hides the complexity of programming languages and structures. Individual parts of the application are inserted at predefined positions. The author does not need to know the entire program structure "inside out." As a result, even people who are not Natural experts can use Construct to design applications that create competitive advantage.

CONSTRUCT SPECTRUM FOR DISTRIBUTED ENVIRONMENTS

In combination with the add-on product Construct Spectrum, Natural Construct can be employed to generate distributed applications – comprising COM-enabled clients, Software AG's proven EntireX middleware, and powerful Natural services – as easily and rapidly as traditional applications.

Platforms

Natural Construct is available for OS/390, VSE, VM/CMS, BS2000, Unix and OpenVMS. Applications generated using Natural Construct can be deployed on all platforms supported by Natural.

Software AG
Corporate Headquarters
Uhlandstraße 12
64297 Darmstadt/Germany
Tel.: +49-61 51-92-0
Fax: +49-61 51-92-11 91
www.softwareag.com