

Natural

Natural Release Notes for Mainframes

Version 9.2.3

November 2024

This document applies to Natural Version 9.2.3 and all subsequent releases.

Specifications contained herein are subject to change and these changes will be reported in subsequent release notes or new editions.

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Preface

This document provides a brief summary of the changes and enhancements that have been introduced in Natural Version 9.2.3 for Mainframes and the Natural add-on products released with this version. Revised and updated documentation sets are available with this version.

Supported Environments	Supported Platforms, Requirements, Product Availability, and End of Maintenance TP Monitors/Online Interfaces Database Management Systems Assemblers Authorized Services Manager and Roll Server
Available and Supported Software AG Product Versions	Product Availability and End of Maintenance Overview of New Natural Add-On Product Versions Software AG Product Versions Supported by Natural
Installation and Compatibility	Changes to Installation Compatibility
New and Changed Features of Base Natural	Operations and Performance Syntax and Compiler Enhancements System Commands Utilities Profile Parameters Application Programming Interfaces
New and Changed Features of Natural Add-On Products	Natural Development Server Natural for Db2 Natural for Db2 for zIIP NaturalONE Natural RPC (Remote Procedure Call) Natural Security Natural Web I/O Interface

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About this Documentation

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Document Conventions

Convention	Description
Bold	Identifies elements on a screen.
Monospace font	Identifies service names and locations in the format <i>folder.subfolder.service</i> , APIs, Java classes, methods, properties.
<i>Italic</i>	Identifies: Variables for which you must supply values specific to your own situation or environment. New terms the first time they occur in the text. References to other documentation sources.
Monospace font	Identifies: Text you must type in. Messages displayed by the system. Program code.
{ }	Indicates a set of choices from which you must choose one. Type only the information inside the curly braces. Do not type the { } symbols.
	Separates two mutually exclusive choices in a syntax line. Type one of these choices. Do not type the symbol.
[]	Indicates one or more options. Type only the information inside the square brackets. Do not type the [] symbols.
...	Indicates that you can type multiple options of the same type. Type only the information. Do not type the ellipsis (...).

Online Information and Support

Product Documentation

You can find the product documentation on our documentation website at <https://documentation.softwareag.com>.

Product Training

You can find helpful product training material on our Learning Portal at <https://learn.software-ag.com>.

Tech Community

You can collaborate with Software GmbH experts on our Tech Community website at <https://tech-community.softwareag.com>. From here you can, for example:

- Browse through our vast knowledge base.
- Ask questions and find answers in our discussion forums.
- Get the latest Software GmbH news and announcements.
- Explore our communities.
- Go to our public GitHub and Docker repositories at <https://github.com/softwareag> and <https://containers.softwareag.com/products> and discover additional Software GmbH resources.

Product Support

Support for Software GmbH products is provided to licensed customers via our Empower Portal at <https://empower.softwareag.com>. Many services on this portal require that you have an account. If you do not yet have one, you can request it at <https://empower.softwareag.com/register>. Once you have an account, you can, for example:

- Download products, updates and fixes.
- Search the Knowledge Center for technical information and tips.
- Subscribe to early warnings and critical alerts.
- Open and update support incidents.
- Add product feature requests.

Data Protection

Software GmbH products provide functionality with respect to processing of personal data according to the EU General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR). Where applicable, appropriate steps are documented in the respective administration documentation.

2 Supported Environments

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Software AG provides Natural support for the versions of the operating systems, TP monitors, database management systems and assemblers supported by their respective manufacturers. In general, when the provider of an operating system, TP monitor, database management or assembler system stops supporting a version of an operating system, TP monitor, database management system or assembler, Software AG will stop supporting that version of the operating system, TP monitor, database management system or assembler.



Note: For information regarding Software AG product compatibility with IBM platforms and any IBM requirements for Software AG products, please review the [Product Compatibility for IBM Platforms](http://www.softwareag.com/) web page at <http://www.softwareag.com/>.

Supported Platforms, Requirements, Product Availability, and End of Maintenance

You can view all available Software AG product versions and check the dates when their maintenance ends by using the System Requirements App at:

<https://documentation.softwareag.com/systemrequirements/#/>

Here, you can enter the product name or code in the search field and see the latest information on system requirements and product availability.

TP Monitors/Online Interfaces

Natural Version 9.2.3 supports the versions of the TP monitors/online interfaces listed below:

Product	Version
Com-plete	See Software AG Product Versions Supported by Natural .
CICS TS for z/OS	5.5, 5.6, 6.1, 6.2
IMS TM	15

Database Management Systems

Natural Version 9.2.3 supports the versions of the database management systems listed below:

Product	Version
Adabas	See Software AG Product Versions Supported by Natural .
Db2 for z/OS	12.1, 13.1
VSAM	As delivered with the operating system
DFSMSHfs	As delivered for the respective VSAM version if transactional VSAM is to be used with Natural for VSAM

Assemblers

Natural Version 9.2 requires "HL" Assembler as delivered with the operating system for the assembly of its source modules.



Note: It may be possible to assemble source modules with older assemblers; however, Software AG cannot guarantee this.

Authorized Services Manager and Roll Server

The Authorized Services Manager (module NATASM92) and the Natural Roll Server (module NATRSM92) supplied with Natural Version 9.2.3 employ machine instructions from the IBM General Instructions Extension Facility. They will not execute successfully on machines for which IBM does not supply this extension facility.

Java

Natural Add-On products which require Java (e.g.: Natural for Db2 for zIIP) are supported with the following Java versions:

Product	Version
Java	17.0

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Product Availability and End of Maintenance

You can view all available Software AG product versions and check the dates when their maintenance ends by visiting Software AG's Empower web site at <https://empower.softwareag.com/>:

1. Log in to Empower.
2. Expand **Products** in the left menu of the page and select **Product Version Availability**:

Product Version Availability

General Availability (GA), Platform retirement, End of Maintenance (EOM), and End of Sustained Support (EOSS) dates for your products.
[View a description of these terms in our Maintenance Policy.](#)

Product Line: OR Product Family:

Product Name:

Product Version:

Operating System: Operating System Version:

Show prior Product Versions: ☐

Sort by Product Version: ☒ Descending ☐ Ascending Rows per Page:

Rows 1 - 100 of 6022 | Rows per page: 100 | Click for Printable Version of below Table:

Product Line Product - Product Version + Operating System and Hardware +	Version Lifecycle Milestone			
	GA	OS Retirement	EOM	EOSS

3. Select the required filter criteria from the drop-down list boxes and click on the **SEARCH** button.

A list of supported Software AG products that meet the filter criteria is shown. In addition, the end-of-standard-maintenance dates are indicated in the **EOM** column.

If you mark **Show prior Product Versions**, only product versions that are out of maintenance are listed.

Overview of New Natural Add-On Product Versions

This release of Natural provides new versions of the Natural add-on products (or subcomponents) listed in the following table. These versions contain

- all Zaps,
- INPL updates,
- early warnings and

■ source changes

applied to their respective predecessor versions as error corrections.

The Zap solutions and fixes mentioned in the following table can be downloaded from the **Product Fixes** section of the Software AG Empower website at <https://empower.softwareag.com/>.

Product Name	Product Code	Version
Natural Advanced Facilities	NAF	9.2.3
Natural CICS Interface	NCI	9.2.3
Natural Com-plete/SMARTS Interface	NCF	9.2.3
Natural Connection	NTC	9.2.3
Natural Development Server	NDV	9.2.3
Natural for Db2	NDB	9.2.3
Natural for Db2 for zIIP	NDZ	9.2.3
Natural for VSAM	NVS	9.2.3
Natural IMS TM Interface	NII	9.2.3
Natural ISPF	ISP	9.2.3
Natural Optimizer Compiler	NOC	9.2.3
Natural Review	RNM	9.2.3
Natural SAF Security	NSF	9.2.3
Natural Security	NSC	9.2.3
Natural TSO Interface	NTI	9.2.3
Natural Web I/O Interface	NWO	9.2.3 (server)
Super Natural	NSN	9.2.3
Natural Batch for zIIP	NAZBT	9.2.3
Natural for CICS for zIIP	NAZCI	9.2.3
Natural for Com-plete for zIIP	NAZCO	9.2.3
Natural for IMS for zIIP	NAZNI	9.2.3



Note: NDZ is now part of the main version, therefore we have changed the NDZ version from 1.1 to 9.2.

Software AG Product Versions Supported by Natural

Natural Version 9.2.3 and the add-on products released with this version support the minimum versions and fixes (or higher) of the optional Software AG products listed in the following table. In general, Software AG recommends using the latest product versions supported by Natural to take advantage of new features and enhancements provided by these products.

Product Name	Product Code	Minimum Version
Adabas	ADA	8.5
Adabas CICS Interface	ACI	8.5
Adabas IMS/TM Interface	AII	8.5
Adabas Online System	AOS	8.5
Adabas Review	REV	5.2
Adabas Text Retrieval	TRS	2.1.4
Com-plete	COM	6.8.1 Cumulative Fix 19 with SMARTS Version 3.3.1 Cumulative Fix 35 6.8.2 with SMARTS Version 3.3.2
Con-form	CMF	3.4.3
Con-nect	CNT	3.4.3
Entire Connection	PCC	9.3.
Entire Event Management	NCL	2.2.1
Entire Net-Work	WCP	6.5 (This product is required if you are using Natural Security in a heterogeneous environment.)
Entire Operations	NOP	5.5.2
Entire Output Management	NOM	3.5.2
Entire System Server	NPR	3.7.2
International Components for Unicode for Software AG	ICS	3.2.1
Mainframe License Check	MLC	1.4.1
Natural Business Services	NBS	8.2.2
Natural Construct	CST	8.2.2
Natural Document Management	NDM	1.6.3 with Service Pack I001 applied
Natural Engineer	NEE	9.1.1
NaturalONE	ONE	9.3
Natural Web I/O Interface	NWO	9.2 (client)
Predict	PRD	8.5.1
Predict Application Control	PAC	2.6.1

SMARTS	APS	3.3.1 Cumulative Fix 35 3.3.2
System Automation Tools	SAT	3.5.2
webMethods EntireX (before: EntireX Communicator)	EXX	10.7

Although it may be technically possible to run versions of other Software AG products which are older than the ones listed above with a new version of Natural, this is not recommended because, for legal reasons, Software AG cannot continue to support such combinations and cannot make any statements about whether it is technically possible to run a new version of Natural with versions of other Software AG products which are older than the ones listed above.

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Installation and Compatibility

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Changes to Installation

This section describes the changes in the installation process of base Natural and the Natural add-on products released with this Natural version.

The sections indicated for more information are contained in the Natural *Installation* documentation, unless otherwise noted.

- [System Maintenance Aid: Readme File](#)
- [License Checks for Selected Add-on Products](#)
- [Module NATXML supports IBM Architecture Level 9](#)

System Maintenance Aid: Readme File

For installation guidance and information on new or changed System Maintenance Aid (SMA) parameters and Natural features, you can view the product-specific readme files by using the appropriate SMA function.

➤ To view a product-specific Readme

- From the product list on an SMA **Maintenance** screen, execute the RM (**Show Readme File**) command for the required product(s).

License Checks for Selected Add-on Products

In addition to the existing license checks, license checks are also performed for Natural for Db2.

The license files must be installed in your environment when using Natural for Db2.

For information about the steps for installing Natural for Db2 on z/OS, see *Installing Natural for Db2 on z/OS*.

Module NATXML supports IBM Architecture Level 9

Starting with this release, the module NATXML supports IBM architecture level 9. It is identical with the already provided module NATXMLA9. NATXMLA9 will no longer be delivered with the next release of Natural. Ensure that all your link jobs only refer to the NATXML module.

Compatibility

This section provides the latest information for this Natural release regarding compatibility with earlier versions of Natural for Mainframes as well as with Natural on other platforms.



Note: For information regarding Software AG product compatibility with IBM platforms and any IBM requirements for Software AG products, please review the *Product Compatibility for IBM Platforms* web page at <http://www.softwareag.com/>.

■ Special-Purpose Zaps

Special-Purpose Zaps

The following table lists Natural Version 9.2 Zaps and the special purposes they support:

Zap	Special Purpose	
NA21002	Suppress NAT3145 error information	<p>Suppress extra L2 calls to Adabas after a NAT3145 error has occurred.</p> <p>If this Zap is applied, the application programming interface USR8202N no longer provides extended information on the NAT3145 error message.</p>
NA21003	Resolve problems (RSP=46) during Natural mainframe calls to Adabas for Windows, Linux and Cloud	<p>Resolve problems that can arise when Natural calls Adabas on Linux, UNIX or Windows from a mainframe platform: an unexpected RSP=46 can occur if a READ loop at the level 1 (*LEVEL=1) ends with an End-of-File (RSP=3) and is executed multiple times. This occurs because Natural on the mainframe does not send a final RC command to release the Adabas Format Buffer if the READ receives RSP=3.</p>



Note: Former special purpose zaps are either replaced by parameters (e.g. Support for the Arabic shaped format) or will no longer be required for Natural version 9.2.3.

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New and Changed Features of Base Natural

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Operations and Performance

Message Buffer Pools

Default value for the SIZE Function Parameter

The default size of a Message Buffer Pool for TYPE=MSG is changed from 100 MB to 1 MB because most of the memory went unused. A pool of size 1 MB can hold up to 7000 error messages.

For more information, see SIZE - Size of Message Buffer Pool function parameter in the *Operations* documentation.

Syntax, Compiler and Runtime Enhancements

- Provide TO clause for READ BY ISN statement
- Enhanced error message text for some errors indicating a parameter position.
- Validation of parameters of CALL statement

Provide TO clause for READ BY ISN statement

If running against Adabas for Mainframe 8.6, the READ BY ISN statement has been enhanced by a TO clause that specifies an ending value, which is passed and evaluated by Adabas.

See READ statement for further information.

To mark an Adabas database version 8.6, use the NTDB macro or the DB parameter. For more information about the NTDB macro and the DB parameter, see *DB - Database Types and Options*.

The new functionality can already be used with Adabas for Mainframe version 8.5, provided that Adabas zap AY854180 has been applied. Such a database must also be marked as "ADAV86" with the NTDB macro or the DB parameter to indicate that this Adabas 8.6 functionality is available for this database.

Enhanced error message text for some errors indicating a parameter position.

When a parameter provided in an `INPUT USING MAP`, `CALLNAT` or `PERFORM` (external subroutine) does not conform with the corresponding parameter in the called object, an error is raised that shows the position number of the parameter in error.

Since it is not always easy to identify the parameter variable using only the position, the field name will now also be provided in some error messages.

The change affects the first insert position (:1:) in error messages (NAT0936, NAT0937, NAT0938, NAT0648, NAT0965, NAT0966, NAT0969).



Note: The variable name is only available at compile time. If received at runtime, the extra field name is not inserted. It is recommended to use the compiler option `PCHECK=ON` to benefit from this improvement.

Example:

```
CALLNAT 'SUBPGM' #P1 #P2 #P3 /* assume #P3 does not match to parameter 3 in ↵
SUBPGM

Old: NAT0936 Format/length conflict in parameter 3          (Subprogram ↵
SUBPGM/../../../../)
New: NAT0936 Format/length conflict in parameter 3 (#P3) (Subprogram ↵
SUBPGM/../../../../)
```

Validation of parameters of `CALL` statement

The generation of parameters in a `CALL` statement is now more precise. The received parameter address list is now exactly in the form that corresponds to the parameters provided in the `CALL` statement. In earlier Natural versions, parameter addresses of former `CALL` statements were not always cleared properly when the address list for a new `CALL` statement is generated. This could lead to finding additional parameter address fields after the provided parameters. If a called 3GL program is faulty and accesses more parameters than specified in the `CALL` statement, this can now lead to runtime errors of any kind which have not been issued before Natural 9.2.3.

If an error occurs in a `CALL` statement starting with Natural version 9.2.3, please check the parameters used in the `CALL` statement. A mismatch of parameters between the calling Natural object and the called 3GL program is the mostly like reason for this error. In this case, please adapt the Natural program accordingly.

Programming Language

- [New or Changed Statements](#)

New or Changed Statements

The statements listed in the following table are new or have been changed or enhanced. Unless otherwise noted, refer to the updated descriptions of these statements in the *Statements* documentation.

- [PARSE JSON](#)

PARSE JSON

The new `PARSE JSON` statement allows you to parse JSON documents from a Natural program. For more information, see `PARSE JSON` in *Statements*.

System Commands

- [LASTMSG Enhancement](#)
- [SCAN](#)



Note: The sections indicated for more information are contained in the *System Commands* documentation, unless otherwise noted.

LASTMSG Enhancement

For LASTMSG, date and time are added behind each error message.

Additional options:

PF1 - Help

PF2 - Clear all error messages

PF5 - Detailed information of the error

See LASTMSG in the Natural *System Commands* documentation.

SCAN

The `SCAN` command will now continue to scan/replace even if the Natural error NAT0886 ('Storage overflow in extended buffer') occurred for an object. The objects which could not be scanned/replaced due to this error are called **skipped objects**.

For more information, see `SCAN` in *System Commands*.

Utilities

- [Object Handler](#)
- [SYSTP](#)



Note: The sections indicated for more information are contained in the *Utilities* documentation, unless otherwise noted.

Object Handler

The Data area format of the Transfer options is enhanced with the value 'D' to convert data areas to the `DEFINE DATA` format. Due to the enhanced parameter values, the Profile Maintenance command `UPDATE` must be executed to update the changes into the Object Handler profile. For more information, see the enhanced Data area format of the Transfer option described in *Settings*. For more information about the profile in the Object Handler utility, see the chapter *Profile Settings*.

SYSTP

The display of the license information has been improved. A new sub menu show the available product licenses.

Profile Parameters

- [Changed/Enhanced Profile Parameters](#)
- [NATBUFFER - Buffer size](#)



Note: The sections indicated for more information are contained in the *Parameter Reference* documentation, unless otherwise noted.

Changed/Enhanced Profile Parameters

NATBUFFER - Buffer size

For the Natural buffer pool (TYPE=NAT), the default size was limited to 256 KB. This could result in error NAT0777 (Buffer pool full). Therefore, the buffer pool has been increased to a default value of 2MB.

Application Programming Interfaces

The following Natural application programming interfaces (APIs) are new in the SYSEXT system library or have changed:

API	Task	Enhancement
USR9206N	Write an SMF record	<p>This new API writes a z/OS system management facility (SMF) record to the SMF dataset. The SMF record is written regardless whether the application is currently running in task control block (TCB) mode or in service request block (SRB) mode on a zIIP. No switching between the two modes will be performed.</p> <p>The authorized service manager (NATASM) must be installed and started.</p> <p>For further information, read the according IBM documentation (<i>Writing SMF records</i>).</p>
USR9207N	Get information about ZAPs	<p>This new API returns information about installed ZAPs for Natural and dependant products. A list of installed products which can have ZAPs can also be obtained.</p>

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New and Changed Features of Natural Add-On Products

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■ NaturalONE	28
■ Natural Security	28



Note: For an overview of all Natural add-on products and the new product versions available, see [Overview of New Natural Add-On Product Versions](#).

Natural Development Server

This section describes the new features provided with Natural Development Server Version 9.2.3.

New Dynamic Server Parameters

The new dynamic server parameters TA_HOST and TA_PORT are available. These parameters overwrite the hostname and port number of CICS Adapters while accessing a remote development environment with a CICS adapter.

Refer to the documentation of NaturalOne, *Using Natural ONE > Accessing a Remote Development Environment*.

Natural for Db2

This section describes the new features the current version of Natural for Db2.

- [License Check](#)
- [Tracing Dynamic SQL Statements](#)

License Check

A license check is performed for Natural for Db2 at the start of a Natural session if Natural for Db2 is installed.

The license file must be installed in your environment when using Natural for Db2.

Tracing Dynamic SQL Statements

You can now trace all dynamic SQL calls to Db2 out of Natural for Db2 with the dynamic SQL trace facility.

When tracing is enabled with the new DYSQLTR parameter, all dynamically executed SQL statements are traced into a shared memory object above the bar. The name of that shared memory object is specified with the new DSTNAME parameter.

For details about the dynamic SQL trace facility, see *Tracing Dynamic SQL Statements*.

Natural for Db2 for zIIP

Changes to Db2 for zIIP in this version of Natural for Mainframes.

- [Connection Security: Password Encryption](#)
- [Operation](#)
- [Enhanced Program Static Preparation](#)
- [Documentation](#)

Connection Security: Password Encryption

This version of Natural for Db2 for zIIP provides enhanced security with support for Db2 connection password encryption. Follow the instructions to encrypt your Db2 connection password as described in *Database Management System Interfaces > Configuration and Parameters > Db2 Password Encryption*.

Operation

A new operator command, D CPU, is now available to display the total CPU used by Natural for Db2 for zIIP.

The operator command D CLI now displays more details about the clients connected to Natural for Db2 for zIIP.

For more information, see the Natural for Db2 for zIIP *Operation* documentation.

Enhanced Program Static Preparation

New parameters were added to the NDZ SQLJ Binder/Customizer.

The Db2 bind process now can also be executed using a DBRM file instead of the SQLJ serialized profile.

For more details, see *Preparing Programs for Static Execution* documentation

Documentation

The *Overview* section was expanded to add more details about Natural for Db2 for zIIP.

New sections *Configuration and Parameters* and *Error Codes* were added.

NaturalONE

For information on changes, enhancements and new features available with NaturalONE, see the *Release Notes* in the *NaturalONE* documentation in the **Documentation** section of Software AG's Empower web site at <https://empower.softwareag.com/>.

Natural Security

The following enhancements are provided with Natural Security Version 9.2.3:

- [New API for LDAP Security Profiles](#)

New API for LDAP Security Profiles

The new application programming interface NSCSSXMN allows you to archive and revive LDAP security profiles.

For details, see *Natural Security > Application Programming Interfaces*.

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Dropped Features

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Natural ISPF: Removed Features for z/VSE and BS2000

As of Natural ISPF version 9.2.3, support for z/VSE and BS2000 has been removed.

Selectable Units Deprecated

The option "Selectable Units" is now deprecated. This functionality was obsolete with version 9.1 and is no longer used with Natural version 9.2.

All related information is removed from the documentation and with the next release, this option is to be removed from the software. The parameter SELUNIT is to be removed as well. Please ensure that this parameter is no longer used in your parameter modules or profiles.

Features Dropped with a Future Natural Version

The following features will be discontinued or will no longer be supported in a future version of Natural:

- [Removal of Module NATXMLA9](#)
- [Removal of Database Types of DB Parameter or NTDB Macro](#)

Removal of Module NATXMLA9

Module NATXMLA9 has been replaced by NATXML and will be removed with the next release. Make sure to change all instances of NATXMLA9 in your link jobs to NATXML.

Removal of Database Types of DB Parameter or NTDB Macro

The database types ADAV7 and ADAV82 of the DB parameter or the NTDB macro are outdated, because those Adabas versions are no longer supported. The value ADAV8 is also not useful anymore. These database types are to be removed with the next release. Please ensure that you use only the database types ADABAS and ADAV86 for Adabas databases.