

Special Considerations and Limitations

This chapter covers the following topics:

- Windows, UNIX and OpenVMS Platforms
 - Mainframe Platforms
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Windows, UNIX and OpenVMS Platforms

- The dialog editor, which is provided with Natural for Windows, and dialog-based runtime is not Unicode-enabled.
- The editors provided with Natural for UNIX and Natural for OpenVMS are not Unicode-enabled.
- If the DL parameter is specified for a field which is longer than 250 characters, a maximum of 250 characters will be displayed in the field.
- A Natural source line may not be longer than 250 bytes. The program editor, which works on Unicode format, checks only that the number of UTF-16 code units is not greater than 250. However, depending on the encoding of the source, the line length may increase when converting the encoding from UTF-16 to the source encoding. For example, the UTF-8 encoding requires up to 4 bytes for a Chinese character; an error will be displayed in this case and the changes will not be saved.
- For UNIX and OpenVMS, Unicode is only supported at runtime with the Natural Web I/O Interface. If an application is run in the terminal emulation or xterm and Unicode strings are displayed, strange effects may occur.
- Compared with previous Natural versions, the performance is degraded since several conversions between code page and Unicode have to be performed.

Mainframe Platforms

- The editors provided with Natural for Mainframes are not Unicode-enabled.
- The size of the I/O buffers has been increased to be prepared for Unicode fields.
- Full Unicode I/O is only supported at runtime with the Natural Web I/O Interface. If an application is run in the terminal emulation and Unicode strings are displayed, some Unicode characters may not be displayed correctly.