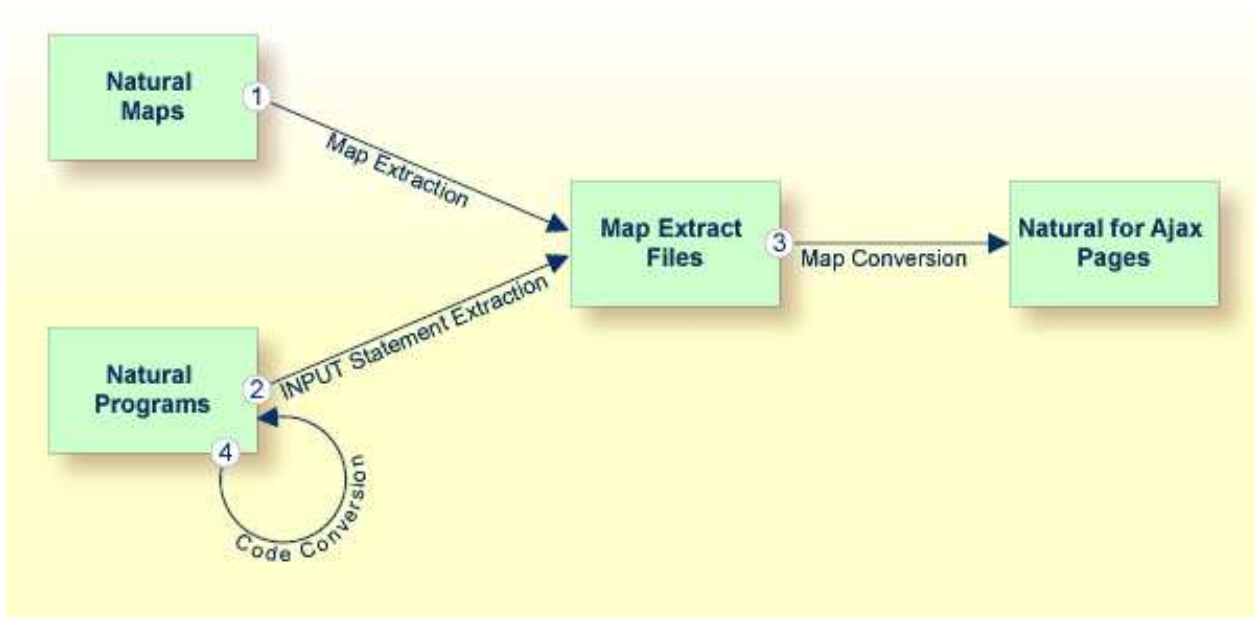


# Overview of Conversion Steps

The conversion of a character-based Natural application to a Natural for Ajax application consists of several steps as illustrated in the following graphic:



- **Step 1: Map Extraction**

Extracts from each Natural map the information that is required to create a corresponding Natural for Ajax page. For each map, a map extract file is created. This file is intended as input for the map conversion.

Required tool: Natural Studio which is part of Natural for Windows.

See *Map Extraction* for further information.

- **Step 2: INPUT Statement Extraction**

This step is required for Natural applications that do not use maps, but use `INPUT` statements for the dynamic specification of the screen layouts.

Extracts from each `INPUT` statement in the source code the information that is required to create a corresponding Natural for Ajax page. For each `INPUT` statement, a map extract file is created. This file has the same format as a map extract file created by the map extraction process, and it is also intended as input for the map conversion.

Required tool: Natural for Ajax Conversion utility which is part of Natural Engineer.

- **Step 3: Map Conversion**

Processes the map extract files and creates the corresponding Natural for Ajax pages.

Required tool: Map Converter which is part of the Application Designer development workplace contained in Natural for Ajax.

See *Map Conversion* and *Customizing the Map Conversion Process* for further information.

- **Step 4: Code Conversion**

This step requires that the Natural for Ajax pages have already been created.

Modifies the application code in such a way that it can use the newly created Natural for Ajax pages. The application can still run in a terminal, in the Natural Web I/O Interface client or in batch as before. But it can now also run in a Natural for Ajax session with the new Natural for Ajax pages.

Required tool: Natural for Ajax Conversion utility which is part of Natural Engineer.

Code conversion can also be performed manually. See *Code Conversion* for further information.

The resulting Natural for Ajax application mimics the character-based application. The user interface is not restructured in the sense that several maps are combined into a single page or that complex maps are split into several separate pages. This kind of restructuring is not part of the conversion, but of the normal development of a Natural for Ajax application.