

About this Tutorial

As a first-time user, you are recommended to work through this tutorial to obtain a basic understanding of specific features of the Natural programming environment.

The layout of the example screens provided in the tutorial and the behavior of Natural described here can differ from your results. For example, the command or message line may appear in a different screen position, or the execution of a Natural command may be protected by security control. The default settings in your environment depend on the system parameters set by your Natural administrator.

This chapter covers the following topics:

- Prerequisites
 - About the Sample Application
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Prerequisites

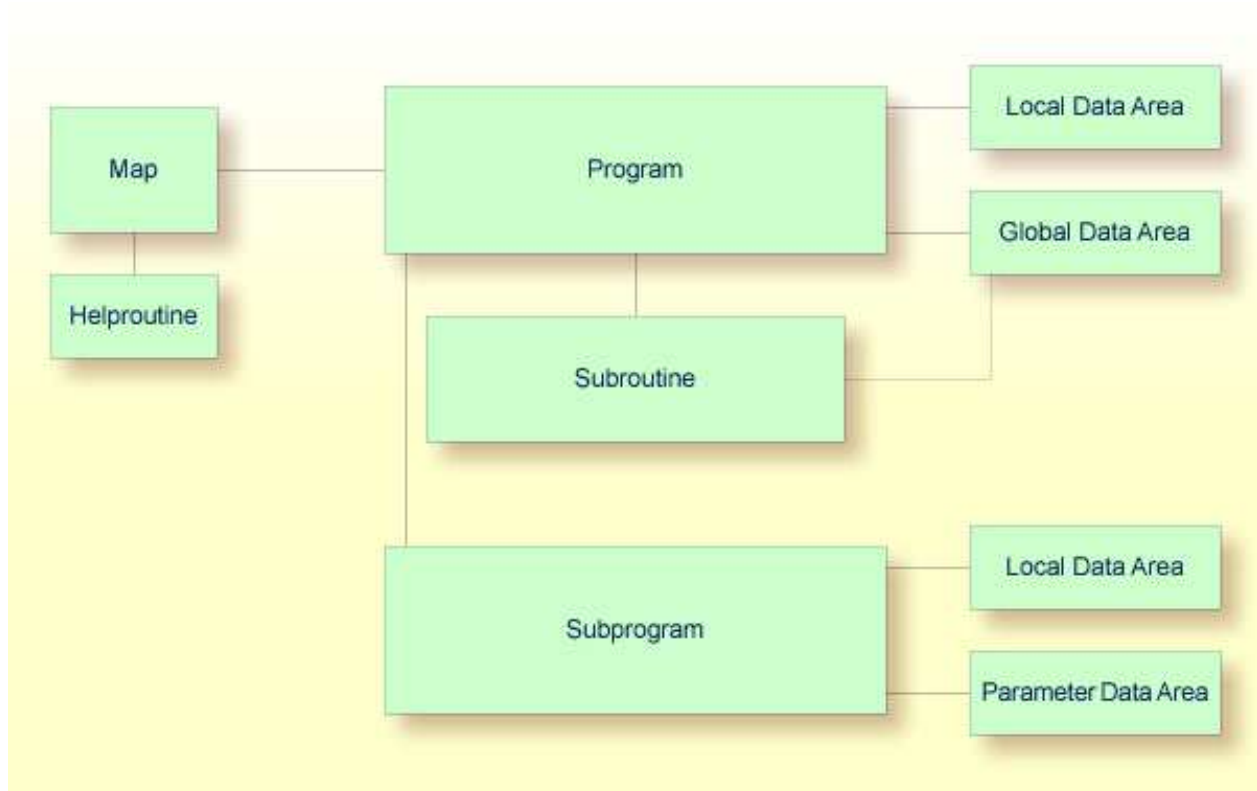
To perform all steps of this tutorial, the demo database `SAG-DEMO-DB` must be active. If it is not active, ask your administrator to start it.

The system library `SYSEXDDM` which contains the sample DDMs that are used in this tutorial (`EMPLOYEES` and `VEHICLES`) must have been defined as a steplib. A steplib is a library in which Natural searches if an object is not found in the current library. If `SYSEXDDM` has not been defined as a steplib, an error occurs when you try to define the views for the sample DDMs; contact your administrator in this case.

About the Sample Application

This tutorial illustrates how an application can be structured as a group of modules. It is not intended to provide an example of how an application should be built.

After you have written your first short Hello World program, you will write a program which reads employees information from a database and displays the output. The user will be prompted to enter a starting name and ending name for the output. You will enhance your program step by step by moving specific parts of your program to external modules. When you have completed all exercises of this tutorial, your application will be structured as follows:

**Note:**

This tutorial describes how to create a map which is normally used in a character-oriented environment (such as a mainframe). For a graphical user interface, you would create a dialog. However, this is not part of this tutorial.

You can now proceed with your first exercise: *Getting Started with Natural*.