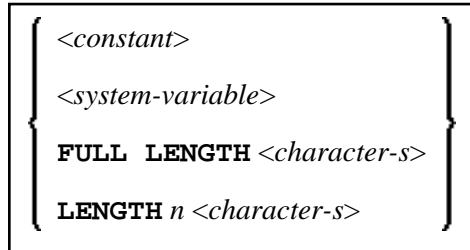


Initial-Value Definition

The *init-definition* option is used in the *variable-definition* option of `DEFINE DATA LOCAL`, `DEFINE DATA INDEPENDENT`, `DEFINE DATA CONTEXT` and `DEFINE DATA OBJECT`.

The *init-definition* option has the following syntax:



This chapter covers the following topics:

- Function
- Restriction
- Syntax Description

For an explanation of the symbols used in the syntax diagram, see *Syntax Symbols*.

Function

With the *init-definition* option, you define the initial/constant values for a variable.

Note:

If, in the *variable-definition* option, the keyword `INIT` was used for the initialization, the value may be modified by any statement that affects the content of a variable. If the keyword `CONST` was used for the initialization, any attempt to change the value will be rejected by the compiler.

See also *Defining Fields, Initial Values* in the *Programming Guide*.

Restriction

For a redefined field, an *init-definition* is not permitted.

Syntax Description

Syntax Element	Description
<code><constant></code>	<p>Constant Value Option:</p> <p>The constant value with which the variable is to be initialized; or the constant value to be assigned to the field.</p> <p>For further information, see <i>User-Defined Constants</i> in the <i>Programming Guide</i>.</p>
<code><system-variable></code>	<p>System Variable Option:</p> <p>The initial value for a variable may also be the value of a Natural system variable, for example:</p> <pre>DEFINE DATA LOCAL 1 #MYDATE (D) INIT <*DATX> END-DEFINE</pre> <p>Note:</p> <p>When the variable is referenced in a <code>RESET INITIAL</code> statement, the system variable is evaluated again; that is, it will be reset not to the value it contained when program execution started but to the value it contains when the <code>RESET INITIAL</code> statement is executed.</p>
<p><code>FULL LENGTH</code> <code><character-s></code></p> <p><code>LENGTH n <character-s></code></p>	<p>Character/String Option:</p> <p>As initial value, a variable can be filled, entirely or partially, with a specific single character or string of characters; this is only possible for alphanumeric (code page or Unicode) variables.</p> <p>FULL LENGTH Option:</p> <p>With the <code>FULL LENGTH</code> option, the entire field will be filled with the specified <i>character</i> or <i>characters</i>. In the following example, the entire field will be filled with asterisks.</p> <pre>DEFINE DATA LOCAL 1 #FIELD (A25) INIT FULL LENGTH <'*'> END-DEFINE</pre> <p>LENGTH Option:</p> <p>With the <code>LENGTH n</code> option, the first <i>n</i> positions of the field will be filled with the specified <i>character</i> or <i>characters</i>. <i>n</i> must be a numeric constant. In the following example, the first 4 positions of the field will be filled with exclamation marks.</p> <pre>DEFINE DATA LOCAL 1 #FIELD (A25) INIT LENGTH 4 <'!'> END-DEFINE</pre>