Defining NaturalX Objects

General syntax of DEFINE DATA OBJECT:



This chapter covers the following topics:

- Function
- Syntax Description

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

Function

The DEFINE DATA OBJECT statement is used in a subprogram or class in conjunction with NaturalX. For further information, refer to the section *NaturalX* in the *Programming Guide*.

Syntax Description

Syntax Element	Description
USING local-data-area	LDA Name:
	A local data area (LDA) contains data elements which are to be used in a single Natural module. You may reference more than one data area; in that case you have to repeat the reserved words OBJECT and USING, for example:
	DEFINE DATA OBJECT USING DATX_L OBJECT USING DATX_P
	END-DEFINE ;
	For further information, see also <i>Defining Fields in a Separate Data Area</i> in the <i>Programming Guide</i> .
USING	PDA Name:
parameter-data-area	A data area defined with DEFINE DATA OBJECT may be a parameter data area (PDA). By using a PDA as an object data area you can avoid the extra effort of creating an object data area that has the same structure as the PDA.
data-definition	Direct Data Definition:
	Data can also be defined directly using the syntax shown in <i>Direct Data Definition</i> .
END-DEFINE	End of DEFINE DATA Statement:
	The Natural reserved word END-DEFINE must be used to end the DEFINE DATA statement.

Direct Data Definition

Data can also be defined directly using the following syntax:

```
level group-name [(array-definition)]
variable-definition
view-definition
redefinition
handle-definition
```

For further information, see *Defining Fields within a DEFINE DATA Statement* in the *Programming Guide*.

Syntax Element	Description
level	Level Number:
	Level number is a 1- or 2-digit number in the range from 01 to 99 (the leading zero is optional) used in conjunction with field grouping. Fields assigned a level number of 02 or greater are considered to be a part of the immediately preceding group which has been assigned a lower level number.
	The definition of a group enables reference to a series of fields (may also be only 1 field) by using the group name. With certain statements (CALL, CALLNAT, RESET, WRITE, etc.), you may specify the group name as a shortcut to reference the fields contained in the group.
	A group may consist of other groups. When assigning the level numbers for a group, no level numbers may be skipped.
	A view-definition must always be defined at Level 1.
group-name	Group Name:
	The name of a group. The name must adhere to the rules for defining a Natural variable name.
	See also the following sections:
	• Naming Conventions for User-Defined Variables in Using Natural.
	• Qualifying Data Structures in the Programming Guide.
array-definition	Array Dimension Definition:
	With an array-definition, you define the lower and upper bounds of dimensions in an array-definition.
	For further information, see <i>Array Dimension Definition</i> .
variable-definition	Variable Definition:
	A variable-definition is used to define a single field/variable that may be single-valued (scalar) or multi-valued (array).
	For further information, see Variable Definition.
view-definition	View Definition:
	A view-definition is used to define a view as derived from a data definition module (DDM).
	For further information, see View Definition.

Syntax Element	Description
redefinition	Redefinition:
	A redefinition may be used to redefine a group, a view, a DDM field or a single field/variable (that is a scalar or an array). For further information, see <i>Redefinition</i> .
handle-definition	Handle Definition:
	A handle identifies a dialog element in code and is stored in handle variables.
	For further information, see <i>Handle Definition</i> .