

# Finding Text

You can search for any string of characters contained in the source code of an active object window by either marking text in the source code or using the **Find** function where you can specify additional search criteria.

By default, **Find** restarts a search from the beginning when the end of the source code is reached. However, you can change the default setting and instruct **Find** to terminate when the end of the source is reached by setting the **Stop find at end** editor option described in *Program Editor Options* in the *Using Natural Studio* documentation.

## ▶ To find a string by marking text

1. Select a whole word by positioning the cursor anywhere in the word you want to find. See also *To select a whole word* in the section *Creating and Modifying Source Code*.

Or:

Select any series of characters. See also *To select any portion of text* in the section *Creating and Modifying Source Code*.

Note that the character string may *not* span one or more lines.

2. Press the CTRL+SPACEBAR toggle.

All instances of the search string found are highlighted.

3. If you want to switch highlighting off, press ESC or position the cursor anywhere within a highlighted word or in the white space areas of the source code and press CTRL+SPACEBAR.

## ▶ To find a string by using the Find function

1. From the **Edit** menu, choose **Find**.

Or:

Choose the following toolbar button:



Or:

Press CTRL+F.

The **Find** dialog box appears.

2. In the **Find** dialog box, you can specify the following:
  - In the **Find** combo box, enter the character string to be found or select a character string from the drop-down list box. All character strings used in previous searches are retained in the list box for the duration of the current Natural session.
  - Select the **Case sensitive** check box (not selected by default) if you want to search for strings that exactly match the entry in the **Find** text box. Otherwise, any combination of upper and lower-case letters will be found.

- Select the **Whole words only** check box (not selected by default) if you want to restrict the search to whole words only. Otherwise, all occurrences of the string will be found.
- Select the **Exclude collapsed blocks** check box to exclude collapsed blocks from the search; do *not* select the box (this is the default setting) if you want to scan the entire (expanded) source code. **Exclude collapsed blocks** is only available if structured mode was used for the source(s) to be scanned and if the **Expand/Collapse** editor option is selected (see *Program Editor Options* in the *Using Natural Studio* documentation).

For more information on expanded and collapsed code blocks, see *Showing and Hiding Source Code*.

- Select the **Search up** check box to perform the search from the current position of the text insertion caret to the beginning of the source (up). If this check box is not selected (this is the default setting), the search is performed from the current caret position to the end of the source (down).
- Select the **Highlight occurrences** check box if you want to immediately view all instances of the search string found. Otherwise, the first instance found is selected. To switch highlighting off, see Step 3 of *To find a string by marking text*.

For a different highlight color, use the **Colors** editor option and change the color definition of **Highlighted text** as described in *Program Editor Options* in the *Using Natural Studio* documentation.

- Select the **Current editor window** radio button (selected by default), if you want to scan only the source code contained in the current window of the program editor.
- Select the **All program editor windows** radio button, if you want to scan the source code contained in all open windows of the program editor.
- You can choose the **Help** button to invoke the online documentation for help information on finding text.

3. Choose the **Find Next** button to execute the find function.

Depending on the setting of the **Search up** check box, the find goes down or up the source code from the current caret position:

- If no instance of the search string is found, a corresponding message is displayed.
- If an instance of the search string is found, it is selected.
- If you selected **Highlight occurrences**, the first instance found is selected and all other instances are highlighted.

4. If the first instance of a search string is selected, you can go to the next instance by choosing one of the following methods:

In the **Find** dialog box, choose the **Find Next** button.

Or:

From the **Edit** menu, choose **Find Next**.

Or:

Choose the following toolbar button:



Or:

Press F3.

5. You can choose the **Close** button to close the **Find** dialog box. However, you can also edit the current source when the **Find** dialog box is open.

When the **Find** dialog box is closed, you can continue the search function by using the alternative methods described earlier in Step 4.