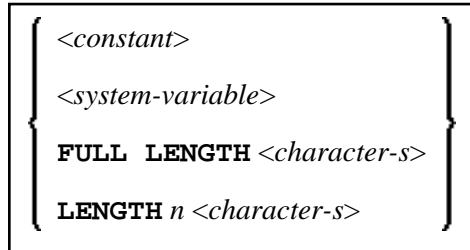


# Initial-Value Definition

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*.

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## 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
<constant>	<p><b>Constant Value Option:</b></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>
<system-variable>	<p><b>System Variable Option:</b></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 &lt;*DATX&gt; END-DEFINE</pre> <p><b>Note:</b></p> <p>When the variable is referenced in a RESET INITIAL 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 RESET INITIAL statement is executed.</p>
<p>FULL LENGTH &lt;character-s&gt;</p> <p>LENGTH n &lt;character-s&gt;</p>	<p><b>Character/String Option:</b></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><b>FULL LENGTH Option:</b></p> <p>With the FULL LENGTH 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 &lt;'*'&gt; END-DEFINE</pre> <p><b>LENGTH Option:</b></p> <p>With the LENGTH n option, the first n positions of the field will be filled with the specified <i>character</i> or <i>characters</i>. n 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 &lt;'!'&gt; END-DEFINE</pre>