

Re: Converting numbers to comp fields (Cobol)

Source: <http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/VB/microsoft.public.vb.general.discussion/2004-06/2510.html>

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Comp? Comp-3? Doesn't really matter since COMP is a COBOL thing, VB doesn't handle any type of COMP format natively. Seems like a box full of frustration just waiting to be opened. One of those things that even if you did get something working, you'd always wonder if you're twiddling those bits accurately. Consider the following...

How COMP format is implemented depends on the specific COBOL compiler. Different compilers implement it in their own fashion. Usually, COMP is some form of fixed point BCD (binary-coded decimal), where 2 digits are stored in each byte (1 per nibble). Also, depending on which compiler, it can be little-endian or big-endian. Dealing with this in VB (or any other language besides COBOL) is something I wouldn't even think of doing.

The MicroFocus COBOL compiler I have on my box is a 12 year old DOS one. I haven't investigated any of the later MicroFocus ones, so I don't know what they've been up to. Does the version you're using have any Windows support? Can it create DLLs that can be utilized by Windows programs? If so, perhaps you can use it to write a DLL that writes the data to file, one that can be called from VB.

"John" <anonymous@discussions.microsoft.com> wrote in message news:1c26d01c4525c\$6b1c6b70\$a301280a@phx.gbl...

> *I'm new to Visual Basic. I have written an little program*
> *that creates a journal entry batch file which gets loaded*
> *to our Unix box. We then run a utility to convert some of*
> *the fields in the batch to comp fields so that our*
> *Accounting system can read it. We are using Micro Focus*
> *as our Cobol provider.*
>
> *My question is can I use VB to generate the same comp*
> *fields as Cobol. I would love to skip running the batch*
> *through the conversion utility each time.*
>
> *Thanks in advance....*
>
> *John*