

66 Detecting Modified Variables in Dialogs

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How to sense if variables have been modified in dialogs.

This tech note describes a method to detect if variables have been modified in a layout. The process involves keeping a copy of the variable (with the same name as the real variable, but with a suffix added to it). There are two basic subroutines required in order to make this work, **SETOLD** and **myModified**. This of course requires that the duplicate variable name setup with the **SETOLD** command not exceed the maximum variable name length.

SETOLD is a global procedure that is called as a subroutine that, when called, creates a variable (if it doesn't already exist) with a .old suffix appended onto the variable that is passed to it, and sets it to the value of the variable that was passed to it.

myModified is a function that accepts a variable name, and will return True or False depending on whether or not the variable that was passed to it was modified. It works just like the built in **Modified** function that only works on fields.

Here's the code that makes them work:

SETOLD:

```
$($1+.old):=$($1)
```

myModified:

```
$0:=( $($1)#$($1+.old))  
SETOLD ($1)
```

You would use them in a Dialog layout procedure like this:

Case of

:(Before)

SETOLD("myvar")

:(During)

If(myModified("myvar"))

ALERT("the variable myvar has been modified!")

End if

End case

This is useful for detecting if someone clicked in a scrollable area, or clicked a radio button.

