

CUSTOMIZATION GUIDE

Variables

Variables indicate the status of XyWrite. You can check on the current value of any default setting, as well as many other system settings (for example, the name of the currently loaded keyboard file) that affect your use of XyWrite.

Value of Variable

Format: [C:\Xy4]VA/**nv** *nm*

/nv is an optional switch that displays the value on the status line.

nm is a variable

Menu: Not a menu item.

VA obtains the current value (or string) of the variable you request (*nm*) and inserts it into the text. If you include the optional **/NV** switch, XyWrite displays the current value on the status line rather than in the text (see [Note #1](#)).

The VA command is useful for determining the current value of default settings. However, it is also a valuable troubleshooting tool. You can use the VA command to check the status of:

- Default settings, including format settings
- System settings (using the \$ prefix)
- Text macros (using the @ prefix)
- Document Information items (using the ^ prefix)
- Display Modes (using the * and [prefixes)
- Keyboard location (using the _ prefix)

To obtain the value of a default setting, you simply issue the VA command with the default variable. For example, VA LM obtains the current Left Margin setting. Refer to "[Default Settings](#)" for a complete list of variables you can use. To obtain values for the other categories, you use the command forms described on the following pages.

Obtaining a Value

To get the current value of a XyWrite setting, say tabs (TS):

1. Move the cursor to the point in text where you want to find the current tab settings.
2. Enter the VA command on the command line. For example:

Type: [F5]va ts [↵]

Result: The display will show the tabs settings at that location in the text:

▲.5,1.5,2.5,3.5

If you don't want these values to print, delete the marker before issuing the PRINT command.

NOTE #1 - Status Line Display If you use the **/NV** switch to display the value on the status line, cursor placement is important. If the cursor is on the command line when you press [F9], XyWrite displays the current default value of the variable. If the cursor is in the text, XyWrite displays the value in effect at that point in the file.

NOTE #2 - No File Open If you do not have a file open when you issue the VA command, XyWrite automatically displays the result on the status line - you do not need the **/NV** switch.

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NOTE #3 - Separate Values If the variable you are checking includes more than one value, the VA command displays all the values. If you prefer, you can display only one value by including the numeric position of the value you want. For example, VA IP displays both values of the IP setting; VA IP1 displays only the first value; VA IP2 displays only the second value.

VA Settings

This section contains a description of the variables listed in the following table. These variables let you perform a variety of tasks, like saving the value of a setting so you can later restore it. Many of the VA settings are designed to be inserted within user programs.

VA Settings Table

VA	Description	Value Returned (Example)
va \$sc	Auto-Check	0
va \$am	Available Modes	0
va \$bd	Bad Words	10
va \$bq	Border Query	0
va \$bt	Black and White Trace	1
va \$bw	Black and White Monitor	1
va \$ca	Cartridges	WP
va \$cm	Command Line	se /XyWnte/
va \$cn	Cartridge Installed	2
va \$co	Columns	3
va \$cp	Code Page	437
va \$cx	Cursor Column Position	40
va \$cy	Cursor Row Position	20
va \$dc	Define Column	0
va \$de	Define Ended	0
va \$df	Define Status	0
va \$di	Directory Type	4
va \$dl	Defaults	C:\XY4\SETTINGS.DFL
va \$dn	Define End	100
va \$do	Document Information	1
va \$dp	Display Path	C:\DRAFT\CHAPTER1
va \$dr	File in Directory	C:\MEMOS\VACATION
va \$ds	Define Start	32
va \$dt	Display Type	1
va \$dv	Default Drive	C
va \$ed	EXE Location	C:\XY4\XY4.EXE
va \$er	Error Number	102
va \$et	Elapsed Time	54
va \$ex	File Extension	TMP
va \$fb	File Begin	0
va \$fe	File End	1
va \$fi	Filename	CHAPTER
va \$fm	Forms Mode	0
va \$fp	Filename and Path	C:\DRAFT\CHAPTER1
va \$fs	File Status	0
va \$fx	Fixed Pitch	1
va \$fz	Field Separator	[ascii#10]
va \$gc	GCI (Generalized Callable Interface) Status	0

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Variables (Cont.)

VA Settings Table (Cont.)

VA	Description	Value Returned (Example)
va \$hl	Help File	C:\XY4\XY4.HLP
va \$hp	HP Printer File	0
va \$in	Inside Define	0
va \$kb	Keyboard File	C:\XY4\XY4.KBD
va \$kc	Key Code	82
va \$lg	Logged-On User	Rose
va \$ln	Current Line Number	22
va \$lt	Logon Notes Toggle	0
va \$me	Memory Available	288
va \$mn	Menu File	C:\XY4\XY4.MNU
va \$mo	File Modified	1
va \$mw	Mouse Window	6
va \$mx	Mouse X Position	33
va \$my	Mouse Y Position	12
va \$m+	Memory Used By XyWrite	563
va \$na	Non-Printable Area	.2,.3,.5,.3
va \$nr	No Ruler	0
va \$nu	Unused Printer Memory	2395
va \$ov	Overflow File	C:
va \$pa	Current Drive and Path	C:\>ORKING
va \$pc	PC Code	0
va \$pf	Printer File Selection	LPT1 D:\XY4\POST35N.PRN
va \$pg	Current Page	3
va \$pr	Printer File	C:\XY4\POST35N.PRN
va \$px	PC Code Explanation	Letter (8.5" x 11")
va \$p?	PC Code Exist	0
va \$p.	Truncated Path	\SI
va \$p\	Path No Backslash	C:\XY4
va \$ra	Read Attribute	27
va \$rc	Resume Code	0
va \$re	Read-Only File	1
va \$rk	Record Keystrokes	1
va \$rl	Redlining	0
va \$rr	Return Error	
va \$rs	Read Character	A
va \$rz	Record Separator	←
va \$sc	Scan Code	276
va \$sd	Sort Directory	d,r
va \$se	Search String	auto
va \$sf	Soft Font List File	PS140b10.USB
va \$sg	Text Macro File	C:\XY4\SAVE.GET
va \$sm	Show Menus	0
va \$so	Sort Setting	F1
va \$sp	Spelling Dictionary	C:\XY4\PERS.SPL
va \$ss	Styles	HEAD1
va \$ss	Save Styles	DEFAULT
va \$st	Startup	C:\XY4\STARTUP.INT
va \$te	Type Effect	0
va \$tr	Triangle Mnemonic	LM

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Variables (Cont.)

VA Settings Table (Cont.)

VA	Description	Value Returned (Example)
va \$tw	Text Window	0
va \$tx	Cursor Location	0
va \$uf	Use Typeface	TIMES
va \$uo	Use Outline	0
va \$ve	Version Number	1.0
va \$wa	Window Availability	5
va \$wc	Word Count	3782
va \$wn	Window Number	3
va \$wo	Windows Open	4
va \$ws	Window Status	0
va *	Mode Number	15
va @	Text Macro	YES
va ^	Document Summary Items	07-08-91
va [Additive Mode On	1
va !	Size of Macro	12
va §	Macro Contains Number	1
va _	Assigned Key	Alt+F7

VA \$AC

Auto-Check

Indicates the status of Auto-Check (0=off, 1=on).

VA \$AM

Available Modes

Indicates the availability of the specified mode in the current type family.

Format: **va \$am***md*, where *md* is either BO, BI, or IT. XyWrite displays a 1 if the mode is available.

VA \$BD

Bad Words

Displays the number of questionable words found by the SPELL command when it was last executed.

VA \$BQ

Border Query

Indicates whether a particular border definition is present in the file.

Format: **va \$bq***bo*, where *bo* is the name of a custom or standard border. XyWrite displays a 1 if the border definition is present, a 0 if it is not.

VA \$BT

Black and White Trace

Indicates the value of the BW setting in the printer file. If you have a CGA monitor and set BW=1 in the printer file to get rid of "snow", \$BT returns a value of 1. If BW=0 in the printer file, \$BT returns a value of 0. If BW is not set in the printer file, \$BT returns a non-zero.

VA \$BW

Black and White Monitor

Indicates the monitor type (0=monochrome; 1=color).

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VA \$CA

Cartridges

Displays the printer cartridges currently loaded.

VA \$CM

Command Line

Displays the current contents of the command line.

VA \$CN

Cartridge Installed

Indicates whether or not a cartridge or a soft font is installed. The following values are reported:

- 0 No soft fonts or cartridges
- 1 Cartridges from the printer file
- 2 Soft fonts from the printer file
- 3 Cartridges and soft fonts from the printer file
- 4 HP printer file is loaded

VA \$CO

Columns

Displays the number of columns in use at the cursor.

VA \$CP

Code Page

Returns the value of the current code page.

VA \$CX

Cursor Column Position

Displays the column number (horizontal position) of the cursor.

VA \$CY

Cursor Row Position

Displays the row number (vertical position) of the cursor.

VA \$DC

Define Column

Indicates whether a column of text is currently selected (0=no, 1=yes).

VA \$DE

Define Ended

Indicates whether the select text sequence has been completed (0=no, 1=yes).

VA \$DF

Define Status

Indicates whether there is selected text in the current window (0=no, 1=yes).

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Variables (Cont.)

VA \$DI

Directory Type

Indicates the type of directory currently displayed. The following values are reported:

- 1 Tree directory
- 2 Names-only directory
- 4 Normal directory
- 8 Long directory
- 64 Soft font directory
- 128 Cartridge directory

VA \$DL

Defaults

Displays the drive and path of SETTINGS.DFL.

VA \$DN

Define End

Displays the character position at the end of the selected block.

VA \$DO

Document Information

Indicates whether document summary information is attached to the displayed file (0=no, 1=yes).

VA \$DP

Display Path

Displays drive, path, and filename of the current file.

VA \$DR

File in Directory

Displays the name of the file that is currently highlighted in the directory.

VA \$DS

Define Start

Displays the character position at the beginning of the selected block.

VA \$DT

Display Type

Indicates the current view (as opposed to the default setting, which is obtained with VA DT). The following values are reported:

- 0 Expanded view
- 1 Draft view with markers but no page breaks
- 2 Draft view with page breaks and markers
- 4 Graphic view with markers
- 9 Draft view without markers or page breaks
- 10 Draft view without markers but with page breaks
- 12 Graphic view without markers

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Variables (Cont.)

VA \$DV

Default Drive

Displays the letter of the current drive (without :\).

VA \$ED

EXE Location

Displays the drive and subdirectory of XY4.EXE.

VA \$ER

Error Number

Displays the error number of the last error that occurred.

VA \$ET

Elapsed Time

Displays the amount of time that has elapsed since you issued the ZT (Zero Time) function call. If you have not issued the ZT function call since starting XyWrite, \$ET displays the current time.

VA \$EX

File Extension

Displays the extension, if any, of the current file.

VA \$FB

File Begin

Indicates whether the cursor is at the beginning of the file (0=no, 1=yes).

VA \$FE

File End

Indicates whether the cursor is at the end of the file (0=no, 1=yes).

VA \$FI

Filename

Displays the name of the current file.

VA \$FM

Forms Mode

Indicates whether or not you are in forms mode (0=no, 1=yes).

VA \$FP

Filename and Path

Displays the drive, path, and name of current file.

VA \$FS

File Status

Displays the status of files (0=no files are open, non-zero=at least one file is open).

VA \$FX

Fixed Pitch

Indicates whether the current font is fixed pitch or proportional (0=fixed pitch, 1=proportional).

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Variables (Cont.)

VA \$FZ

Field Separator

Indicates the field separator as XyWrite displays it, rather than the 3-byte sequence XyWrite uses to store the field separator internally, which is the value returned by VA FX.

VA \$GC

GCI (Generalized Callable Interface) Status

Indicates whether XyWrite has been invoked by a program using the GCI protocol. You might use the variable if you are logged on to a host machine and you are running XyWrite as a TSR (Terminate and Stay Resident) program.

Format: `va $gcn` where *n* is one of the following arguments:

- 1 Returns 1 if CCI is running; 0 if it is not
- 2 Returns 1 if a merge option from the host is available; 0 if it is not
- 3 Returns 1 if a save or store option is available; 0 if it is not
- 4 Returns 1 if printing to the host is available; 0 if it is not

If you do not specify *n*, values for all four arguments are displayed.

VA \$HL

Help File

Displays the name and location of the current help file.

VA \$HP

HP Printer File

Indicates whether the current printer file is for a Hewlett Packard LaserJet (0=no, 1=yes).

VA \$IN

Inside Define

Indicates whether the cursor is within a selected block (0=no, 1=yes).

VA \$KB

Keyboard File

Displays the name and location of the current keyboard file.

VA \$KC

Key Code

Displays the key code number of the last key pressed.

VA \$LG

Logged-On User

Displays the name of the user currently logged on.

VA \$LN

Current Line Number

Displays the line number where the cursor is currently located. This works only when Page-Line numbers are displayed.

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Variables (Cont.)

VA \$LT

Logon Notes Toggle

Indicates whether text display of captured redlining login information is suppressed (0=off;1=on).

VA \$ME

Memory Available

Shows the amount of memory (RAM) currently available, in kilobytes, after XyWrite is loaded. Thus, 312 means 312K of memory is available for more files or other programs.

VA \$MN

Menu File

Displays the name and location of the current menu file.

VA \$MO

File Modified

Indicates whether the current file has been modified since being opened (0=no, 1=yes).

VA \$MW

Mouse Window

Displays the number of the window in which the mouse is currently located.

VA \$MX

Mouse X Position

Displays the pixel position of the mouse in graphic view; displays the row position in draft view.

VA \$MY

Mouse Y Position

Displays the pixel position of the mouse in graphic view; displays the column position in draft view.

VA \$M+

Memory Used by XyWrite

Displays the amount of memory currently used by XyWrite, expressed in kilobytes.

VA \$NA

Non-Printable Area

Displays the portions of the page the printer does not use when printing. For example, laser printers do not begin printing at the very top of the page. \$NA displays four values to indicate the left, right, top, and bottom non-printable areas. You could include \$NA in a program to ensure that files are portable to different types of printers.

VA \$NR

No Ruler

Indicates whether a ruler is displayed at the top of the screen (0=no, 1=yes).

VA \$NU

Unused Printer Memory

Displays the amount of memory currently available in the HP LaserJet. This value reflects any soft fonts that have been downloaded.

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Variables (Cont.)

VA \$OV

Overflow File Drive

Displays the location of the overflow file, if one exists.

VA \$PA

Current Drive and Path

Displays the current drive letter and path.

VA \$PC

PC Code

Indicates if there are any PCs in the current PC (Printer Control) table within the range of the number specified (0=no, 1=yes).

Format: **va \$pc#** where # is a PC number.

VA \$PF

Printer File Selection

Displays the current SETP selection.

VA \$PG

Current Page

Displays the page number where the cursor is currently located. This works only when Page-Line numbers are displayed.

VA \$PR

Printer File

Displays the name and location of the current printer file.

VA \$PX

PC Code Explanation

Displays a description of the specified PC. VA \$PX can only be used in a dialog box.

Format: **va \$px#** where # is a PC number.

VA \$P?

PC Code Exist

Indicates whether the specified PC code exists in the current PC table (0=no, 1=yes).

Format: **va \$p?#** where # is a PC number.

VA \$P.

Truncated Path Name

Displays the truncated path name as established by the P. default.

VA \$P\

Path No Backslash

Indicates the current drive letter and path the same as \$PA does, with the exception that \$P\ displays a backslash in the root directory, whereas \$PA does not.

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Variables (Cont.)

VA \$RA

Read Attribute

Displays the number of the current type style. This value only reflects absolute character modes, not additive modes.

VA \$RC

Resume Code

Indicates which of the valid keystrokes a user pressed in response to a WM (Wait Message) or BR (Break) command (0=first valid key, 1=second valid key, etc.; 65533=[Enter] (on numpad); 65534=[F9] or [Ctrl][Break]; 65535=[Esc]).

VA \$RE

Read-Only File

Indicates whether the current file is a read-only file (0=no, 1=yes).

VA \$RK

Record Keystrokes

Indicates whether Record Keystrokes mode is on or off (0=off, 1=on).

VA \$RL

Redlining

Indicates whether redlining is on or off (0=off, 1=on).

VA \$RR

Return Error

Displays any errors generated while running a program in DOS via the DO command.

VA \$RS

Read Character

Displays the character under the cursor.

VA \$RZ

Record Separator

Indicates the record separator as XyWrite displays it, rather than the 3-byte sequence XyWrite uses to store the record separator internally, which is the value returned by VA RS. \$RZ is used primarily in programs to search for a carriage return/line feed. Although carriage returns are represented on the screen as a single character (↵), they are actually stored internally in a set as carriage return and line feed.

VA \$SC

Scan Code

Displays the value of the next key pressed, plus the value of any current shifted state (Caps Lock = 256, Shift = 512, Alt = 1024, Ctrl = 2048, NumLock = 32768). For example, if ? and [Caps Lock] are pressed, \$SC displays 275 (19 + 256).

VA \$SD

Sort Directory

Displays current DSORT (Directory Sort) settings.

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Variables (Cont.)

VA \$SE

Search String

Displays last search string.

VA \$SF

Soft Font List File

Displays the name of the soft font list file loaded into memory.

VA \$SG

Text Macro File

Displays the name and location of the current text macro file.

VA \$SM

Show Menus

Indicates whether a menu is currently displayed (0=no, 1=yes).

VA \$SO

Sort Setting

Displays the value of the SO (Sort) setting.

VA \$SP

Spelling Dictionary

Displays the name and location of the current personal spelling dictionary.

VA \$SS

Styles

Displays the name of the current style.

VA \$SS

Save Styles

Displays the names of the styles defined in the current file.

Format: **va \$ssn**, where *n* is a number that refers to the order in which the style was defined. For example, VA \$SS1 displays the name of the first style defined in the file; VA \$SS2 displays the name of the second style defined; etc.

VA \$ST

Startup

Displays the drive and path of STARTUP.INT.

VA \$TE

Type Effect

Displays the status of the different EF (Special Effect) settings (0=off, 1=on).

Format: **va \$ten**, where *n* is the number of the printer effect. (See the description of the [EF command](#) in the Command Reference Guide for more information.)

VA \$TR

Triangle Mnemonic

Displays the mnemonic of the embedded command on which the cursor is located.

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Variables (Cont.)

VA \$TW

Text Window

Indicates whether a command window is currently open (0=no, 1=yes).

VA \$TX

Cursor Location

Indicates whether the cursor is in the text area or in the header (0=header, 1=text).

VA \$UF

Use Typeface

Displays the name of the current typeface.

VA \$UO

Use Outline

Indicates whether the printer supports outline fonts (0=no, 1=yes).

VA \$VE

Version Number

Displays the version number of XyWrite that is currently loaded.

VA \$WA

Window Availability

Displays the number of the next available window that XyWrite will use when a CALL or NEW command is executed (the NW default must be set to 1, 2, or 3). \$WA displays 0 if all 9 windows are in use.

VA \$WC

Word Count

Displays the total number of words counted by the WC, WCB, or SPELL command (whichever was most recently executed).

VA \$WN

Window Number

Displays the number of the window that is currently active (0-9).

VA \$WO

Windows Open

Displays the number of windows currently open.

VA \$WS

Window Status

Displays the status of specified window.

Format: `va $wsn`, where *n* is the window you want to check. The following values are returned:

- 0 No file open, window is empty.
- 1 File is open
- 2 Directory is displayed

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Variables (Cont.)

VA *

Mode Number

Displays the color number of the specified display mode.

Format: **va** **md* where *md* is the display mode.

VA @

Text Macro

Displays the contents of the specified text macro.

Format: **va** @# where # is the text macro you want to display.

VA [

Additive Mode On

Indicates whether the cursor is in text that uses the specified additive mode (0=no,1=yes).

Format: **va** [*md*, where *md* is the mode (for example, va [bo).

VA ^

Document Summary Items

Displays the contents of the specified document summary item.

Format: **va** ^*mn* where *mn* is one of the following:

au	Author
lg	Logon of person who last modified the file
cd	Creation date
cm	Comments
rv	Revision number
ky	Keyword
rp	Retention period
pj	Project number

VA !

Size of Macro

Displays the size of the macro. XyWrite returns 65535 if macro does not exist; 0 if macro exists but is empty.

Format: **va** !#, where # is the macro.

VA §

Macro Contains Number

Indicates whether the specified macro contains a number (0=no, 1=yes).

Format: **va** §#, where # is the macro.

VA _

Assigned Key

Displays the key to which the specified function is assigned in the current keyboard file.

Format: **va** _*Junction*, where *function* is the function call, character assignment, JM command, etc. for which you want the key assignment.

This command requires a frame called 1A in the dialog box file. This frame, which lists the keycodes and the key labels, is in XY4.DLG you received with XyWrite. If you create a new DLG file and want to use this VA command, be sure to include the 1A frame in your file.