



# Using Tabs

## Overview

Tabs are used in several of the drivers, specifically the File Maintenance Driver and the 3-Level Entry Driver. Tabs allow you to segregate data into logical groupings and to extend the program to allow access to more data than could otherwise fit in the viewing region.

At this point, we do not have the ability to “stack” rows of tabs.

Tabs are given a number and a title. The number must be 1 through 9 for standard FACTS use or 10 through 18 for custom tabs. The numbers do not have to be sequential. The tab number is assigned in the tab definition line in SMFMFM or SMENTY and is used in SMPRMT to indicate which tab the field belongs on.

The title must always contain an ampersand (&) character immediately prior to the letter that will serve as its hotkey.

The tab order (as opposed to the tab number or tab screen) starts over for each tab, so the first field on each tab will have the same tab order. Key elements never belong on a tab and always go on tab screen zero. The tab order begins with 10 and goes up sequentially, so when key elements are present, the tab order of the first field on a tab screen will be 10 plus the number of key elements.

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Defining Tabs

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The most simple definition of a tab contains a number and a title separated by a colon (e.g. 1:&Main).

Defining multiple tabs by separating the tab definitions with semi-colons (e.g. 1:&Main;2:&Accounting).

Tabs may be security coded. To place a security code on a tab, append the string eval expression to the tab definition, separating it by a colon (e.g. 1:&Main;2:&accounting:"A | B"; 3:&Sales History). In this example, the user must have either security code A or security code B for tab screen 2 to be displayed at runtime.

Note that the security code must be a string expression and may contain string variables.

➡ Use caution when assigning security codes to tabs. If valid default values are not present for each field on that hidden tab screen, you could end up with a runtime error.