We're now going to move on, and discuss Character Strings. When we're creating our programs, we nearly always have to use fields defined as Character Strings. `

In SAP there are two elementary data types used for Character Strings. These are data type C, and data type N.

We'll first have a look at data type C. To do this as we go along, I'll create a brand-new program called Z\_Character\_Strings.

The data type C, used to hold alphanumeric characters, and it has a minimum length of one character, and a maximum length of 65, 535 characters.

Data mychar (10) type c.

Now this is the long form, of declaring a field of type C. And what I mean by that is, because this field is a generic data type, the system has some default values that it can use, to save us from typing out the full length of the declaration.

Data mychar2.

So for example, if we declared a new field. Let's call this mychar2, and I want this field just to be one character, well the default value of the size of the field is actually one character. So, I could get away without declaring the size in brackets. And because the character field is the default type, used by the system to declare the field I can even get away without declaring the type.

Data zempoyees like ZEMPLOYEES-SURNAME.

we can replicate that declaration within our ABAP program. that has exactly the same effect.

Let's look at the other generic Character String data type, and that is data type N.

So thinking back again to when we declared our table, we created a field called Z Employees, which was the employee number. So if we go to the table and have a look at this. Actually it's just called employee, but you can see we declared the field of type NUMC with a length of 8.

Now NUMC, or the number data type, is a special data type in that it is treated just like a character type. But there is an inbuilt rule to only allow numeric characters. And when data is moved into this field, it is right aligned, just like a normal numeric type field.

This data type is ideal, when we only want to use numbers within the field. And we have no intention of carrying out any type of calculation.

Data znumber type n.

how we would declare this field in ABAP. So as usual, it starts off with data. And we'll call the field ZNumber , with a data type of N. And just like previously, in this example up here, we could use the like statement, and refer back to the actual field in our table, and it would end up with the same effect.

Now one additional point, is this field does differ a little bit from the data type C. In that the initial default value of this field is 0 instead of space.