



## Retrieving data from the Environment object

This recipe will show you how to retrieve data from the `Environment` object, which is a kind of dictionary that stores key-value pairs. As we will see, unlike a regular dictionary, the `Environment` object stores two types of variables:

- Built-in
- User-defined

Built-in Environment variables give access to two types of information:

- **Static data** such as the `OS`, `OSVersion`, `LocalHostName`, `SystemTempDir`, `ProductDir` (where UFT is installed), `ProductName`, `ProductVer` (UFT version), `UserName` (the Windows login name), and several settings such as `UpdatingCheckpoints` and `UpdatingTODescriptions`. In addition, we can retrieve information about the current test, such as `TestName` and `TestDir` (the path to the current test(s) from the `Environment` object).
- **Runtime data** such as `TestIteration`, `ActionName`, and `ActionIteration` can be retrieved via the `Environment` object during runtime. The iteration number can be useful, for instance, when we need to perform an initialization procedure that should be done only once. In this case, the iteration number must be equal to the `TestIteration` parameter value.

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Create a user-defined Environment variable named `MyEnvParam` (see the previous recipe, *Storing data in the Environment object*).

### How to do it...

The following code shows how to retrieve either a built-in or a user-defined variable:

```
Print Environment("TestDir")
'Prints the Built-in TestDir (path) Environment variable to the console
Print Environment("MyEnvParam")
'Prints the User-Defined MyEnvParam Environment variable to the console
```

### How it works...

Similar to the workings of the `Scripting.Dictionary` object, by accessing an existing key, the `Environment` object returns its paired value.

### See also

User-defined Environment variables can be stored in an XML file and dynamically loaded during the runtime session. Refer to the *Using global variables (Environment)* recipe of [Chapter 8, Utility and Reserved Objects](#).

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