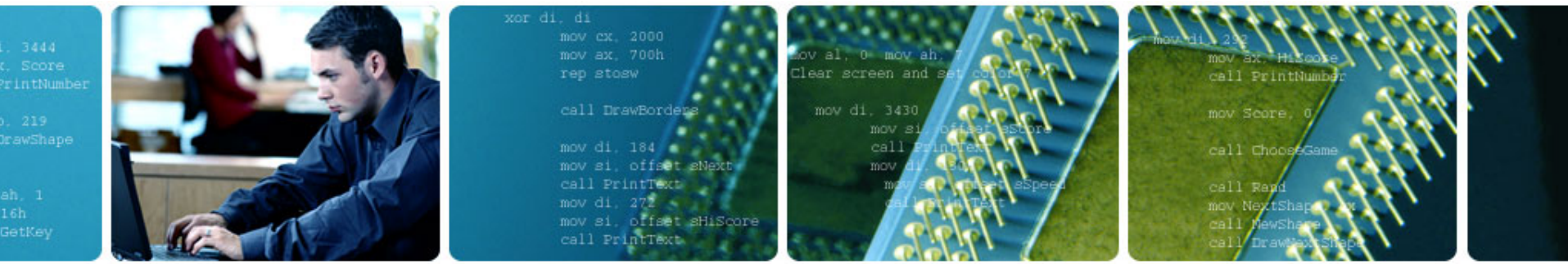
z/OS Basic Skills: Introduction to ISPF

Unit 3: Using the ISPF utilities
Module 2: Using the ISPF data set utility



Using the ISPF data set utility – Introduction

The ISPF utilities provide a variety of functions for library, data set, and catalog maintenance. In this module, *Using the ISPF data set utility*, we'll explore a set of options that allow you to operate on data set libraries rather than on individual members of a partitioned data set (PDS).
To help you understand this module, you should read *Understanding data sets and file systems* in the z/OS Concepts section of the z/OS basic skills information center.

Time to complete: 15 - 20 minutes

Using the ISPF data set utility – Objectives

Upon completion of this module, you should be able to:

- Access and use the ISPF data set utility
- Select data set utility options
- Allocate new data sets
- Use the main functions of the data set utility

Using the ISPF data set utility – Accessing the Utility Selection Panel

When you select option 3 on the Primary Options Menu, the Utility Selection Panel appears. This panel typically gives you access to many different utility options. In the series of modules about ISPF utilities, we explore some of the most commonly used utilities:

- The library utilities
- The data set utilities
- The move/copy utility
- The dslist utility
- The compare and search utilities

Using the ISPF data set utility – Starting the ISPF data set utility

To access the data set utility, select option 2 on the Utility Selection Panel (shown here) and press the Enter key*.

Alternatively, you can jump directly from the Primary Options Menu to the data set utility by entering 3.2 on the Primary Option Menu and pressing the Enter key*.

* The default Enter key for a Personal Communications (PCOMM) terminal emulator session is the right Ctrl key. If your are using a different terminal emulator, or your PCOMM keyboard has been customized, you may have a different Enter key.

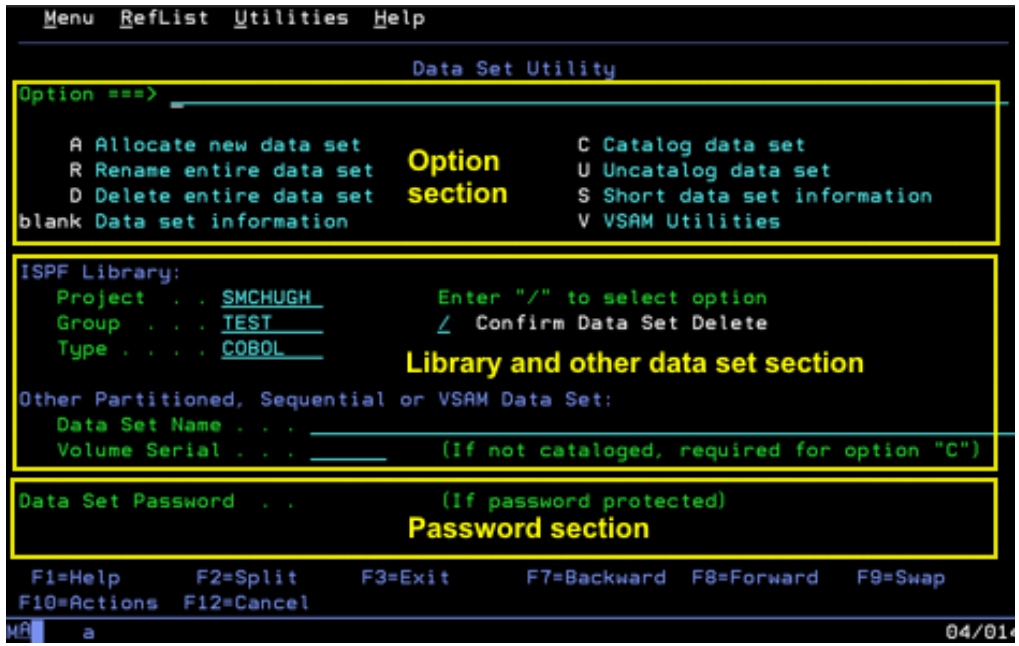
Using the ISPF data set utility – Exploring the ISPF data set utility panel

The data set utility panel, shown here, has several sections. Like most ISPF panels, this one has an action bar at the top.

The options you can select on this panel function on an entire data set.

The library and other data set section is similar to the section on the View Entry Panel or the Edit Entry Panel, with the exception that it gives you the option of confirming the deletion of a data set.

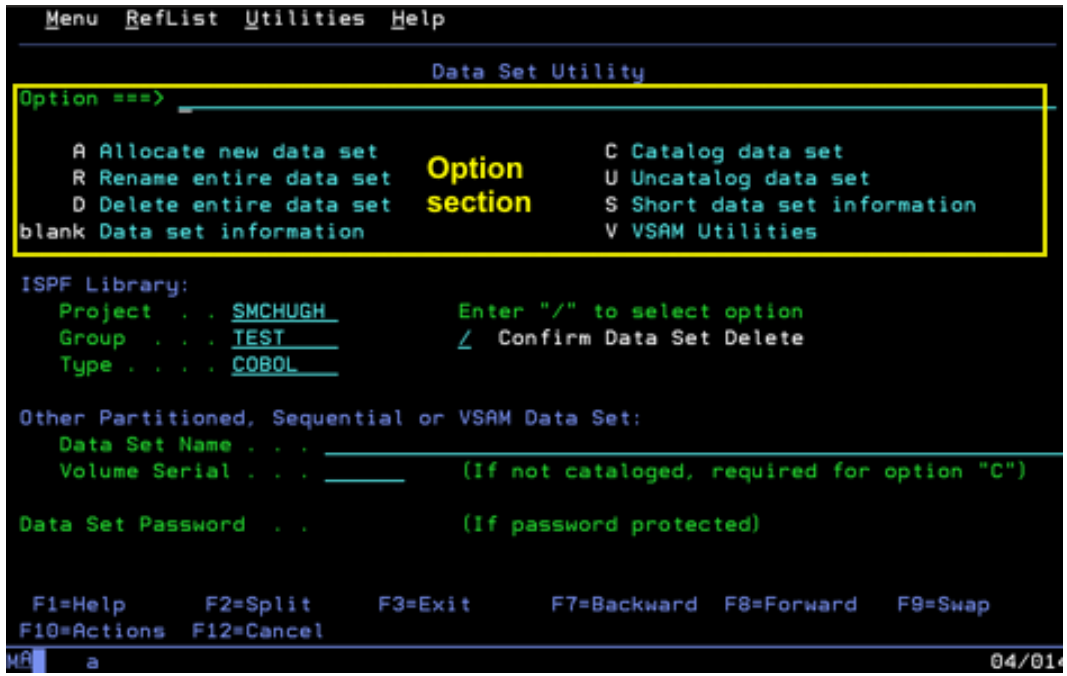
The password section allows you to enter a password to access password protected data sets.



Using the ISPF data set utility – Data set utility options

You can use the following options on an entire data set:

- A – allocate a new data set
- R – rename a data set
- D – delete a data set
- blank – display information about the data set
- C – catalog a data set
- U – uncatalog a data set
- S – display the short form of data set information
- V – use VSAM utilities



Using the ISPF data set utility – Getting information about a data set - simulation

You have two options for getting information about the data set specified in the library section:

- Leave the option line blank and press the Enter key to get the long form of information
- Type S on the option line and press the Enter key to get the short form of information.

To try a simulation of getting both types of information about a data set, click on the Launch button.

Using the ISPF data set utility – Allocating a new data set

Before you can use a data set, you must create space for it and be able to link to it. You do this by allocating the data set.

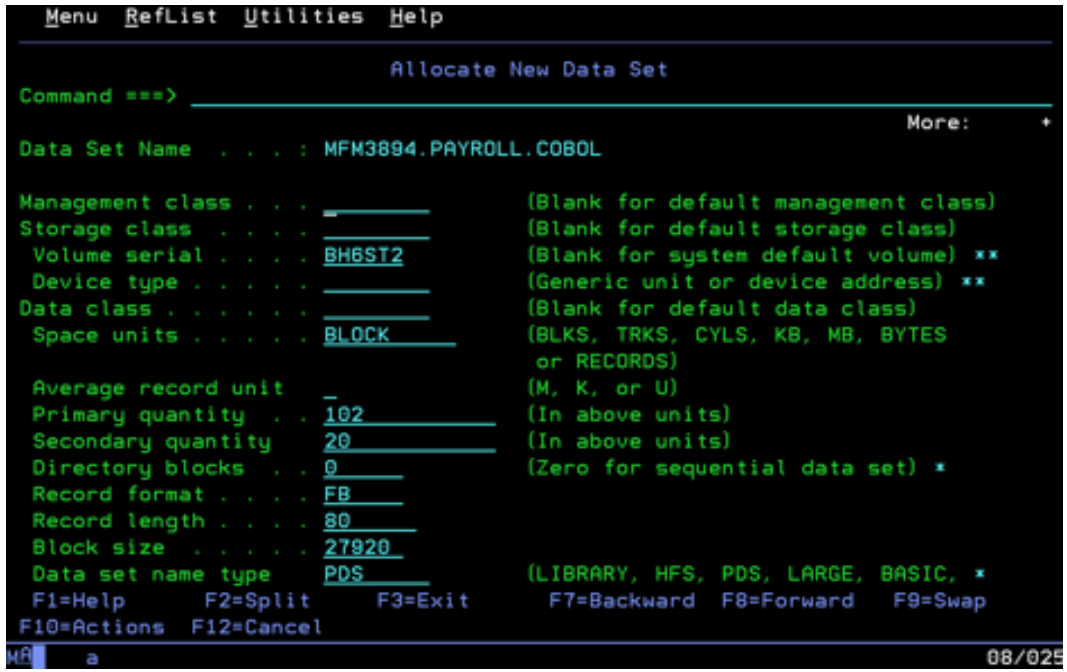
1. Type A on the option line.
2. Fill in the Project, Group, and Type qualifiers for the new data set, as shown here.
3. Press the Enter key.

If the data set does not already exist, ISPF displays the Allocate New Data Set panel.

Using the ISPF data set utility – The Allocate New Data Set panel

On the Allocate New Data Set panel you can set specific values for the data set. Under normal circumstances, you can leave many of the fields (such as the volume serial or generic unit) blank, and z/OS will supply default values. The volume serial number shown here is the default volume on which z/OS will store the new data set.

If you want to place the new data set on a specific volume, enter the volume's serial number in that field. In the generic unit field, you can specify the type of DASD you want to use, such as 3390, or leave it blank and the system will select the default device.

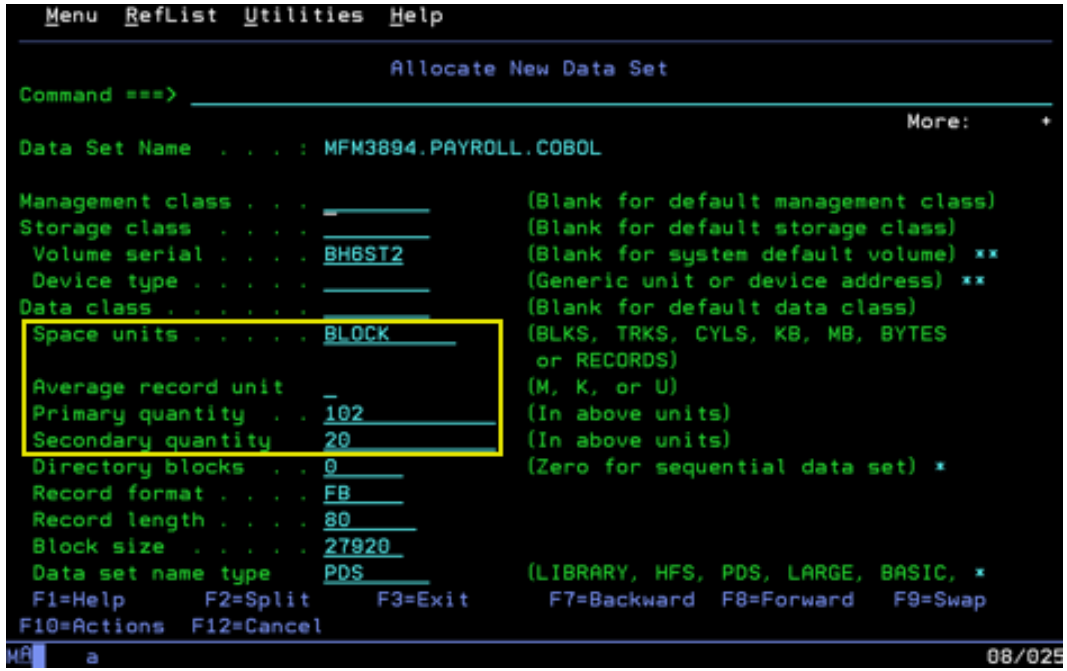


Using the ISPF data set utility– Specifying space for a new data set

Use these three parameters to specify space requirements for a data set:

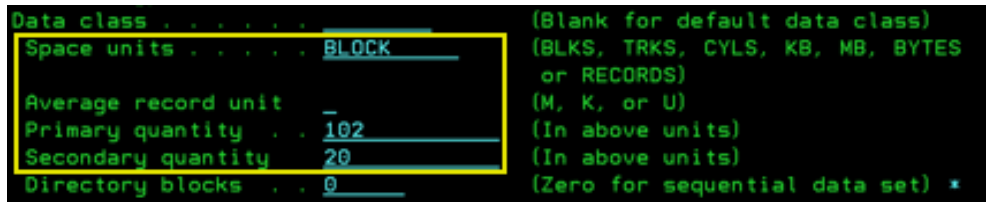
- Space units – the unit of measure for data set space.
- Primary quantity – the primary space to allocate in terms of the space units specified above
- Secondary quantity − additional space that ISPF uses to expand the data set if the primary space is insufficient.

You can allocate space in blocks (BLKS), tracks (TRKS), or cylinders (CYLS), megabytes (M), kilobytes (K), bytes (B), or records (R).



Using the ISPF data set utility– Specifying space continued

The primary quantity field should contain the amount of space the data set will require. In this example, we've specified 102 block of primary space.



In the secondary quantity field, specify the amount of space by which to expand the primary space if the data set needs additional space. This additional space is dynamically allocated as required. The primary space can be expanded up to 15 times. After that the only way to expand the data set is copy or move it to a new data set with a larger allocation.

The average record unit shows the unit used when allocating average record length. U (default) specifies single record units (bytes). K specifies kilobyte and M specifies megabyte record units.

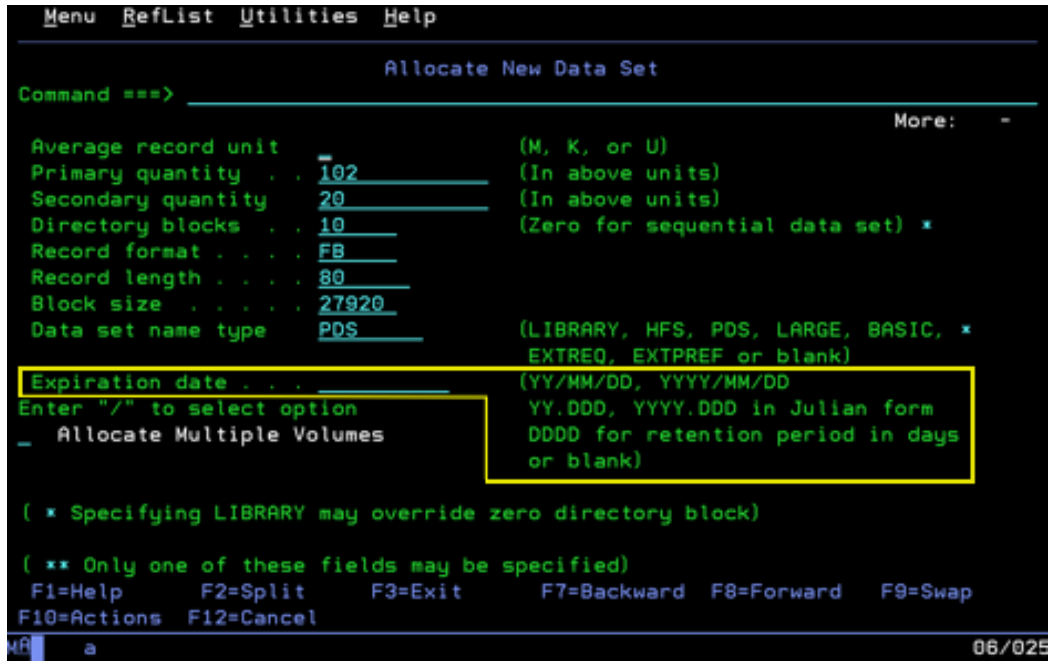
Determining how much space you need is a task beyond the scope of this module. For more information, refer to *DFSMS Using Data Sets*, SC26-7410.

Using the ISPF data set utility– Setting the file expiration date

Near the bottom of the Allocate New Data Set panel, you'll find the Expiration Date entry field. Here you can specify a date when the file can be considered expired and can be deleted.

One reason to set an expiration date for a data set is to reduce the risk of accidentally deleting it in the future.

Normally, however, you do not set an expiration date for disk data sets, since it interferes with their reorganization. They cannot be deleted until after the expiration date unless a systems administrator overrides the expiration date setting.



Using the ISPF data set utility – Allocating a new data set - simulation

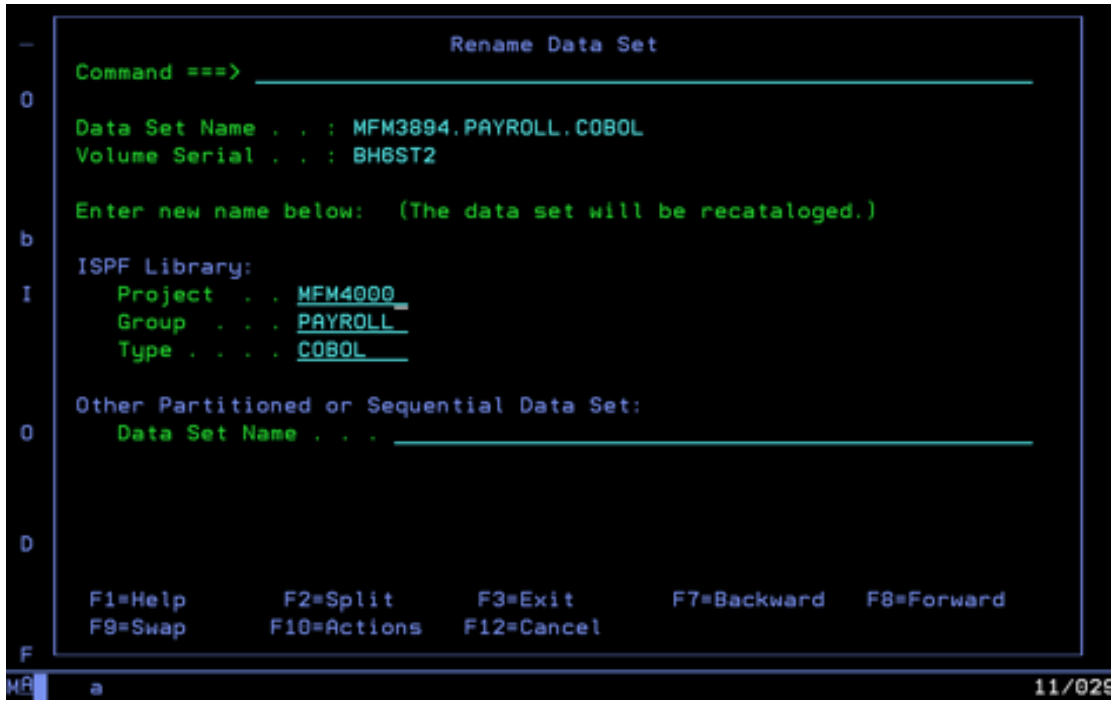
Perhaps the easiest way to understand the process of allocating a data set is to do it.

To walk through the steps of creating a new data set, click on the Launch button.

Using the ISPF data set utility– Renaming a data set

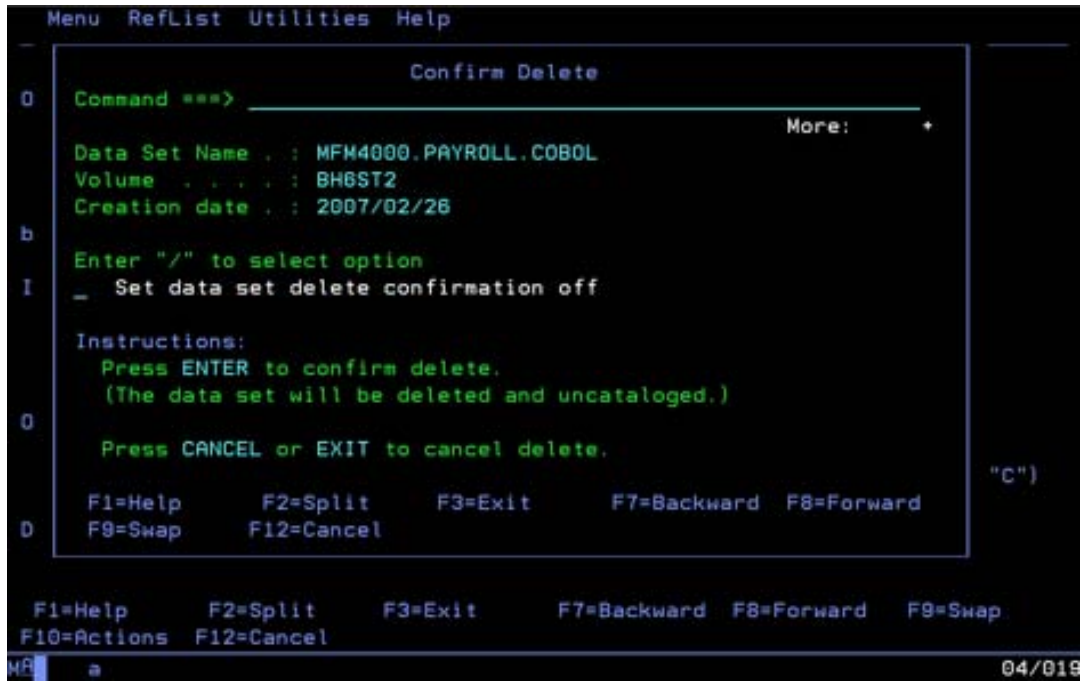
If you select the rename option, the Rename Data Set panel appears, as shown here. The data set name at the top of the screen is carried over from the initial Data Set Utility panel. Use the ISPF library fields to enter the new name for the data set.

In this example we have renamed MFM3894.PAYROLL.COBOL to MFM4000.PAYROLL.COBOL.



Using the ISPF data set utility– Deleting a data set

If you select the Delete option, the Confirm Delete panel appears, as shown here. To confirm the deletion, press the Enter key. The data set will be deleted and uncataloged.



Using the ISPF data set utility – Summary

In this module, Using the ISPF data set utility, you have learned:

- **How to access the data set utility**
- **How to specify data set options**
- **How to allocate a new data set**
- **How to rename and delete data sets.**