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## VISA Data Types

The VISA Library defines a special set of data types. The IVI Library also uses some of these data types. The data types strictly define the type and size of the parameters and therefore promote the portability of the functions to new operating systems and programming languages.

A subset of the VISA data types has been defined for use in the development of LabWindows/CVI instrument drivers and are accessible as user-defined data types. The following table shows these special data types for instrument drivers.

VISA Type Name	Definition
ViInt16	Signed 16-bit integer
ViInt32	Signed 32-bit integer
ViInt64	Signed 64-bit integer
ViUInt16	Unsigned 16-bit integer
ViUInt32	Unsigned 32-bit integer
ViUInt64	Unsigned 64-bit integer
ViReal64	64-bit floating-point number
ViInt16[]	An array of ViInt16 values
ViInt32[]	An array of ViInt32 values
ViInt64[]	An array of ViInt64 values
ViReal64[]	An array of ViReal64 values
ViChar[]	A string buffer
ViConstString	A read-only string
ViRsrc	An instrument driver resource descriptor (string)
ViSession	An instrument driver session handle
ViStatus	An instrument driver return status type
ViBoolean	Boolean value
ViBoolean[]	An array of ViBoolean values

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LabWindows/CVI 2017 Help

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 **Note** LabWindows/CVI adds the ViInt64, ViUInt64, and ViInt64[] data types only when you select **CVI 8.5 and later** as the FP file format.

To use these special user-defined data types in an instrument driver, complete the following steps:

1. Add the VISA data types to the function panel file by using the **Options»Data Type** command in the Function Panel Editor. Then click the **Add VISA Types** button in the [Edit Data Type List dialog box \(/fpeoptionsdatatypes/\)](#).
2. Include the `vpptype.h` file in the instrument driver header file.

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