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## REXXGBLV - REXX function - Global variable support

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## Changes in this build (064)

- Fix function STEMIX.

## Short description

REXXGBLV addresses the lack of global storage in REXX. While REXX does provide some means of passing data to and retrieve data from subroutines, there is no easy method for storing data for later retrieval.

REXXGBLV provides a variable store external to the currently running REXX program. Variables can be saved and later retrieved by the same or another REXX process. The saved variables can be written to and retrieved from a disk file, so can be used across logons and even be shared amongst users.

The data is stored in a named pool in the home address space above the 16MB border.

Any number of pools can be created, till the virtual storage runs full.

The maximum length of a variable name is 250. There is no maximum data length. Export and import will split the data over more records if needed.

The program is re-entrant, so can be installed in LPALIB. See the 'Performance' section later for other options.

Additionally, REXXGBLV can index variables, copy variables and list variables (useful for debugging).

## Syntax

REXXGBLV must run as a function:

```
n= REXXGBLV('function parameters')
```

Refer to the section 'Parameter description' later for a detailed description of the parameters.

### Store and load variables to/from pool(s)

Save REXX variables to a pool

```
SAVE VAR(name) [DATA(mask)] [POOL(pool)]
```

See sample 'Save and retrieve REXX variables'.

Clear an entire pool, then save REXX variables in the pool

```
CLRSAVE VAR(name) [POOL(pool)]
```

This is a combined DEL \* and SAVE.

\*deprecated, use DROPSAVE instead.

Delete pool variables, then save REXX variables in the pool

```
CLRVSAVE VAR(name) [DATA(mask)] [POOL(pool)] *deprecated*
```

```
DELSAVE VAR(name) [DATA(mask)] [POOL(pool)]
```

This is a combined DEL and SAVE.

This call will delete all pool variables matching 'name', then save REXX variables matching 'name' in the pool. It can be useful if you previously have stored many variables and now wish to start from scratch.

Delete a pool, then save REXX variables to the pool

```
DROPSAVE VAR(name) [DATA(mask)] POOL(pool)
```

This is a combined DEL \* and SAVE.

Poolname is required. You cannot delete the internal pools.

Load pool variables to REXX

```
LOAD VAR(name) [DATA(mask)] [POOL(pool)] [PREFIX(prefix)]
```

REXX variables can optionally be prefixed, otherwise they are loaded (and replaced) with the pool variable name.

See sample 'Save and retrieve REXX variables'.

Load pool variables to REXX, then delete the variables from the pool

PULL VAR(name) [DATA(mask)] [POOL(pool)] [PREFIX(prefix)]

This is a combination of LOAD and DEL.

REXX variables can optionally be prefixed, otherwise they are loaded (and replaced) with the pool variable name.

Load pool variables to REXX, then drop the pool

LOADDROP VAR(name) [DATA(mask)] [POOL(pool)] [PREFIX(prefix)]

REXX variables can optionally be prefixed, otherwise they are loaded (and replaced) with the pool variable name.

Add data directly to a pool variable

ADD VAR(name) VALUE(data) | VALVAR(varname) [POOL(pool)]

'data' can be a string of max 200 characters without parenthesis or other characters which can invalidate the parm string.

'varname' is the name of a variable containing the data. Use this instead of VALUE(data) if you are unsure of the data or if the data length is more than 200.

If the last chars of the name are '.' then a new stem variable is created with suffix = name.0 + 1 and name.0 is updated. If name.0 does not exist it is created. This is intended for making a simple log feature.

See sample 'Add a pool variable directly'.

Return the value from a pool variable

RETURN VAR(name) [POOL(pool)]

Null is returned if the variable is null, if the variable does not exist, or if the pool does not exist.

Pool handling

List contents of a pool

LIST VAR(name) [DATA(mask)] [POOL(pool)] [LENGTH] [NW(name-width)] [DW(data-width)]  
[LISTSTEM(listname)]

See the DW, NW, LENGTH and LISTSTEM operands later.

Build a REXX stem containing the names of variables in a pool

INDEX VAR(name) [DATA(mask)] STEM(stem) [POOL(pool)]

Build a stem containing the names of variables in a pool matching 'name'. Note the stem is built in REXX, not in the pool.

## Delete pool variables

**DEL VAR(name) [POOL(pool)]**  
The VAR parameter is required.

## Delete a pool

**DROP POOL(pool)**  
Releases storage.  
Poolname is required. You cannot delete the internal pools.

## Save and load variables to/from external file

### Export from a pool to file

**EXPORT DD(fileref) [POOL(pool)] [VAR(name)] [DATA(mask)]**

### Save REXX variables to a pool, then export the pool variables to file

**SAVEEXP VAR(name) [DATA(mask)] [DD(fileref)] [POOL(pool)]**  
This is a combination of SAVE and EXPORT.

### Export REXX variables directly to file

**REXPOR VAR(name) [DATA(mask)] [DD(fileref)]**

### Imports file to a pool

**IMPORT DD(fileref) [POOL(pool)] [VAR(name)]**  
File must have been created by the EXPORT/REXPOR function.

### Import file to a pool, then load the pool variables to REXX

**IMPLOAD DD(fileref) [POOL(pool)] [VAR(name)] [DATA(mask)]**  
This is a combination of IMPORT and LOAD.  
File must have been created by the EXPORT/REXPOR function.

### Imports REXX variables directly from file

**RIMPORT [VAR(name)] [DATA(mask)] [DD(fileref)]**  
File must have been created by the EXPORT/REXPOR function.

## REXX variable manipulation

## Copy REXX variables with prefix

`COPY VAR(name) [DATA(mask)] PREFIX(prefix)`  
'name' must be generic, like MYVAR. or MYVAR\* .  
'prefix' can be any valid variable prefix.

## Build a stem containing the names of selected REXX variables

`RINDEX VAR(name) [DATA(mask)] STEM(stem)`  
Create a listing of the variable names matching 'var' in stem 'stem'.

See sample 'Build a stem of REXX variable names'.

## List contents of REXX variables

`RLIST VAR(name) [DATA(mask)] [LENGTH] [NW(name-width)] [DW(data-width)]  
LISTSTEM(listname)]`

See the DW, NW, LENGTH and LISTSTEM operands later.  
Default is to list to terminal, LISTSTEM can be used to save the list.

## Index a REXX stem

`STEMIX STEM(stem.)`  
Indexes a stem by taking the basename and putting a running number as the new suffix, plus .0 of course. This is intended to create an index over a stem with non-numeric suffixes.

### Notes

- the stem is not sorted
- if the stem already has entries with numeric suffixes they may be overwritten.

See sample 'Index a REXX stem'.

## Index a stem (old)

`VARINDEX | VARIX VAR(var) STEM(stem) [POOL(pool)]`  
See INDEX for parameter syntax and usage notes.  
\*deprecated, use INDEX instead\*

## Other

### Show build info

`VERSION`  
Shows build id and date/time of assembly.  
sample:  
`ver=REXXGBLV('version')`

## Map the internal memory storage structure

MAP [XTENDED]      XTENDED will map storage entries. For debugging.

## Parameter description

|                |   |
|----------------|---|
| DATA(mask)     | Data filter when name is generic.<br>Mask characters are * for all or none, % for single.<br>Note that the mask is case sensitive.<br>i.e. DATA(K*r*)                               |
| DD(fileref)    | Optional fileref for export and import. Default is RXGVEXP.   |
| DW(data-width) | Width of data - LIST/RLIST functions. Default=85<br>If specified as 0 then the actual data width is used.   |
| NW(name-width) | Width of name - LIST/RLIST functions. Default=35<br>If specified as 0 then the actual name width is used.   |
| LENGTH         | Show name- and data length for LIST and RLIST.  |
| POOL(pool)     | Pool name, max length=16. The name is translated to uppercase, it may contain any characters, but may not begin with '-', '(' or ')'.<br>Maximum length is 250 bytes.               |
| PREFIX(p)      | Prefix for generated variable names.  |
| STEM(name)     | Stem name – do include the dot.<br>Maximum length is 250 bytes.   |
| TRACE          | Writes a lot of diagnostic info.  |
| VALUE(data)    | Data to store for the VAR(name) variable. Used with the ADD function.<br>Maximum length is 200 bytes, do not use parenthesis or quotes.   |
| VALVAR(name)   | Name of variable containing data. Used with the ADD function when the VALUE parameter would conflict with the syntax parser.  |
| VAR(name)      | Variable name. Can contain wildcards '*' for multiple or null characters and '%' for a single character.<br>A trailing dot (.) defines a stem base.<br>Maximum length is 250 bytes. |

## DD statements

RXGVEXP      Fileref for the EXPORT, IMPORT, REXPORT and RIMPORT functions.  
RECFM=VB, LRECL should be half-track size. Make LRECL=27994 and BLKSIZE=27994  
and you should be ok on a 3390 (like) disk.  
Alternative DDname can be defined by the DD operand.

## Variables set at termination

Some information is externalized through the variables below. They are all returned, though most will contain zeroes.

|                  |                                       |
|------------------|---------------------------------------|
| REXXGBLV_EXPORTN | Number of entries exported to pool.   |
| REXXGBLV_IMPORTN | Number of entries imported from pool. |
| REXXGBLV_MAXDL   | Max data length                       |
| REXXGBLV_MAXNDL  | Max name+data length                  |
| REXXGBLV_MAXNL   | Max name length                       |
| REXXGBLV_MSG     | Failure message                       |

|                 |                                   |
|-----------------|-----------------------------------|
| REXXGBLV_RLISTN | Number of REXX variables listed.  |
| REXXGBLV_RLOADN | Number of REXX variables loaded.  |
| REXXGBLV_VDELN  | Number of pool variables deleted. |
| REXXGBLV_VLISTN | Number of pool entries listed     |
| REXXGBLV_VLOADN | Number of REXX variables loaded.  |
| REXXGBLV_VSAVEN | Number of REXX variables saved.   |

## Principles of operation

REXXGBLV creates a storage areas and use IEANTCR services to build name/token pairs to save the information for the areas. The pool name can be set in the call to REXXGBLV, thus allowing a virtually unlimited number of variable stores.

### Storage

Pool storage is obtained from storage pool 131, so it survives till the TSO online- or batch session is terminated (step end) unless specifically freed.

All storage, except 64K used for I/O operations, is requested from above the line. Using 64-bit storage or data spaces has been deemed unnecessary so far.

The initial amount of storage for a pool is 1452 bytes. As the pool sees activity this will of course increase, actual amount depending on the number of variables saved and the combined size of the stored variables.

Storage is not necessarily released when a variable is deleted.

Depending on internal settings storage is released or moved to free queues from where it can be quickly reused. This is done as an attempt to avoid excessive getmain/freemain activity.

Not all storage is released when a pool is dropped. Some basic control blocks and a number of free elements are kept as an attempt to avoid excessive getmain/freemain activity. The maximum storage retained for a dropped pool is currently 11K.

There are 3 internal pools so assuming one user pool has been created used and dropped, the storage retained would be 44K.

## Samples

### Save and retrieve REXX variables

Note that REXX variables are not necessarily shown in alphabetical order.

```

parse value 'Kilroy was here' with p1 p2 p3
cc=REXXGBLV('save pool(p1) var(p*)')
say 'List pool.....'
cc=REXXGBLV('list pool(p1)')    /* list stored */
say 'List actual...'
cc=REXXGBLV('rlist var(p*)')    /* list actual */
p1='The president'
say 'List actual after setting P1'
cc=REXXGBLV('rlist var(p*)')    /* list actual */
cc=REXXGBLV('load pool(p1)')    /* reload      */
say 'List actual after reload'
```



```
cc=REXXGBLV('rlist var(p*)') /* list actual */
```

### displays

```
List pool.....
P1                      Kilroy
P2                      was
P3                      here
# of records listed: 00000003
List actual...
P1                      Kilroy
P3                      here
P2                      was
List actual after setting P1
P1                      The president
P3                      here
P2                      was
List actual after reload
P1                      Kilroy
P3                      here
P2                      was
```

## Add a pool variable directly

### Callers code:

```
cc=RexxGblv('del var(log.)')
/*or cc=RexxGblv('add var(log.0) value(0)') */
Call Sub1
cc=RexxGblv('load var(log.)')
do n=1 to log.0
    say log.n
end
```

### Sub1 code:

```
cc=RexxGblv('add var(log.+) value('time() 'Program started)')
.. some code ..
cc=RexxGblv('add var(log.+) value('time() 'Program ended)')
Return 0
```

### Will show something like this:

```
15:24:33 Program started
15:24:34 Program ended
```

## Export and import directly to/from file

### Fileref

```
//RXGVEXP DD RECFM=VB,LRECL=27994,SPACE=(TRK,(5,5)),UNIT=SYSDA,...
```

### Program

```
Alpha    = 'Letter nr 01'
Charlie  = 'Letter nr 03'
India    = 'Letter nr 09'
Juliet   = 'Letter nr 10'
```

```

Romeo      = 'Letter nr 18'
Sierra     = 'Letter nr 19'
Tango      = 'Letter nr 20'
Zulu       = 'Letter nr 26'
cc=RexxGblv('rexport var(*ie*)')
say REXXGBLV_EXPORTN+0 'variables exported'
drop alpha charlie india juliet romeo sierra tango zulu
say  alpha charlie india juliet romeo sierra tango zulu
cc=RexxGblv('rimport var(*lie*)')
say REXXGBLV_IMPORTN+0 'variables imported'
say  alpha charlie india juliet romeo sierra tango zulu
cc=RexxGblv('rimport')
say REXXGBLV_IMPORTN+0 'variables imported'
say  alpha charlie india juliet romeo sierra tango zulu

```

Shows

```

3 variables exported
ALPHA CHARLIE INDIA JULIET ROMEO SIERRA TANGO ZULU
2 variables imported
ALPHA Letter nr 03 INDIA Letter nr 10 ROMEO SIERRA TANGO ZULU
3 variables imported
ALPHA Letter nr 03 INDIA Letter nr 10 ROMEO Letter nr 19 TANGO ZULU

```

## Build a stem of REXX variable names

```

data.0     = 'zero'
dataf      = 'sixth letter in the alphabet'
foxtrot    = 'foxtrot is a dance'
datad      = 'delta'
faulty     = 'Faulty Towers'
function   = 'test filter'
cc=REXXGBLV('rindex var(f*t*) stem(filter.)')

```

creates

```

FILTER.0 = '00000003'
FILTER.1 = 'FAULTY'
FILTER.2 = 'FUNCTION'
FILTER.3 = 'FOXTROT'

```

## Index a REXX stem

```

CAR.BMW    = 'german car make'
CAR.FORD   = 'USA car make'
CAR.MAZDA  = 'japanese car make'
cc=RexxGblv('stemix stem(car.)')

```

creates

```

CAR.0 = '00000003'
CAR.1 = 'BMW'
CAR.2 = 'MAZDA'
CAR.3 = 'FORD'

```

**See member RXGVSAMP for more samples.**

## Installation

See member REXXGBLV.

If you do not want to use the stay-in-JPAQ feature, then change the statement

```
CDEUCTZ2 dsect=N
```

to a comment.

## Initial verification

See members RXGVIVP (program) and RXGVIVP\$ (JCL). The REXXGBLV installation step is set up to execute the RXGVIVP member as well.

The IVP job can also be used for samples, but the RXGVSAMP member is probably more readable.

## Performance

REXXGBLV is fully reentrant, so can reside in LPALIB or linklist.

LPALIB is recommended. If run from JOBLIB or STEPLIB the program will reload itself, thus remaining in JPAQ - or in other words there will be only one program load for the entire session. See the 'Install' section for how to disable this feature.

## Comments etc

Comments can be sent as email to

Willy(at)harders-jensen(dot)com

Substituting (at) with @ and (dot) with .

Web

The newest version of REXXGBLV, plus much much more, is found at

[Http://harders-jensen.com/wjtech/programs.html](http://harders-jensen.com/wjtech/programs.html)

Have fun

Willy Jensen