How to copy data from the clipboard

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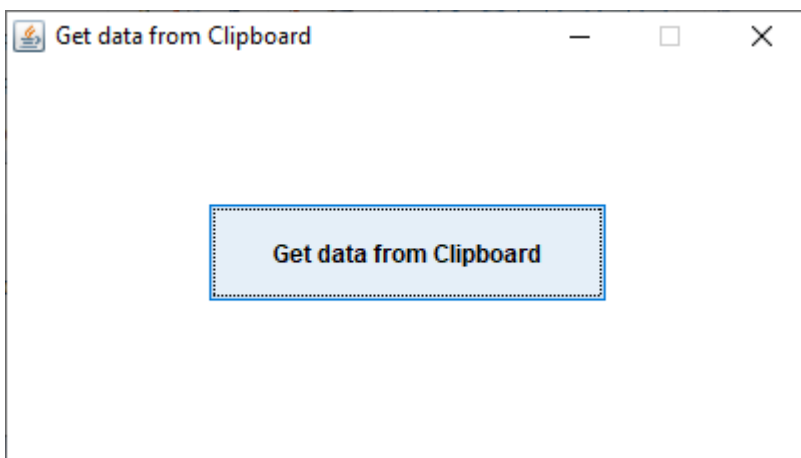*Saved From: http://support.veryant.com/support/phpkb/question.php?ID=313*

If an isCOBOL program needs to use the current data from the clipboard, and that isCOBOL program has an active screen, it is simple to do using the action-paste action of an entry-field. The basic code to place the data from the Clipboard into an entry-field and then get it from the entry-field to a variable is as follows:

```
initialize ws-clipboard
modify  ef-clipboard value  spaces
modify  ef-clipboard action action-paste
inquire ef-clipboard value  ws-clipboard
  .
```
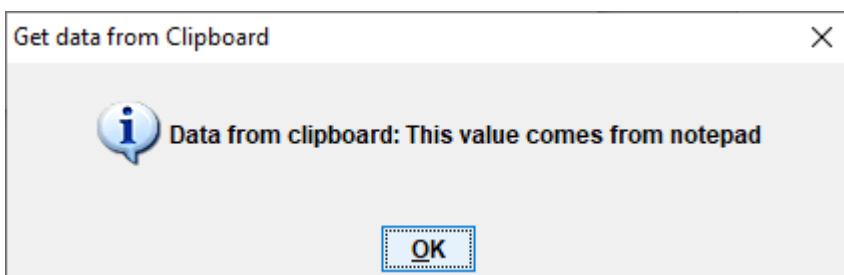
The variable ws-clipboard would be defined as:

```
01 ws-clipboard pic x any length.
```

And the ef-clipboard entry-field would be defined with the property visible 0 to be invisible.   The screen might look like this.

For example, if you copy text (ctrl-c) from a file you are editing in notepad and then you press the push-button on the screen, the clipboard data will be written to ws-clipboard using the code above. Then you can display to a message box (or use for any needed business logic in a real program).

You can download the complete sample program attached below that demonstrates this functionality.

Compile it with this command line:

```
iscc  -sp="%iscobol%sampleisdef" copyfromclipboard.cbl
```

 Run it with this command line:

```
iscrun COPYFROMCLIPBOARD
```