

# Can the file system (iscobol.file.index) be set programmatically?

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## Question:

Can I set the iscobol.file.index or iscobol.file.index.FileName variables inside my COBOL program?

My application reads a file which has information about which file system to use for each data file.

Some data files are Jisam. Others are in Oracle. My application allows the user to choose which files to create in the database. So I need to set this programmatically.

How do I do that in isCOBOL?

## Answer:

You can set both "file.index" and "file.index." using the SET ENVIRONMENT.

Note that you don't use the 'iscobol.' at the beginning of the property name when you set properties with SET ENVIRONMENT.

For instance, if your users want file1 to be a database, you would set this in your properties file:

```
iscobol.file.index=jisam
```

and in your program set that file's file handler dynamically:

```
set environment "file.index.file1" to "easydb"
```

Another way to associate file handlers to your files is by using the CLASS clause in FILE-CONTROL.

Setting the file to a specific class overrides external settings in your environment.