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## SelStart

The **SelStart** property specifies or determines the starting point of the selected text in a control or the position of the insertion point if no text is selected.

tags:  
Properties

### Applies to ...

Object	Type when in a form	Type when in a GridControl	Type when in a dialog	Description
Control	PatternField TextField			A control on an open form or dialog

### Syntax

```
control.SelStart
control.SelStart = value
```

### Returned values / Arguments

Long

### Remarks

- The **SelStart** property uses an integer value in the range 1 to the total number of characters in a text box + 1.
- To set or return this property for a control, the control must have the focus. To move the focus to a control, use the **SetFocus** method.
- Changing the **SelStart** property cancels the selection, places the insertion point in the text at the left of the SelStart-th character, and sets the **SelLength** property to 0.

### Error messages

Property 'SelStart' not applicable in this context

Value '...' is invalid for property 'SelStart'

## See also

[SelLength](#)  
[SelText](#)  
[SetFocus](#)

## Example

Search a string in a text column and select it when found

```
Dim ofForm As Object, ocControl As Object
Const cstSearch = "WINNIE"
    Set ofForm = Forms("myForm")
    Set ocControl = ofForm.Controls("myGridControl").Controls("mytextField")
    With ocControl
        .SetFocus()
        DoCmd.FindRecord(cstSearch, acAnyWhere, True, , , acCurrent, True)
        .SelText = cstSearch
        MsgBox "String '" & cstSearch & "' found in position " & .SelStart & ". Length" & .SelLength
    End With
```

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