



You can review and change a file's field attributes easily by running the Modify File Attributes option in Screen Mode. For an example of entering a NUMERIC DATA TYPE in Screen Mode, please refer to the "Examples of File and Field Creation" topic that follows.

SET OF CODES DATA TYPE

A DATA TYPE defined as a SET OF CODES can be used to restrict a user to just a few possible values (e.g., YES or NO). When defining a SET OF CODES DATA TYPE, enter a valid code and a translation of what each code means. The user can enter the code, the full meaning, or a portion of the full meaning. If the field is set up to require only a one-character response (as shown in the example below), this DATA TYPE can simplify the user's data entry.

VA FileMan has only a limited amount of space to store the codes and their external values. If the limit is exceeded, you are told "TOO MUCH!--SHOULD BE A 'POINTER', NOT 'SET'." The SET OF CODES DATA TYPE is sometimes referred to as a SET.

For example, when defining a SET OF CODES DATA TYPE, you are asked the following questions:

```
Select FIELD: SEX
  Are you adding 'SEX' as a new FIELD? No// Y <RET>  (Yes)

DATA TYPE OF SEX: SET OF CODES
INTERNALLY-STORED CODE: m WILL STAND FOR: MALE
INTERNALLY-STORED CODE: f WILL STAND FOR: FEMALE
INTERNALLY-STORED CODE: <RET>
WILL SEX FIELD BE MULTIPLE: No// <RET>  (No)
IS SEX ENTRY MANDATORY (Y/N): No// Y <RET>  YES
...
'HELP' -PROMPT: <RET>
DESCRIPTION:
  1> <RET>
```

Figure 114: Defining a SET OF CODES DATA TYPE Field in Scrolling Mode

In this example, "**m**" stands for Male and "**f**" stands for Female. Numbers as well as alphabetic characters can be used.