



HARTFORD AREA SAS® USERS GROUP

Volume 15, Issue 2

Second Quarter, May 2003

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The HASUG Flash is available for reading on the World Wide Web at <http://www.hasug.org>
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Notes From the Chairperson

“Then and Now”

Acting Chairperson:

Michael “Mad Doggy” Davis

Bassett Consulting Services, Inc.

While I have been a SAS programmer for a long time, the founding of HASUG predates my SAS experience by a few years. I thought it might be interesting and useful to highlight some of the changes that have occurred over the life of HASUG which impact the SAS user group experience.

The Internet comes first to mind. On the wall of the office where I am typing out my thoughts, I see a certificate that I received for presenting the “One-Eyed Guide”. It was a paper on the Internet, e-mail, and how these facilities could improve the SAS user experience. The plaque is dated February, 1993.

In those days, one might not have been able to directly connect to the Internet. The gateway connection that I used allowed me to subscribe to the SAS-L distribution list and to pass messages to SAS Institute. Then, ISPs emerged which provided direct access to the Internet, first by dial-up and then by broadband connections. Now, a SAS user group without a web site would be a throwback to an earlier age.

When I started with the HASUG Steering Committee, a burdensome chore that had to be attended to each quarter was to find an employer-sponsor to photocopy and mail out the next issue of the Flash. We would meet over a weekend at some central location to staple, fold, and affix address labels to a few hundred copies of the latest Flash.

Now, we lay out the Flash in Microsoft Publisher, print it as an Acrobat document, and post it for all to read via the hasug.org web site. This is a good development for a few reasons. The primary reason was that with the emphasis on corporate “right-sizing” and other forms of cost containment, it was becoming increasingly difficult to find employers or other sponsors willing to underwrite the printing and postage costs.

SAS software has changed in many ways during the life of HASUG. When I joined HASUG, the

industry focus was on how to apply Base SAS procedures and the DATA step. Over time, SAS has attempted to shift their marketing focus over to “solutions”, which de-emphasize actual coding. However, when I attend HASUG and other local user group meetings, the greatest interest still seems to be coding techniques.

When I joined HASUG, regional SAS conferences did not yet exist. The Northeast SAS User Group (NESUG) was the first regional conference chartered. Other regional groups and special-interest groups (e.g. PharmaSUG) followed. One might have forecasted that regional user groups would erode the support base for local user groups.

However, that erosion never emerged. Local user groups tend to be the support base of regional user groups, supplying leaders, volunteers, presenters, and publicity. Regional user groups return the favor. For example, NESUG subsidizes the travel expenses of speakers who travel to HASUG and other local user groups.

Looking forward, one might prophesize that advances in web conferencing might make the need to assemble in a room for a SAS user group meeting obsolete. However, I am convinced that local SAS users will continue to make a modest trip to a meeting site during the year to see new ways to employ SAS software, and to have casual in-person conversations with fellow SAS users.

HASUG Nominations

Every May, HASUG elects new members to the steering committee. The primary responsibilities of the committee is to prepare “The HASUG Flash”, coordinate the meetings, select topics, and find corresponding speakers to facilitate the topic, etc. This year, the steering committee will elect a new chairperson from its membership group.

HASUG is always looking for new members. Please join us after the May meeting or contact a steering committee member about joining.

Meeting Announcement

The second quarter HASUG meeting for 2003 is to be held on **Thursday, May 15, 2003, 9:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. at The Hartford's Tower Building, Atrium Conference Room, Hartford Plaza, in Hartford, Connecticut.**

Please pre-register for this meeting by completing the short pre-registration form at http://www.hasug.org/next_mtg.htm. Refreshments will be available at 8:30 a.m. A limited amount of free parking is available. The use of car pooling and public transportation is recommended. Upon arrival, please enter the building through the Tower Atrium entrance located west of the Visitor's parking lot. If questions, contact our host, Peter Prause at 860-547-7484, or by email at Peter.Prause@thehartford.com. Directions to this meeting appear on the last page of this newsletter.

The first presentation will be ***Longitudinal Data Techniques: Looking Across Observations*** by **Ronald P. Cody, R.W. Johnson Medical School**. The abstract for Ron's presentation follows:

"One of the most difficult tasks for a SAS programmer is to perform operations across multiple observations. For example, you may have a data set of patient visits, with a variable number of visits per patient and the data for each visit stored in a separate observation. Some of the techniques for working with such data include:

- the RETAIN statement
- FIRST. and LAST. logical variables
- the LAG function
- the use of multiple SET statements (each with a separate FIRSTOBS= option)

Other techniques for summarizing data for each patient (such as the number of visits, the mean and median of some variables) involve procedures such as PROC FREQ, PROC MEANS and PROC UNIVARIATE to output summary data sets. This talk will demonstrate and discuss these techniques."

Ronald P. Cody, Ed.D., co-author of Applied Statistics and the SAS Programming Language,

Fourth Edition, has over 17 years of experience using the SAS System. A professor and researcher in the medical field, Ron has also taught SAS software classes and has been a prolific contributor to national, regional, and local users group conferences. Ron has also written SAS Programming by Example and The SAS Workbook and Solutions. His newest book is on how to clean data.

The second presentation will be ***The Hartford's Insurance Premium Cash Flow Model*** by **Charles Patridge, The Hartford**. The abstract for Chuck's presentation follows:

"The Premium Cash Flow Model was developed in 1995 by the author and Forrest Doyle, both at Hartford Financial Services, to plan underwriting cash flows. This model will demonstrate a hypothetical example to illustrate the concepts and approach used. The Premium Cash Flow Model was developed using Microsoft Excel Visual Basic and pivot tables and then re-written for production using the SAS Software by Charles Patridge. This technique has and continues to prove very efficient and effective as a modeling tool."

Chuck Patridge has been using SAS since 1979 in various positions, companies and consulting assignments. He has worked for Hartford Steam Boiler Inspection and Insurance Co., LIMRA, CIGNA, Aetna, Coldwell Banker Relocation, and currently, for The Hartford. In addition, he operates his own company (PDPC, Ltd.) specializing in SAS and "fuzzy merge" applications as well as statistical analysis in a variety of industries. His area of SAS expertise lies in BASE, STAT, AF, FSP, Macros, and ETS.

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February HASUG Highlights By Barbara Moss

The quarterly meeting of HASUG was held on February 20, 2003 at Oxford Health Plans in Trumbull, CT. The opening presentation was "Big Brother for SAS/IntrNet: Security and Tracking Agent" by Yadong Zhang, Muhammad Khan and Kevin Smith of Oxford Health Plans. Security was a critical part of rolling out the SAS/IntrNet product at Oxford. In order to track users and user activity, a database was built to support the security function. Murphy's Law of technology and demonstrations, unfortunately, precluded a live look at the process. It was presented through pictures and slides by the knowledgeable participants in the project. This presentation gave us a behind the scenes look. Using basic JavaScript along with SAS code and products, the web application is working well at Oxford.

The second presentation was "Reading External Files Using SAS Software" given by Clinton S. Rickards of Purdue Pharma L.P. The two assumptions of this presentation were: most data coming into a SAS program comes from somewhere other than a SAS file, SAS can read just about anything. Beginning with the basics that many SAS folks can code in their sleep, Clint lulled us into thinking we knew it all. Steadily building upon the variations of INPUT methods, he soon revealed to us the lesser used, maybe forgotten, perhaps never known, powerful and flexible features that are a strength of SAS.

Thanks to our speakers. Many thanks to Kevin Smith and Oxford Health Plans for hosting the meeting. Thanks, also, to SAS Institute for providing giveaways for some lucky, mindful, HASUG attendees.

The HASUG Recruiting Policy

HASUG's primary mission is to provide a forum for SAS professionals to meet and share experiences. HASUG also recognizes that searching for new employment opportunities is a normal activity when professionals meet. Since we depend on our respective employers to support HASUG by providing time for members to attend, prepare presentations, and provide meeting

facilities, we do not wish to jeopardize those relationships we have all nurtured.

Therefore, when attending any of our quarterly meetings, we request that all parties engaged in recruiting activities be "professional and discreet", and suggest that such activities be carried outside and after our meetings. Those seeking or offering positions may display materials at a location designated by HASUG at each quarterly meeting. The materials may include resumes, job openings, contract opportunities, business cards, etc. None of the materials may include salary information. All such materials left after the meeting will be discarded. Violators of this policy may be asked to leave the meeting.

For other recruiting opportunities, please see the SAS CONSIG article elsewhere in this newsletter or visit www.sconsig.com.

Calendar of Events

Future General Meetings and Conferences:

May 15, 2003 The Hartford,
Hartford, CT
August 21, 2003 Bayer Corporation,
West Haven, CT
September 7-10, 2003
NESUG (North East SAS User's Group)
Washington, DC
November 20, 2003 TDB

HASUG Steering Committee Meetings:

May 15, 2003
Immediately after HASUG meeting

June 12, 2003
Conference call, 11:30-12:30

August 21, 2003
Immediately after HASUG meeting

September 11, 2003
Conference call, 11:30-12:30

HASUG Distribution List

This service is provided free of charge to all subscribers who wish to join the email notification process. In order to sign up for this service you need only point your browser to the HASUG web site, www.hasug.org and click on the icon "sign up for our mailing list". The icon is located below the list of previous newsletters .

When you sign up to be a member in the HASUG.org web site, you will see you have two choices to select which list to join (HASUG Email or SCONSIG). You are able to join either or both Email Lists at the same time by MARKING the check boxes to the left of each list.

Select your interests

HASUG Email

SCONSIG

Both SCONSIG and HASUG share the cost to make this feature available to its respective members, and both lists are separate and independent from each other.

It is your decision to enter as much personal information as you wish to provide. **The only piece of data that is TRULY needed is your correct email address.** Any information you enter will not be displayed nor given out to any party, including the members of the steering committee. The only people who have direct access to the information are the HASUG and SCONSIG list administrators, Michael Davis and Charles Patridge.

The List automatically checks for valid email addresses and if any should become invalid, your membership is cancelled without notice as your email address is no longer valid, hence no way to contact you. If you should change the email address under which you subscribed, please sign up again with your new email address.

Typically an email notice is sent approximately 3 weeks before our next scheduled meeting, as well as a couple of days beforehand to remind people of the date, time and topics to be presented.

Hyperlinks of Interest

The SAS Consultants Special Interest Group's web site URL is

<http://www.sconsig.com>

Read Past SUGI Proceedings Online at:
(link supplied by Curtis Smith):

<http://www.sas.com/usergroups/sugi/proceedings/index.html>

Information about the North East SAS Users Group (NESUG), including information about the 2003 conference in Washington can be found at:
<http://www.nesug.org>

SAS OnlineDoc is available from SAS on the World-Wide Web. To register to view SAS Version 8 OnlineDoc on the web, register at the following URL: <http://www.sas.com/v8doc>. To register to view SAS Version 9 Online Doc on the web, register at the following URL:
<http://www.sas.com/v9doc>.

Some of the papers and other handouts distributed at recent HASUG meetings can be found at the following two web sites:

<http://www.hasug.org>

<http://www.bassettconsulting.com>

The HASUG Sponsorship Policy

All parties are encouraged and welcome to attend our quarterly HASUG meetings scheduled during the months of February, May, August, and November of each year. Usually these meetings are scheduled the 3rd Thursday from 9:00 am to noon at various locations throughout Connecticut. Past locations have included Hartford, Meriden, Middletown, Norwalk, Glastonbury, Stamford and New Haven. We are always looking for new hosts within the state of Connecticut. If you feel your organization can host a meeting of up to 70 or so people, please contact one of the Steering Committee members.

**Continuing With Education...
Peter Prause, The Hartford**

The SAS Institute Regional Training Center in Glastonbury, CT. is offering these courses through December 2003. Course information for these courses and many other non-local courses is available on the Internet at the SAS web site: www.sas.com. To register for a course or to get more information, phone SAS Institute at 1-800-333-7660.

SAS Programming I: Essentials	May 20- 22
SAS Macro Language	May 28- 29
SAS Programming II: Manipulating Data with the DATA Step	June 4- 6
SQL Processing with the SAS System	June 25- 26
Introduction to Programming Concepts Using SAS Software	Jul 24 - 25
SAS Programming I: Essentials	July 29- 31
SAS Programming II: Manipulating Data with the DATA Step	Aug 5- 7
SAS Macro Language	Aug 12-13
SAS Macro Language: Advanced Topics	Aug 14
Querying and Reporting Using SAS Enterprise Guide	Aug 20- 21
SAS Programming III: Advanced Techniques	Sept 3- 4
Optimizing SAS Programs	Sept 17-18
SAS Programming I: Essentials	Sept 23- 25
SAS Programming II: Manipulating Data with the DATA Step	Oct 7-9
Introduction to Programming Concepts Using SAS Software	Oct 15-16
SAS Report Writing: A Programming Approach	Oct 29-30
SAS Programming I: Essentials	Nov 12-14
SAS Macro Language	Nov 19- 20
SAS Programming II: Manipulating Data with the DATA Step	Dec 3- 5
SQL Processing with the SAS System	Dec 17-18

Local SAS training is available at Destiny Corporation, of Wethersfield, CT. Below is a list of their scheduled classes through December 2003. You can reach Destiny at 1-800-787-2464 or at 860-721-1684, or send email to info@destinycorp.com. You can visit their web site at www.destinycorp.com.

Programming II: Data Manipulation Using the Data Step	May 5- 7
Enterprise Guide Software Introduction	In- May 19
Advanced Macros in SAS Software	May 26- 27
Macros in SAS Software	June 9-11
Output Delivery System	June 23
Version 8 Changes and Enhancements	En- June 24- 25
Programming II: Data Manipulation Using the Data Step	July 14- 16
Programming I: SAS Essentials	Aug 11-13
Enterprise Guide Software Introduction	In- Sept 15
Version 9.1 Changes and Enhancements	En- Oct 13- 14
Programming I: SAS Essentials	Nov 3- 5
Programming II: Data Manipulation Using the Data Step	Nov 10 -12
Version 9.1 Changes and Enhancements	En- Dec 1- 2

Consultants' Special Interest Group (SCONSIG)

The SAS Consultants' Special Interest Group (SCONSIG) operates and maintains a web site located at www.sconsig.com. This site lists employment opportunities, contracts, vitas, resumes, and companies seeking SAS professional talent. It is updated weekly. You are encouraged to visit that web site or to contact Charles Patridge at Charles_S_Patridge@prodigy.net for further information.

Tips and Techniques from SCONSIG

Disclaimer:

"Each tip included here addresses a problem, and presents a use of one or more SAS concepts. Use it to stimulate your thinking and help you on your way to solving your own problem. Some tips may or may not work in your environment or with your version of the SAS Software, and you should use these tips with this in mind. Neither HASUG nor contributing Author(s) should be held responsible for any direct and/or indirect damage to you or your applications from using these free tips."

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**TIPS IN BLUE ARE IN THIS NEWSLETTER,
ALL TIPS CAN BE LOCATED ON [HTTP://WWW.SCONSIG.COM](http://WWW.SCONSIG.COM)**

TIP00356 - How to Search for a specific record using SAS LIKE and CONTAIN operators - by John J Genzano, III ; Sigurd Hermansen and Charles Patridge

TIP00357 - How to find 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th and 5th Wednesday of a month by Charles Patridge and Brad Goldman

TIP00358 - How to automatically include SAS source code in your output by Ed Heaton

TIP00359 - Using a Colon (:) Modifier to Select Observations with Values Beginning with a Specific Character by Kirk Paul Lafler

TIP00360 - Comma Delimited Field Parsing on a SAS Variable by Peter Crawford and Michael Zdeb

TIP00361 - Reading a SAS data set into real memory by Kirk Paul Lafler

TIP00362 - Using the SQL procedure to summarize data by Kirk Paul Lafler

TIP00363 - Comparing SAS Variables between like Datasets by Glenn Heagerty, Curt Seeliger and Venky Chakravarthy

TIP00364 - Reading a Group of Multiple Records that represent 1 OBS by Charles Patridge

TIP00365 - Way to extract unknown number of tables (table name starting with CH_) from an SQL Server database by Ron Fehd

```
/** TIP 00357 */
/** How to Find Each Wednesday
(1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th and 5th) of the
Month */
data test;
    do i = 1 to 12;
        date = mdy( i, 01, 2002); /
** first day of of the month */
        firstwed=intnx('week.4',
date,0); /** maybe 1st wednesday of
the Month */
        if firstwed lt date then
firstwed = firstwed + 7; /** make
1st wednesday of the month just in
case */
        secondwed = firstwed + 7 ; /
** 2nd wednesday of month */
        thirdwed = firstwed + 14; /
** 3rd wednesday of month */
        fourthwed = firstwed + 21; /
** 4th wednesday of month */
        fifthwed = firstwed + 28; /
** 5th wednesday of month */
        if fifthwed ge mdy(i+1,01,
year(date)) then fifthwed = .; /**
make missing in case there is no 5th
Wednesday */
        put (firstwed--fifthwed)
(weekdate.) date weekdate.;
    end;
run;
```

How to find just the 3rd Wednesday of the Month

Author: Goldman, Brad

Email: Brad.Goldman@AUTOTRADER.COM

```
data test (drop=i);
do i = 1 to 12;
date=mdy(i,01,2003);
if weekday(date)=4 then
    thirdwed=intnx('week.4',
date,2);
else thirdwed=intnx('week.4',
date,3);
output;
end;
format date weekdate. thirdwed week-
date.;
run;
Proc print data=test; run;
```

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/** end of tip 00357 */

***TIP 00358 ***/

Subject: How to automatically include sas source to output
I need to include source sas code along with each output/run. (I mean not to the log file).

This is needed to show output and code to boss or to colleagues. There are always alternatives, such as print or cut and paste etc, which I don't like.

Author: Ed Heaton
Email: EdHeaton@WESTAT.COM

```
FileName output "logAndListing.txt" ;
Proc printTo
  log=output
  print=output
;
Run ;
Data test ;
  a = ( 1 eq 2 ) ;
  b = not 1 eq 2 ;
  c = ( not 1 ) eq 2 ;
  d = not ( 1 eq 2 ) ;
  Put (_all_)(=) ;
Run ;
Proc print ;
Run ;
FileName output clear ;
/** end of tip 00358 */
```

/** TIP 00359 */

Tip: Using a Colon (:) Modifier to Select Observations with Values Beginning with a Specific Character

Suppose a quick way was needed to subset observations that had a specific value in the first position of a field. By using a colon (:) modifier after a comparison operator in a DATA step, you can easily compare a specific prefix to a character string. This approach makes it easy to perform comparisons by truncating the longer value to the length of the shorter value. The following ex-

ample compares the first position of the RATING variable to the character string 'P' to determine whether to subset an observation.

Author: Kirk Lafler, Software Intelligence Corporation
Email: KirkLafler@cs.com

Code:

```
DATA MOVIES;
  INFILE CARDS DSD;
  INPUT TITLE $11. RATING $;
  IF RATING =: 'P';
  CARDS;
Brave Heart,R
Jaws,PG
Rocky,PG
Titanic,PG-13
;
RUN;
PROC PRINT NOOBS N;
RUN;
```

Results

TITLE	RATING
Jaws	PG
Rocky	PG
Titanic	PG-13

N = 3

/** end of tip 00359 */

/** TIP 00365 */

From: Patrice.Bourdages@IAAH.CA
Subject: Extracting the dataset name

Author: Ron Fehd
Email: rjf2@cdc.gov

Your suggestions were all examined (not necessarily tested with my data nor understood completely by me). Boy, we have people with great minds!!!

Let me recap a little for the people who didn't catch the initial post. I need to extract tables (table name starting with CH_) from an SQL Server database. The problem was that I

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(Tips and Techniques, continued from page 8)

never knew in advance how many tables there would be and their names changes constantly. I couldn't have a SAS DATA STEP written for today's version and run the same thing tomorrow because tables would have been either destroyed or new ones created. How to extract those tables present at the moment have the code to read them and also include, in my data step, something that would permit me to know from which table that observation came from.

I kept Ron's suggestion since it gives me the quickest results which follows:

```
%LET LIBREF = GENESYS;
proc SQL noprint;
    create table LIST
    as          select Lib-
Name ,MemName          from  DIC-
TIONARY.TABLES        where  LibName
                        eq "&LibRef." and          upcase
(memname) like "CH_%";
    ;
    select "&LIBREF.."
        !! trim(MemName)
        !! ' (in = from'
        !! trim(MemName)
        !! ' keep = jour: mois:
tel: record_t: record_s: call_result
attempt pr:)'
        into  :LIST4SET
        separated by ' '
        from LIST ;

    select "if from"
        !! trim(MemName)
        !! " then TableFrom
= "
        !! trim(MemName)
        !! "; "
    into  :LIST4VAR
    separated by ' '
    from LIST ;

quit;
data work.something;
    attrib TableFrom length =$ 45
```

```
label='From which table';
set &LIST4SET.;
&LIST4VAR.;
if lowercase(TableFrom)
in
("ch_formation_18juin02","ch_test24m
ai2","ch_emergency") then delete;
run;
Thanks a million times for all your
help and effort. SAS-L is a great
place to read and learn.
Patrice Bourdages
Information System Analyst
Industrial Alliance, car and home
insurance
/**** end of tip 00365 ****/
```

**More Bits & Bytes, FAQs Quick Tips Etc.
available on the WEB**

**[Bits & Bytes: Tracing Your Data's Genealogy
with Generation Data Sets and PROC
COMPARE](#)**

In previous columns, Melinda Thielbar has looked at preserving data quality using integrity constraints and tracking changes in your data using audit trails. These techniques only work, however, when someone is updating the data set, not re-building it. If the data set is rebuilt, existing integrity constraints or audit trails are deleted. So, what to do if you're re-creating the data set often but still need to track the changes? This is a call for generation data sets.

Read more at http://www.sas.com/service/techtips/bitsandbytes/0211_tracing.html

**[The Dirty Dozen: Twelve Common Program-
ming Mistakes](#)**

Robert Virgile, a seasoned SAS user since 1981, is a SAS trainer, consultant and author. With two books published in the SAS Books by Users program, he has also authored countless papers and presentations on various aspects of using SAS. In this paper (from the Washington DC SAS Users Group Web site), he offers tips for avoiding some of the most typical programming errors made at an introductory level. (.pdf)

Read more at <http://www.dc-sug.org/dirtydoz.pdf>

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Quick Tip: Changing the Numeric Format of PROC FREQ Output

Thanks to Mike Rhoads, an experienced SAS user at the Westat organization for this Quick Tip! He says though PROC TABULATE may offer more flexibility, some folks still like to use PROC FREQ for table production. By default, PROC FREQ output uses no decimal places or commas for counts, and two decimal places for percents. This tip shows how to change the defaults for the three main types of PROC FREQ output: one-way tables, multiway tables in list format, and multiway tables presented as crosstabulations. Read more at <http://www.sas.com/service/techtips/quicktips/0301freq.html>

New Technical Support Document: PC Performance and the SAS System

Casey Thompson in SAS Technical Support says that one of the most common questions the PC Systems team receives is how to optimize SAS performance on Windows operating systems. This new paper explores a broad overview of hardware tuning, operating system modifications, SAS System performance enhancements and methods of efficient programming for achieving optimal performance on your Windows operating system.

Read more at <http://ftp.sas.com/techsup/download/technote/ts684/ts684.html>

Proactive Information Delivery via the SAS Publishing Framework

This detailed SAS white paper provides an overview of the SAS Publishing Framework with plenty of practical code examples that show how your organization can deliver information to a targeted audience and also enable employees to filter out information that is of no interest to them. We use the publishing framework and SAS Integration Technologies to deliver this e-newsletter. See how we do it!

Read more at <http://www.sas.com/apps/whitepapers/whitepaper.jsp?code=PUB1>

Quick Online Tutorial for Accessing DBMS Data

Don't forget about this little online tutorial that illustrates the basics of using SAS/ACCESS software to read, write and update data in third-party

database management systems. You'll learn how to reference a Database Management System (DBMS) as a SAS library, use DBMS objects (such as tables) as data sets in your SAS programs, and send DBMS-specific SQL statements directly to a DBMS to save processing time. It's free, it's fun, try it out!

Read more at <http://support.sas.com/training/elearn/tutorials/v8/access/>

SAS FAQ: How can I transpose all of the variables in my data set, both numeric and character?

Without a VAR statement, the TRANSPOSE procedure transposes all numeric variables in the input data set that are not listed in another statement. However, character variables to be transposed must be listed in a VAR statement. This can be problematic if you have many character variables (or even one character variable along with numerous numeric variables) that you need to transpose, and you don't want to type out what could become a lengthy VAR statement. A macro from SAS Technical Support can help.

Read more at <http://support.sas.com/techsup/faq/base/tranproc2055.html>

SAS Tip: Debugging 101 by Peter Knapp

Peter Knapp, a SAS user at the U.S. Department of Commerce, wrote this paper especially for new SAS users who are learning to debug SAS programs. It offers tips for finding syntax and execution-time errors and diagnosing sometimes tricky logic errors. (.pdf)

Read more at http://support.sas.com/sassamples/papers/debug101_03jan.pdf

SN-002555 Short filename extensions versus long filename extensions

The SAS System Version 8 produces two different filename extensions. The reason two different filename extensions are generated is dependent on the different types of file systems. NTFS allows long filename extensions, while FAT and older Novell drives do not.

<http://support.sas.com/techsup/unotes/SN/002/002555.html>

SN-009256: Example of using X and SYSEXEC to open an application

SAS is often used as a means for invoking another application. This task can be achieved by the X or SYSEXEC statements. With the introduction of directories containing spaces, the syn-

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tax for this command is often difficult to master. Read more at <http://support.sas.com/techsup/unotes/SN/009/009256.html>

Quick Tip: Using a Colon Modifier to Select Observations

If you need a quick way to subset observations that begin with a specific character, consider using a colon modifier. In this Quick Tip, SAS consultant Kirk Lafler explains that by using a colon (:) modifier after a comparison operator in a DATA step, you can easily compare a specific prefix to a character string. This approach makes it easy to perform comparisons by truncating the longer value to the length of the shorter value. Read more at <http://support.sas.com/sassamples/quicktips/0302colonmodifier.html>

SAS® V9 Templates by Ronald J. Fehd
At http://www.sconsig.com/sastips/macro_maven

SAS Bits & Bytes: No Reason to Do It Twice

Wouldn't it be great if you could tell SAS to load the data set into memory once, and hold it there until you were done with it? This month, guest columnists Bill Brideson and Gary Franklin show you how to save time and resources using the SASFILE statement (Release 8.1 and later). Read more at http://support.sas.com/sassamples/bitsandbytes/03mar_sasfile.html

SAS Online Website Support -
<http://support.sas.com/>

Free Online SAS V8 Documentation

(<http://v8doc.sas.com/sashtml/>)
Just need to Register to Get Access

Additional resources and documentation are available at:

- SAS online library <http://support.sas.com/documentation>
- Books By Users (BBU) library <http://www.sas.com/apps/pubscat/bbu.jsp>
- SAS Publishing <http://support.sas.com/pubs>

HASUG STEERING COMMITTEE

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**Directions to:
The Hartford Main Office
Hartford Plaza
Hartford, Connecticut**

Note: Directions are from the East or West via I-84. To reach I-84, use I-91, Route 15, or another route that connects with I-84.

FROM EAST (via I-84):

- Approaching Hartford, follow I-84 West to Exit 48 (Asylum Ave Exit).
- Approaching the traffic light at the end of the ramp, get in the right lane.
- Make a right turn for Garden Street, just before the traffic light. There is a stop sign before entering Garden Street. Proceed up Garden Street.
- At next traffic light, take left onto Cogswell Street.
- Take immediate first right into Visitors Parking.
- Enter Hartford Tower using the Atrium entrance, which is West of the Visitors Lot.

- At next traffic light, take left onto Cogswell Street.
- Take immediate first right into Visitors Parking.
- Enter Hartford Tower using the Atrium entrance, which is West of the Visitors Lot.

FROM WEST: (via I-84):

- Approaching downtown Hartford, follow I-84 East to Exit 48A (Asylum Ave Exit).
- At the traffic light take left onto Asylum Avenue.
- At the first traffic light, go straight. Then bear right at the Y split to stay on Asylum Ave.
- At the second traffic light, take a right onto Cogswell Street.
- Before the next traffic light, take a left into Visitors Parking.
- Enter Hartford Tower using the Atrium entrance, which is West of the Visitors Lot.

