



HARTFORD AREA SAS® USERS GROUP

Volume 19 Issue 1

First Quarter, February 2007

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Chairman's Notes

(Robert Krajcik , Bristol-Myers Squibb)

Unfortunately, I was unable to attend the November HASUG presentations held at CIGNA. But I understand that Tim Muir and Vince DelGobbo both had some excellent presentations on Enterprise Guide and Creating and Importing Multi-Sheet Excel Workbooks, respectively. I was glad to hear that we had a good turnout for this event.

This February's meeting, to be held at Royal Bank of Scotland offices in Bridgeport, promises to be a good one. Dwight Fowler from the Hartford regional SAS office will be presenting on Microsoft Office Integration and there will be a "Coder's Corner", put together by several HASUG steering committee members. The topic will be "Tools You Have That You Didn't Know."

May is the time of the year that we elect, or re-elect, members to the Steering Committee. Elections will be held at the May meeting. This is an area in which we are always looking for fresh people to help out. We meet after every quarterly meeting for lunch and then have a planning session right afterwards. Between meetings, we gather on a telephone conference call. If you are interested in joining the Steering Committee, please speak to someone on the committee. Remember, HASUG is an all-volunteer organization and we always need your help. We welcome your participation.

In addition to needing volunteers to join the Steering Committee, we are always looking for people to contribute to the HASUG Flash newsletter. If you have an article you would like to be considered

for publication, please let me, or any of the committee members, know and we will be glad to share appropriate items of interest with the HASUG community.

I look forward to seeing you all at RBS in Bridgeport!

November Meeting Highlights

(Janet Stuelpner, Pitney Bowes)

Our first speaker was Tim Muir of Boehringer Ingelheim and he gave a demonstration of the Enterprise Guide. Tim's presentation started with the background and features of the Enterprise Guide. He defined it as a point and click interface to SAS. Enterprise Guide gives you the ability to create projects from data creation to reported output without writing one line of code. The great benefit is that you can capture all pieces (code, log, output) and even enhance the project with queries and filters. Tim gave a demo of the Enterprise Guide to show everyone how easy it is to get started and create fairly sophisticated projects with limited SAS coding skills.

The next speaker was Vince DelGobbo of SAS who spoke about Creating and Importing MultiSheet Excel Workbooks: The Easy Way in SAS. Part 1 of the talk addressed creating SAS output and putting it into Excel Workbooks without any manual intervention. Once the shell of the program is created and the excel spreadsheet is produced, the SAS code can be modified with all types of bells and whistles added to improve the look and feel of the spreadsheet. Using features of ODS called tag sets, many of these items can be used to improve the look of the spreadsheet.

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In part 2 of the presentation, Vince told us how to create SAS datasets from excel spreadsheets. The first key item is to save the spreadsheet as an XML file. He warned us that saving the file as an XML file will triple the size of the file, so be careful when trying to do this. Vince provided a link to a macro (%xlxp2sas) that will read the XML file and create a new SAS dataset. The information can be found in his paper on the SAS support web site (<http://support.sas.com>).

At the end of the meeting, Barbara Moss (our host) provided a raffle of all kinds of books and other items for the attendees. Thanks to Barbara and others who donated items for the raffle.

NEXT HASUG MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT

Our next meeting is Thursday February 15th, 2007 at:
Royal Bank of Scotland
1000 Lafayette Blvd,
Bridgeport, CT 06604
from 9:00 am to noon

There will be following presentations:

SAS 9 Topics: Volume 2, The Add-in for Microsoft Office
Presented by Dwight Fowler, SAS

In this second installment of SAS 9 topics, the focus is on how SAS has integrated into Microsoft Excel, Word, and PowerPoint in the SAS 9 BI product set. Each of these products has added functionality in two major areas. First, it

allows you to point and click to execute SAS tasks, without knowing SAS. Secondly, a programmer can create custom programs in display manager, or enterprise guide, and present them in the Microsoft product as a customized report or task list. You control the programming, the parameters, the appearance, and deliver it to your end users for point and click usage through the Add-in.

Dwight Fowler manages the technical pre-sales team for the Health & Life Sciences industry group at SAS. He has been in a technical role at SAS for 11 years. His specialty is SAS 9 architecture, Data Integration and Business Intelligence. For HASUG, Dwight's stated goal is to try to help today's SAS users understand how the new releases of SAS can be of benefit. A SAS programmer, Dwight worked in Information Systems at Aetna, OTIS Elevator, and Hartford Area consulting firms for 14 years as programmer, DBA, systems analyst and SAS Rep before moving to SAS as an employee in 1995. He works out of the Glastonbury office of SAS.

Hidden Tools: Tools You Have That You Didn't Know

Presented by:

Karol Katz, Yale Medical School
Rob Krajcik, Bristol-Myers Squibb
Tim Muir, Boehringer-Ingelheim
Janet Stuelpner, Pitney Bowes
Helen Wang, Ingenix

There are many tools within SAS that help to generate code for you. We have picked out a few that can make your coding easier and less tedious.

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You can use the code that is generated as a starting point and embellish or enhance your program after you capture the code. Here are the ones that we have chosen to present at the meeting.

Graph-N-Go is an interactive application for producing simple or complex graphical representations of data. It is designed to generate graphs quickly with minimum effort on your part, yet provide a rich feature set for customization.

Report Window is an interactive application for producing simple or complex reports online. It is designed to design a report quickly with a bit of effort to manipulate the variables and the columns and then you can capture the code to create all of the DEFINE statements.

Query Window is an interactive interface that enables you to build, save, and run queries (requests to retrieve data) without being familiar with SQL (Structured Query Language) or with the SAS SQL procedure. The query that you build in the SQL Query window is passed to the SQL procedure for processing when you run the query.

Import/Export Wizards are tools that transfer data between external data sources and SAS data sets. As a wizard, it is a series of windows that present simple choices to guide you through a process, making a complex or infrequent task simpler to perform.

Enterprise Guide – Proc Tabulate
What is really useful now is the Summary Tables task in Enterprise

Guide. The presentation will demonstrate how PROC TABULATE code and output can easily be generated through use of the task, including the dragging of fields to a table template.

Biographies of Our Presenters.

Karol Katz has been a SAS user for 20 years. She works at the Yale Medical School as a programmer analyst and maintains a longitudinal multi-site clinical trial database of more than 500 low weight pre-term babies enrolled in 1989-1992. These children have been tested repeatedly are now returning for a 16 year visit. Karol is a member of the HASUG steering committee and a volunteer at NESUG.

Rob Krajcik has been working with SAS software since 1981. His interests include: Macro functions, SQL, Output Delivery System, MS office applications, statistical graphics, web design and the SAS Enhanced Editor. Rob currently works at Bristol-Myers Squibb as a principal analyst, providing programming support for Phase III clinical trials and FDA submissions.

Janet Stuelpner has provided programming support in the areas of clinical trials, outcomes research and the financial industry. She also provided both individual and group technical training when needed at the client sites. Currently, she is a SAS database Manager at Pitney Bowes in Stamford, CT where she and her group support financial products. Janet has several degrees in the sciences. She has been a SAS user for over 20 years on many different platforms. She has been a presenter at users groups of all levels.
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Tim Muir has been a SAS user for 13 years, supporting statistical analyses and research, primarily in the pharmaceutical and biotechnology industries. At HP he worked to analyze customer behavior and trends for computer technology purchase and development.

Tim is a member of the HASUG steering committee, and currently works in IT at Boehringer Ingelheim Pharmaceuticals in Ridgefield, where he provides application design, development, configuration, and site support for R&D and Medical departments.

Helen Wang has been a SAS user for 8 years. She works as a programmer analyst for Ingenix – a United Health Group company in the areas of Health Care data management and analytics.

Helen has over 6 years experience dealing with large healthcare data files across different platforms. Her understanding of healthcare data structure is essential to several large-scale healthcare analytics initiatives within the company. Helen has recently become a member of the HASUG steering committee.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Future General Meetings and Conferences:

February 15, 2007	Royal Bank of Scotland, Bridgeport
May 24, 2007	The Hartford, Hartford
June 3-6, 2007	PharmaSUG, Denver, CO
August 23, 2007	TBD

HASUG Steering Committee

Meetings:

February 15, 2007
Immediately after HASUG meeting
March 15, 2007
conference call, 11:30-12:30
May 24, 2007
Immediately after HASUG meeting
June 21, 2007
conference call, 11:30-12:30

Continuing With Education...

Peter Prause, The Hartford

The SAS Institute Regional Training Center

in Glastonbury, CT is offering the following courses. Course information for these courses and many other non-local courses is available on the Internet at the SAS web site <http://support.sas.com/>. To register for a course or to get more information, phone SAS Institute at 1-800-333-7660.

Overview of SAS Business Intelligence and Data Integration Applications

Feb 8 – 9

SAS Programming II: Manipulating Data with the DATA Step

Feb 26 – 28

SAS Programming I: Essentials

Mar 28 – 30

Creating Detail and Summary Reports

Apr 3 – 5

SAS Programming III: Advanced Techniques

Apr 18 – 20

SAS Macro Language

May 2 – 3

SAS Macro Programming: Advanced Topics

May 4

SAS Programming I: Essentials

May 16 – 18

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SAS Programming II: Manipulating
Data with the DATA Step
May 30 – Jun 1
Querying and Reporting Using SAS
Enterprise Guide
Jun 7 – 8
SQL Processing with SAS
Jun 14 – 15

When time and distance are an issue, SAS Institute offers Live Web classes and self-paced e-learning to help you get the training you need while accommodating your busy schedule. Call for more details.

Destiny Corporation is offering public courses at their training facility located at 2075 Silas Deane Highway, Rocky Hill, CT. 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.

In addition to Destiny's public course offerings, many of Destiny's courses are offered in a Virtual Learning Environment. Experience the quality and benefits of "Instructor Led" training from the comfort of your own pc. These courses cover the same basic content as traditional classroom training with the benefit of yearlong access and instructor support. Call or visit www.vdestiny.com for more details.

Book Review

(by Karol Katz, Yale University School of Medicine)

Title: Learning SAS by Example—A Programmer's Guide

Author: Ron Cody

Publication date: Spring, 2007

Ron Cody's newest book can serve, not only as a textbook for a SAS programming course, but also as a reference for intermediate level programmers. The book begins with basic data input methods and advances through merging dataset and more complex tasks. The steps to create the SAS code and resulting output are explained in detail using a small dataset for each example. In each chapter, the pitfalls to avoid and the reasons they can occur are highlighted. In later chapters, SAS code and resulting output for frequently used procedures are offered. As the reader begins to summarize data and design reports one begins to learn the "Power of SAS".

The narrative text discusses programming style, such as indentation for easier legibility, and the importance of including comments to explain complex sections of SAS syntax. Completing the problems available at the end of each chapter can reinforce knowledge of the material.

I would recommend Learning SAS by Example—A Programmer's Guide by Ron Cody to anyone wishing to learn or refresh his/her SAS programming skills.

HASUG2-L DISTRIBUTION LIST

This service is provided free of charge to all who wish to subscribe to the email notification process. In order to sign up for this service, you need only point your browser to the HASUG web site, <http://www.hasug.org>, and click the hyperlink, Or go directly to <http://listserv.pace.edu/archives/hasug2-1.html> then click on Join or leave the list (or change settings).

Your name and email address are not displayed nor given out to any party, including members of the HASUG steering committee. Only the list administrators have access to subscription information. If you should change your email address under which you subscribed, you will need to unsubscribe with your old email address, and then re-subscribe using your new email address.

Typically, a notice is sent approximately 3 weeks before meetings, as well as a couple of days beforehand to remind people of the date, time, location and topics to be presented. Only List administrators will be able to send out email messages to the HASUG2-L members. After entering your name and e-mail address, there are a number of options available under "Subscription Type". If you know and understand the various options, feel free to alter them as desired. However, HASUG suggests you leave them "as is".

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.

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.

HASUG Steering Committee.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Organization</u>	<u>Telephone</u>	<u>E-Mail</u>
Robert Krajcik (chairman)	Bristol-Myers Squibb	(203) 677-6125	robert_krajcik@yahoo.com
Jim Blaha	CCSU	(860) 832-1737	blahajam@ccsu.edu
Cindy Johnson	Bristol-Myers Squibb	(203)-677-6547	gjcj372@comcast.net
Karol Katz	Yale University	(203) 785-7572	Karol.Katz@yale.edu
Barbara Moss	CIGNA	(860)226-1504	barbara.moss@Cigna.com
Tim Muir	Boehringer-Ingelheim	(203) 300-9500	tmuir@rdg.boehringerengelheim.com
Chuck Patridge	Full Capture Solutions, Inc	(860) 291-9517 x 106	charles_s_patridge@prodigy.net
Peter Prause	The Hartford	(860) 547-7484	Peter.Prause@thehartford.com
Janet Stuelpner	Pitney Bowes	(203) 351-6590	jstuelpner@usa.net
Mahinda Yapa	Pitney Bowes	(203) 922-4662	myapa@yahoo.com
Helen Wang	Ingenix	(860) 221-0480	Helen.Wang@ingenix.com
Gerald Zuckier	Aetna	(860) 636-4053	GZuckier@alum.mit.edu

Directions to:

**Royal Bank of Scotland (RBS)
1000 Lafayette Blvd, Bridgeport, CT 06604**

Contacts:

Moez Hababou, 203-551-3055

Ray Falk, 203-551-3606

From Stamford (via I-95 North):

Take I-95 North

Take Exit 27

Follow the frontage road straight ahead to Lafayette Boulevard (fourth light)

Turn left on Lafayette Boulevard

Turn right on John Street (just after the RBS Building)

Enter the first Parking Garage immediately behind the RBS Building

From New Haven (via I-95 South):

Take I-95 south

Take Exit 27

Follow the frontage road straight into Lafayette Boulevard

Follow above directions to RBS Building.

From Hartford (via I-91 South to Route 15 South to Route 8 South):

Take I-91 south

Take Exit 17 on to Route 15 South

Take Exit 49 on to Route 8 South

Take Exit 2 on to CT-130/Fairfield Avenue

Veer left on to left fork of off-ramp

Pass through Fairfield Avenue on to E. Courtland

Turn left on to John Street

Cross Lafayette Boulevard (at the corner of the RBS Building)

Enter the first Parking Garage immediately behind the RBS Building

From Waterbury (via Route 8 South):

Take Route 8 south

Take Exit 2 on to CT-130/Fairfield Avenue

Veer left on to left fork of off-ramp

Pass through Fairfield Avenue on to E. Courtland

Turn left on to John Street

Cross Lafayette Boulevard (at the corner of the RBS Building)

Enter the first Parking Garage immediately behind the RBS Building

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For the return commute:

Leave the parking garage from the John Street exit (to the north/west)
Turn left on John Street

For Route 8 North & Route 15,

Turn right on Lafayette Boulevard and veer left into Fairfield Avenue
Immediately take the first right turn into the on-ramp for Route 8 northbound.
(For Route 15 North, stay with Route 8 veering right and take exit 8 from Route 8.)
(For Route 15 South, veer left from Route 8 to Route 25 and take exit 7 from Route 25.)

For Interstate 95 South,

Turn left on Lafayette Boulevard
Turn right just before the overpass (4 lights)
Veer left on to the on-ramp for I-95 South.

For Interstate 95 North,

Turn left on Lafayette Boulevard
Turn left just after the overpass (4 lights)
Veer left on to the on-ramp for I-95 North.

Walking Direction to RBS in Bridgeport, CT from Metro-North Train Station:

If you are planning to come by train, get off the train at the Bridgeport Metro North station, cross Water Street. Opposite the train station, you will see the Bridgeport Bus Station. Walk towards John Street. Turn left on John Street, walk for about 4 blocks on John Street. You will be able to see from a distance the RBS building. Turn right on Lafayette Blvd. You will find the entrance to the main building on your right.

Area Map of RBS Building

