



## HARTFORD AREA SAS® USERS GROUP

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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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## **Chairperson's Notes**

(Janet Stuelpner, Left Hand Computing)

We have a new and exciting change to our method of communication with our fellow HASUG members. For many years, we asked our members to sign up using a listserv that was hosted by Pace University. We thank PACE very much for all of the help and cooperation in keeping that as our tool to let members know about meetings and any other important announcements. From this point forward, we are asking our members to sign up with the new HASUG Google Group that we created specifically for our membership. All of the instructions to join this group are on our web page. As with the previous method, this is 'read-only'. The Steering Committee members are the only ones who can post anything to this group. We truly would like to prevent having spam messages sent to our subscribers.

**In order to continue receiving information from HASUG, everyone must sign up with the new HASUG Google Group! If you have received a notice, please respond to it. If not, please go to:**

**<http://www.hasug.org/> and click on "Join HASUG Email List".**

The fall is a wonderful season for SAS users. In November, the Northeast SAS Users Group (NESUG) meeting will take place in Baltimore, MD on November 11-14. We typically have our fall meeting the third week of November but have changed the date so we do not conflict with NESUG. Please make sure to mark you calendars and join us on November 1 at Pitney Bowes in Stamford, CT. Mahinda Yapa will be hosting this meeting. Pitney Bowes is

easily accessible by car and Metro North. There is a shuttle from the Stamford train station to the PB site. This is the first time we have had a meeting at PB and we would like to thank them. Our topics for this meeting are *The XML Engine & Mapper, Proc Format and Proc Compare*. It looks like it will be a great meeting. Make sure you register for the meeting so we can adequately plan for all attendees.

I am glad to report that participation has increased over the last several months. We have some new members on the Steering Committee who help us to plan the programs for our meetings. We can always use additional help and hope that you will participate in any way that you can. Whether it is giving us an idea for a topic for the meeting or volunteering your facility or time, your help is always appreciated. We are a group of volunteers and appreciate any contributions you are willing to give.

## **August Meeting Highlights**

(Cindy Johnson, Bristol-Myers Squibb)

On Wednesday, August 15, 2007, The Hartford Area SAS Users Group met at Bristol-Myers Squibb in Wallingford, CT. for the quarterly meeting. The meeting was well attended. This meeting featured Kirk Lafler, SAS(R) Consultant, Trainer and Author from Software Intelligence Corporation, who traveled from California to address our participants. Kirk gave two very informative presentations that contained issues interesting to a wide variety of users.

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My personal favorite was the “**Undocumented and Hard-to-Find Proc SQL Features**”. Included were uses of the COALESCE function, CASE logic to summarize data in unique ways, creation of macro variables with aggregate functions and development of macro tools using SQL . He also covered tricks for debugging SQL processing that I found particularly useful.

Kirk’s second topic was “**Output Delivery System: Tips and Techniques**”. He covered several tips and techniques that are related to ODS basics, selecting output using ODS, creating ODS output datasets and RTF and also working with the web. Of particular interest was the discussion on creating drill down reports in ODS. Kirk presented several tips to simplify the process of building drill-down applications. This was well received and generated audience participation which made for an interactive meeting.

In a later communication, Kirk also shared that “*there are several "free" webinars available on the SAS Institute website. These webinars are a wonderful resource and are available at: <http://support.sas.com/publishing/bbu/webinar.html>”*

Kirk is extremely knowledgeable and gives clear explanations using his “movie” data base for examples. He is an excellent presenter who captured the attention of everyone regardless of one’s experience. He covered something for all levels.

Thanks, Kirk, for making the HASUG at BMS meeting a successful meeting.

## **NEXT HASUG MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT**

Our next meeting is on **Thursday November 1, 2007** at:

**Pitney Bowes, Inc.  
3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Auditorium  
One Elmcroft Road  
Stamford, CT 06926**

**from 9:00 am to noon**

Our topics and Speakers are:

**“XML Engine and Mapper”  
Presented by Tony Friebe, SAS  
Institute Inc.**

This presentation is a tour of what's new in the development arenas for SAS(R) XML support. The features detailed include new options, new native support types, a demo of the SAS XML Mapper (a new XMLMap syntax generator GUI), new SAS ODS tagsets, and a preview of upcoming output generation enhancements to the SAS XML LIBNAME Engine.

**Anthony "T" Friebe** has logged more than twenty five years industry experience in computing disciplines and is currently the XML Strategist for SAS Platform R&D. He has been a participating member of the CDISC working groups since 1999.

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He is the 2005 ODM Team Outstanding Achievement award winner, a principal contributor and technical lead on the CDISC CRT-DDS (aka define.xml) standard, and was a technical member of the CDISC ADaM/SDTM Pilot Submission project team. T is also the principal developer of the SAS XML Libname Engine and the inventor of the SAS XMLMap technology.

**“Getting Intimate with Proc Format”  
Presented by Chuck Patridge,  
Independent Consultant**

The presentation is geared towards the novice and intermediate BASE SAS User in any industry and for a variety of applications. These techniques will elevate the SAS User to another level of expertise as well as making their applications more professional and robust.

**Charles 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, Bayer Inc., SNETCO, State of Connecticut, Automobile Association of British Columbia, United States Postal Service, Australian Federal Health Insurance Commission, Australian Government, Applied Psychological Techniques, Alan K. Campbell Public Affairs Institute, Arthur Andersen Consulting, Paine Webber, The Hartford Financial Services, Deloitte Touche and most recently, Full Capture Solutions, Inc.

where he developed Text Mining Applications using the SAS system.

In addition, Charles 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.

Charles also founded the Hartford Area SAS User Group (HASUG) in 1983 and has been a member of the steering committee ever since. Additionally, Charles is the founder/owner of [www.SCONSIG.com](http://www.SCONSIG.com) (SAS Consultant Special Interest Group - 1994) where his efforts are to share SAS Tips and Techniques and "link jobs with people and people with jobs" for the SAS Community Worldwide.

**“Proc Compare as a Validation Tool”  
Presented by Rob Krajcik, Bristol-Myers Squibb**

Using SAS Sample data, Rob will present a step by step walkthrough of the Proc Compare options used to verify that two datasets are equal or have discrepancies, and some pitfalls to avoid.

**Rob Krajcik** has been working with SAS software since 1981. His interests include: Macro functions, SQL, Output Delivery System, transporting data between host systems, MS office applications, statistical graphics, web design and the SAS Enhanced Editor.

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### Future General Meetings and Conferences:

November 1, 2007 Pitney Bowes,  
Stamford, CT  
Nov 11-14, 2007 NESUG,  
Baltimore, MD  
February 21, 2007 SAS Institute,  
Glastonbury, CT

### HASUG Steering Committee Meetings:

November 1, 2007 Immediately after  
HASUG meeting  
December 6, 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 support.sas.com web site. To register for a course or to get more information, phone SAS Institute at 1-800-333-7660.

SAS Macro Language....Oct 31 – Nov 1  
SAS Macro Programming: Advanced Topics ... Nov 2  
SAS Programming I: Essentials ...  
Nov 14 - 16  
SAS Programming II: Manipulating Data with the DATA Step ..Nov 28 – 30  
Querying and Reporting Using SAS Enterprise Guide ....Dec 6 - 7  
SQL Processing with SAS ...Dec 13 – 14  
Accessing SAS from Microsoft Office Applications.....Jan 16  
Using SAS Web Report Studio for Thin-Client Reporting....Jan 17

Accessing Information Using the SAS Information Delivery Portal.....Jan 18  
SAS Programming I: Essentials...  
Jan 23 – 25  
Advanced Reporting Techniques....  
Feb 7 – 8  
SAS Programming II: Manipulating Data with the DATA Step....Feb 25 – 27  
Overview of SAS Business Intelligence and Data Integration Applications..  
Mar 6 – 7  
SAS Programming I: Essentials .  
Mar 26 – 28  
Creating Detail and Summary Reports  
Apr 1 – 3  
SAS Programming III: Advanced Techniques....Apr 9 – 11  
SAS Macro Language ..Apr 30 – May 1  
SAS Macro Programming: Advanced Topics....May 2  
SAS Programming I: Essentials...  
May 14 - 16  
SAS Programming II: Manipulating Data with the DATA Step ..May 28 – 30  
Querying and Reporting Using SAS Enterprise Guide.....Jun 5 – 6

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 the following 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](http://www.destinycorp.com).

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Report Writing: A Programming Approach in SAS Software ..Oct 24 – 26  
Output Delivery System (ODS) Basics Oct 29 – 30  
SQL Processing in SAS Software .. Nov 5 – 6  
Introduction to Programming Using SAS Software ....Nov 7 – 8  
Programming I: SAS Essentials . Nov 14 – 16  
Enterprise Guide: Querying and Reporting .....Dec 3 – 4  
Optimization Tips and Techniques ... Dec 13 – 14

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 year long access and instructor support. Call or visit [www.vdestiny.com](http://www.vdestiny.com) for more details.

## Book Review

(Janet Stuelpner, Left Hand Computing, Inc.)

**Title:** *The Little SAS Book: A Primer, Third Edition*

**Authors:** Lora Delwiche and Susan Slaughter

**ISBN number:** 978-1-59047-333-7

**Cost:** \$46.95 USD

**Length:** 360 pages

This is the third edition of a classic book. It is both a manual and a reference guide. If you don't have any experience programming in SAS, this is a good book to read to provide the basic concepts. If you are an experienced programmer, there are things

you can still learn by reading this book. Delwiche and Slaughter have updated the book for SAS Version 9 and taken the time to point out some of the differences from previous versions of SAS. It is an easy to read style in that each concept is 2 pages with examples that clearly provide information on 'how to' take the information and turn it into code.

I highly recommend this book for anyone who wants to learn SAS and for anyone who wants to improve your SAS skills.

## Tips and Techniques

(Charles Patridge, Independent Consultant)

### Creating Subfolders Using Hash Tables

This sample, provided by SAS user Richard Wright, will create subdirectories on the fly by walking down the hierarchy and creating the subdirectory if it doesn't exist.

Read More at:

[http://sems.sas.com/bess4/get?id=8981.1:-2gnplic:e44oc&RZNVY=puneyrf\\_f\\_cngevqtr@cebqvtl.org&nccvq=6818](http://sems.sas.com/bess4/get?id=8981.1:-2gnplic:e44oc&RZNVY=puneyrf_f_cngevqtr@cebqvtl.org&nccvq=6818)

**A macro to take LONG CHARACTER Variables and parse them so that they are more easily read on the screen without having to scroll left and right.**

Author: Charles Patridge

Date: 9/20/2007

```
%let txt_length = 75; /*** desired length to read the text on your screen ***/
```

```
DATA test1 ;  
  INFILE DATALINES  
  TRUNCOVER ;  
  INPUT @1 topic $char200.  
        @1 id $char1. ;
```

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```
_length_ = length(trim(topic));
datalines;
1 Obj. 7: Discuss the concepts
fundamental to providing effective
nutritional & preventive health education
to the HIV infected client.
2 8. "Primary Care Evaluation/Clinical
Manifestations" Debbie Konkle-Parker
PhD, FNP
3 Obj. 8: Identify the critical points in
performing a complete history &
physical assessment of the HIV positive
patient.
4 9. "Common Opportunistic
Infections/GI Manifestations" Jason
Parham, MD
5 Obj. 15: Describe the pulmonary
manifestations of HIV including the
impact of TB on the infected patient.
6 11. "Oral Manifestations/Dental
Evaluation/HIV Resourcing" Nicholas
Mosca, DDS
7 Obj. 10: Examine the role of the
provider in completing a thorough HIV
oral assessment.
8 Obj. 4: Propose networking & resource
options available in HIV Disease care
throughout the state.
;;;
run;
```

```
%let _delimiters_ = '','';

%macro wrap_text (stringtowrap=topic,
wrappedtext=text, desiredlength=75 );
org_string = &stringtowrap;
drop org_string _ii_ _length_ ;
_top_;;
_length_ =
length(trim(org_string));
if _length_ le &txt_length then
do;
&wrappedtext = org_string;
output;
```

```
goto _done_;
end;
if _length_ gt &txt_length then do;
do _ii_ = -1 to -20 by -1;
if
substr(org_string,&txt_length + _ii_, 1)
in (&_delimiters_) then do;
&wrappedtext =
substr(org_string,1, &txt_length + _ii_);
org_string =
substr(org_string,&txt_length + _ii_ +1);
output;
goto _top_;
end;
end;
end;
end;
_end_;;
%mend wrap_text;

data test2;
set test1;
%wrap_text (stringtowrap=topic,
wrappedtext=text, desiredlength=75 );
run;

proc print data=test1; run;
proc print data=test2; run;
```

## HASUG EMAIL 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 to point your browser to the HASUG web site, <http://www.hasug.org>, and click the hyperlink, "Join HASUG Email List".

Your name and email address are not displayed nor given out to any party, including members of the HASUG steering committee.

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Only the list administrators have access to subscription information. Only List administrators will be able to send out email messages to the HASUG members. 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.

To subscribe to the HASUG list you will need to follow the following steps:

1. From the HASUG website pick "Join HASUG Email List". Enter your email address and click on the SUBSCRIBE button. You will receive an email from noreply@googlegroups.com.
2. Open the email and click on the confirmation URL in the email.
3. There are no questions to answer. Just click on "Apply to this Group"
4. You will receive an email saying you have been added to the distribution list.

You must complete steps 1-3 to be added to the list.

### **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>
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
Robert Krajcik	Bristol-Myers Squibb	(203) 677-6125	robert_krajcik@yahoo.com
Barbara Moss	The Hartford	(860) 547-7396	barbara.moss@ thehartford.com
Chuck Patridge	Independent Consultant		charles_s_patridge@prodigy.net
Peter Prause	The Hartford	(860) 547-7484	Peter.Prause@thehartford.com
Janet Stuelpner	Left Hand Computing	(203) 966-7520	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:**

**Pitney Bowes Inc.  
One Elmcroft Road  
Stamford, CT**

### **From Points North:**

- Follow I-95 South to Exit 7 (Atlantic Street).
- Go straight at the end of the ramp and turn left at the second light to Atlantic Street south.
- Go under the highway and then under the railway tracks and continue until the color light at Washington Blvd.
- Turn left on Washington and turn left to Pacific Street at the stop sign.
- Then turn right immediately to Dyke Lane.
- Turn left to Elmcroft and the PB Building is on your right.
- Visitor parking is on the right side of the building and entrance is just after the entrance to employee parking garage.

### **From Points South :**

- Follow I-95 North to Exit 7 (Washington Blvd).
- Go straight through the color light at the end of the ramp.
- Turn right at the next light on Washington Blvd (in front of the Railway station) and continue on Washington Blvd.
- Then follow the directions above to Elmcroft road.

