



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*)

I would like to wish all of our members a happy, healthy, prosperous new year. We have exciting plans for 2008 starting with our first meeting in February. Dwight Fowler of SAS Institute will be continuing his series on business intelligence products and Clint Rickards will be speaking about the UNIX operating system with respect to SAS. They are both excellent speakers and we expect to learn a great deal from them. The meeting will be held at SAS in Glastonbury. Due to the size of the meeting space, we are limiting the number of attendees to 50. Make sure that you pre-register for the meeting. We have lots of things to give away, so register early.

The winter meetings are particularly challenging because of the possibility of adverse weather conditions. The steering committee has a plan in effect to notify members of the cancellation of a meeting if bad weather makes it unsafe to hold the meeting. Please read the instructions at the website in case of inclement weather.

Last November, we changed our method of communicating with our members. We are now using Google Groups to send out messages and announcements. If you haven't signed up to be a part of this group, please click the link on our web site to join. We have simplified the process and it is easy to become a part of the group. All of the instructions are on the web page and signing up will insure that you don't miss a thing.

This year, the SAS Global Forum (formerly SUGI) will be held in San Antonio, TX from March 16-19. It will be 2.5 days of presentations. Again this year, there will be special presentations that are industry specific. You can learn more about how SAS is relevant to what you are doing at work. Take a moment and look at the scheduled papers on the SAS web site.

As always, we are looking for companies to volunteer some space to hold our meetings. If you have a meeting room that can hold about 50-60 people for a morning session for 4 hours, please contact anyone on the steering committee. We will work with you to set up the meeting and coordinate everything.

November Meeting Highlights

(Cindy Johnson, *Bristol-Myers Squibb*)

We would like to thank the management of Pitney Bowes who allowed HASUG to have our first meeting at their location. We enjoyed a comfortable location and a wonderful breakfast at this informative HASUG meeting. We surely hope we will be invited back in the future.

The meeting was opened with a great discussion of the XML engine and a demonstration of the XML Mapper. It was given by Tony Friebe of SAS Institute who went through some new features of the Mapper.

Two short presentations followed on some of the standard tools used in Base SAS: Proc Compare and Proc Format.

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Rob Krajcik showed us how to use Proc Compare as a validation tool. Rob gave some great examples of how powerful this Proc can be, in finding useful quality control checks, etc.

Next Chuck Patridge gave some examples of less common uses for using Proc Format. One I find especially useful is the assignment of variable values that are stored in value statements. Using Proc Format instead of writing assignment code in a Data step eliminates the need to write lengthy *if-then-else* sentences or *select-when* statements. Thus it is less error prone and makes it much easier to change a value if necessary.

The slides for both of these presentations can be found at www.HASUG.org.

NEXT HASUG MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT

Our next meeting is on:

**Thursday February 21st, 2008 at:
SAS Institute, Inc.
95 Glastonbury Blvd #3
Glastonbury, CT
From 9:00 am to noon**

Our topics and Speakers are:

**SAS 9 Overview Series, Data
Integration Studio
Presented by Dwight Fowler,
SAS Institute**

The SAS 9 technology overview series continues with a presentation on Data

Integration. This presentation will discuss the present perspective of SAS on integrated data quality and data management, building on earlier presentations on SAS metadata and SAS Stored Processes. The SAS 9 platform is built upon a foundation of metadata and underlying SAS code. The development of all SAS 9 user interfaces in Business Intelligence, Analytics, and Data Integration leverages the power of SAS programming, adds more user friendly interface features, and capitalizes on continuity of metadata. Demonstrations of these concepts will be through a live presentation of the Data Integration Studio product. It will discuss process automation, point and click process building, how to make SAS programs into parameterized, drag and drop objects for building visual ETL processes, how to use built-in wizards for creating reusable data transformations, how to organize metadata for data sources, targets, and how to import metadata from other products.

Dwight Fowler manages the pre-sales team for the Health and Life Sciences industry group at SAS. He has been in a technical role at SAS for many years. His specialty is SAS9 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 a programmer, DBA, systems analyst and SAS representative before moving to SAS as an employee in 1995.

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**Introduction to SAS on UNIX
Presented by Clint Rickards,
GE Money**

UNIX is one of the primary platforms for running SAS but it can be a mysterious, confusing environment for SAS programmers new to UNIX.

This presentation will remove some of the mystery by introducing key UNIX concepts and then showing how SAS fits into those concepts. Commonly used UNIX commands will be illustrated along the way. Topics will include:

- What is UNIX?
- Directories, files, and navigation
- Permissions
- SAS concepts for UNIX
- Executing SAS programs on UNIX
- Using SAS/Connect to submit a program from Windows SAS

Clint Rickards is amazed that he has been using SAS for 24 years. A true generalist, he has used SAS on mainframes, DOS (remember that?), Windows, and UNIX in a variety of companies and industries. He has been a frequent contributor to HASUG, NESUG, and SUGI and served in a variety of roles for those groups. Of late he has been working with the SAS BI suite of products to detect and reduce credit card fraud.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Future General Meetings and Conferences:

February 21, 2008

SAS Institute, Glastonbury, CT
March 16-19
SAS Global Forum, San Antonio, TX
May 15, 2008
Bank of America, Farmington, CT

HASUG Steering Committee Meetings:

February 21, 2008
Immediately after HASUG meeting
March 6, 2008
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 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
Statistics I: Introduction to ANOVA, Regression, and Logistic Regression
Mar 18 - 20
SAS Programming I: Essentials
Mar 26 – 28

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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
SQL Processing with SAS
Jun 19 – 20

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 Instructor Assisted Virtual SAS® training courses in their Rocky Hill, CT office. A live instructor, in person, will support and answer all questions. The attendees are provided the supporting Online Virtual Course and materials. The Online Course is valid for 1 year from course dates.

Please visit the Destiny Corporation website for more training dates. To register for a course or to get more information, please contact Destiny on 1-800-7-TRAINING or on the web at www.destinycorp.com.

Course Schedule

All courses are offered each month on following dates:

Feb 11-13, 2008
Mar 12-14, 2008
Apr 14-16, 2008
May 12-14, 2008
June 16-18, 2008

1 Day Programs:

Add-In to Microsoft Office: The Word and Excel Interface to SAS®

2 Day Programs:

Introduction to Programming
Programming III: Advanced Techniques
Output Delivery System (ODS) Basics
Graphing In SAS® Software
Version 9 Changes and Enhancements
Enterprise Guide Querying and Reporting
SQL Processing with SAS® Software

3 Day Programs:

Macros in SAS® Software
Programming I SAS® Essentials
Programming II: Data Manipulation Using the Data Step
Report Writing: A Programming Approach

Book Review

(By Karol Katz, Yale University)

Title: *Basic Statistics Using SAS*

Enterprise Guide: A Primer

Authors: Geoff Der and Brian S. Everitt

Publisher: SAS Press

ISBN: 978-1-59994-573-6

Pages: 244

Price: \$39.95

Copyright date: November 2007

This book is an excellent next step for someone familiar with using Enterprise Guide and wants to learn to run statistical procedures and interpret the results.

The chapters are formatted as series of steps. First the authors introduce topic and provide examples, include the data. The reason for using a particular test is explained and the EG point and click steps and corresponding screen shots follow. Each example ends with explanation of the statistics in resulting graphs or tables.

Accessing the data, stepping through the examples, and matching the results, is an effective way to gain and retain basic stat knowledge.

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.

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
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Karol Katz	Yale University	(203) 785-7572	Karol.Katz@yale.edu
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Gerald Zuckier	Aetna	(860) 636-4053	GZuckier@alum.mit.edu

Directions to:

SAS Regional Office, Glastonbury
95 Glastonbury Blvd. #3
Glastonbury, CT

From Points North:

. Follow I-91 South to Exit 25 onto CT-3N. Then follow directions below.

From Points South

- . Follow I-91 North to Exit 25 onto CT-3N.
- . Take Exit toward Main Street/Glastonbury.
- . Turn left onto Glastonbury Blvd.

