



HARTFORD AREA SAS® USERS GROUP

Volume 20 Issue 2

Second Quarter, May 2008

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<http://www.hasug.org>

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Chairperson's Notes

(Janet Stuelpner, *Left Hand Computing*)

I just returned from San Antonio, Texas and the SAS Global Forum. The conference had quite a large attendance, but everything is big in Texas! It was held in the convention center where there was a great deal of space for many concurrent sessions. As always, it is a place to learn from speakers and other SAS programmers. If you have never been, you should consider attending next year when the conference will be held in Maryland. If you like a smaller, more intimate venue, you should think about going to Pittsburgh for NESUG in the fall. This is where the best of the northeast share their knowledge.

I am very excited to attend our next meeting. We will have two excellent speakers. Our first speaker will be Kirk Lafler. He is making a return appearance and will speak to us about macros. Our next speaker will be Terry Druckman from SAS. Terry will be talking about JMP and how it has changed. We are now able to read regular SAS data sets into the JMP product. To learn more, come to the next meeting. It is sure to be a very informative session.

During our May meeting we have elections for our Steering Committee (SC). We are always looking for new people to join and participate in the planning of our speakers and presentations. We have eight meetings a year, four are after the presentations and four are conference calls. If you would like to be considered for the SC, please contact anyone on the SC and make your intentions known.

This is a reminder for you. If you want to get emails with messages and announcements from HASUG, you must join the HASUG Google Groups. The directions are located on the HASUG web site. Click the link and fill in the information. It is easy to become a part of the group. Don't miss anything, sign up today.

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 SC. We will work with you to set up the meeting and coordinate everything.

February Meeting Highlights

(Gerry Zuckier, *Aetna*)

On February 21, 2008, a full house jammed the meeting room at the Connecticut SAS offices in Glastonbury to attend the HASUG meeting. Speakers were Dwight Fowler of SAS Institute, and Clint Rickards of GE Money.

Dwight gave the crowd a presentation on the novel data integration, quality, and management features available in SAS version 9, including cross-platform metadata repositories and stored processes, which permits true "drag and drop" "object oriented" style programming using reusable SAS code objects. The increased efficiency from reuse of existing well-tested code and elimination of errors from access to metadata offer the kind of opportunity for enhanced productivity that stands out in the current business climate.

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IT staff throughout the state should now brace themselves for the flood of user requests to fully implement these features.

Clint delivered an introduction to using SAS on the UNIX platform, providing the basic concepts and commands necessary for a SAS user to function efficiently in that environment. Users of midrange SAS installations in UNIX, often in conjunction with SAS for Windows front ends and/or mainframe SAS data warehouses, are frequently required to deal with the operating system directly, rather than through SAS. Clint provided details of the sometimes cryptic UNIX commands and the powerful UNIX security and file permissions system, as well as examples of the use of SAS/Connect, drawing on his extensive background.

NEXT HASUG MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT

Our next meeting is on:

**Thursday May 15th, 2008 at:
Bristol-Myers Squibb
5 Research Pkwy
Wallingford, CT 06492**

from 9:00 am to noon

Our topics and Speakers are:

**Building Reusable SAS[®] Macro Tools
Kirk Lafler, Software Intelligence
Corporation, San Diego, CA**

The SAS[®] Macro Language is a powerful feature for extending the

capabilities of the SAS System. This presentation highlights a collection of techniques for constructing reusable and effective macros tools. Attendees learn how to build functional macros that process statements containing SAS code; create macros containing positional parameters; build a library of macro utilities; interface the macro language with the SAS procedures; and develop efficient and portable macro language code.

Kirk Paul Lafler is consultant and founder of Software Intelligence Corporation and has been programming in SAS since 1979. As a SAS Certified Professional and SAS Institute Alliance Member (1996 – 2002), Kirk provides IT consulting services and training to SAS users around the world. As the author of four books including *PROC SQL: Beyond the Basics Using SAS* (SAS Institute. 2004), Kirk has written more than two hundred peer-reviewed papers and articles that have appeared in professional journals and SAS User Group proceedings. He has also been an Invited speaker at more than two hundred SAS International, regional, local, and special-interest user group conferences and meetings throughout North America. His popular SAS Tips column, “Kirk’s Korner of Quick and Simple Tips”, appears regularly in several SAS User Group newsletters and Web sites, and his fun-filled SASword Puzzles are featured in SAScommunity.org and many SAS Newsletters.

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SAS® Visual BI
Terry Druckman, SAS Institute, Inc.

This session is intended to introduce SAS® Visual BI software, a new business visualization solution powered by JMP® software. SAS Visual BI is a SAS solution consisting of SAS Enterprise BI Server (or BI Server) and JMP for BI added as a client upgrade. SAS Visual BI is not a new name for JMP, but a solution name for the unique functionality that is realized by using JMP 7 with SAS BI.

SAS Visual BI software allows users to manipulate data in an easy-to-use, interactive environment to explore ideas, investigate patterns and discover previously hidden facts through visual queries. A key aspect of the presentation will explore integration between JMP and SAS.

Terry Druckman is a presales Senior Systems Engineer in the Health and Life Sciences Division of SAS since the summer of 1997. He is based in Bedminster, New Jersey and supports the sales force across pharma, healthcare providers and healthcare insurers. He is currently focused on the Business Intelligence Tools that SAS offers much of which are new for SAS V9. Prior to SAS, Terry worked for a small software development company that specialized in a 3rd and 4th generation Business Basic Language and various Accounting applications. He holds the BS degree from Villanova University and also has experience in the accounting field.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Future General Meetings and Conferences:

May 15, 2008
Bristol-Myers Squibb, Wallingford, CT
August 21, 2008
Yale-New Haven Hospital
Sept 14-17, 2008
NESUG, Pittsburgh, PA

HASUG Steering Committee Meetings:

May 15, 2008
Immediately after HASUG meeting
June 12, 2008
Conference call, 11:30-12:30

Continuing With Education... (Peter Prause, The Hartford)

HASUG is pleased to announce that Software Intelligence Corporation is planning to hold two special SAS training programs for CT SAS users on May 14, 2008.

Proc SQL programming techniques

This course expands your PROC SQL programming skills using numerous examples. Topics include strategies for creating and using virtual tables known as views, using case expressions to perform conditional logic and reclassification of data values, examples of implementing table integrity constraints, accessing information contained in read-only dictionary tables, interfacing PROC SQL with the Macro facility to create macro variables and macro variable lists, rules associated with index creation and usage, undocumented and hard-to-find PROC SQL features for debugging and performance purposes, and complex queries using inner and outer join constructs including set operators.

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Intended Audience: All SAS users
Prerequisites: SAS Basics course, or 6-months SQL experience
Length: 3 Hours (9:00 am – 12:00 pm)
Cost: \$200.00
Course Material: Course Notes are provided
Location: Training location in West Hartford (Please Contact for specific location), CT

Transferring Data between SAS and Excel

This course focuses on the various techniques and methods associated with transferring data to and from SAS® and Excel®. Topics include the many approaches users have to transfer data directly from SAS to Excel as well as from Excel to SAS. A collection of proven techniques along with code examples are presented to illustrate exporting and importing data with SAS/ACCESS® software, using a LIBNAME statement to transfer data, using the SAS Display Manager System to transfer data to spreadsheet format, with the ODS HTML destination to construct spreadsheet files, and using the ExcelXP destination to create multi-sheet Excel workbooks.

Intended Audience: All SAS and Excel users
Prerequisites: SAS Basics course, or some SAS and Excel experience
Length: 3 Hours (1:30 pm – 4:30 pm)
Cost: \$200.00
Course Material: Course Notes are provided
Location: Training location in West Hartford (Please Contact for specific location), CT

Contact:
Software Intelligence Corporation
P.O. Box 1390
Spring Valley, CA 91979-1390
Voice: 619.277.7350
Email: KirkLafler@cs.com

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
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.

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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 www.destinycorp.com.

Course Schedule

All courses are offered on following dates:

June 16-18, 2008

Introduction to Programming
2 days
Programming I SAS® Essentials
3 days
Programming II: Data Manipulation
Using the Data Step
3 days
Programming III: Advanced Techniques
2 days
Output Delivery System (ODS) Basics
2 days
Version 9 Changes and Enhancements
2 days
Enterprise Guide Querying and
Reporting
2 days
Report Writing A Programming
Approach
3 days
SQL Processing with SAS® Software
2 days
Macros in SAS® Software
3 days

Book Review

(by Charles Patridge PDPC, Ltd.)

Title: *Data Management and Reporting Made Easy with SAS Learning Edition 2.0*

Author: Sunil K. Gupta

Publisher: SAS Press

ISBN: 978-1-59047-577-5

Pages: 184

Price: \$29.95

Copyright Date: April 2006

This book is an excellent non-technical source for the SAS Beginner and a MUST HAVE for those who have acquired the SAS Learning Edition software. There are five well thought out chapters to smoothly walk the SAS Beginner through the typical steps of using SAS Learning Edition to create reports, listings, and graphs by using a simple business model for all the exercises.

- Chapter One introduces you to the SAS Learning Edition basics.
- Chapter Two introduces the business model used by all the examples in the book.
- Chapter Three shows how to prepare your data and to produce reports.
- Chapter Four illustrates how to easily create charts and graphs.
- Chapter Five discusses alternative methods for creating reports and graphs.

Sunil has successfully accomplished the task of an easy to read book that guides a SAS Beginner through the basics of creating reports and graphs as well as how to use the SAS Learning Edition 2.0 software.

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I highly recommend this book for SAS Beginners and those people using the SAS Learning Edition. The suggested retail price of \$29.95 will easily pay for itself in a matter of hours upon reading it for the first time.

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
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 Bristol-Myers Squibb Company:

Bristol-Myers Squibb Company

Research Parkway
Wallingford, CT 06492

Via Route 15 (Merritt / Wilbur Cross Parkways)

Exit 66 in Wallingford
Left at light at end of ramp onto Rte. 5 South
Stay on Rte. 5 for approx. 1/2 mile
Left immediately past Shell station onto access road or Rte. 68
Left at light onto Rte. 68 East
Follow Rte. 68 past Courtyard Hotel (on left), past entrances to I-91
Left at 1st traffic light past I-91 (not incl. Entrance to I-91 North) onto Research Parkway
Bristol-Myers Squibb driveway is the 1st on the right

Via I-95 (New England Thruway) and New Haven Area

I-95 North to Exit 48 (left exit) onto I-91 North
Stay on I-91 for about 15 miles to Exit 15 (Rte. 68)
Right off exit onto Rte. 68 (east toward Durham)
Left at 1st light onto Research Parkway
Bristol-Myers Squibb driveway is the 1st on the right

Via I-91 (from Hartford)

I-91 South to exit 15 (Rte. 68)
Left at light at end of ramp
Left at 1st traffic light past I-91 (not incl. Entrance to I-91 North)
onto Research Parkway
Bristol-Myers Squibb driveway is the 1st on the right

