



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, SAS Institute)

Security has become a very big issue over the last several years. As such, we need to make sure that everyone knows how we address this for our meetings. Each company has its own rules and regulations when it comes to the security of the people who work there. We need to be sensitive to these rules when a corporation is hosting our meetings. On our web site, there is a link where we expect people to register their intent to attend the meeting. We provide the names of the attendees to the security people at the host site. We also use this information to plan for refreshments and the size of the facility, for this and future meetings. (Remember, we are all interested in data, no matter what form it takes!) Unfortunately, gone are the days when we can just go to a meeting unannounced. So, I urge you to register for the meeting if you plan to attend.

As I stated before, we have a link on the HASUG web site to the registration page. Registrations will be taken until 2PM on the day before the scheduled meeting. After that point, the registration page will be closed. We need to do this so that we can print off a list of the attendees for the security people at the host site. I know there are times we cannot commit to attending a meeting because of a deadline or unusually large workload. The best suggestion I have is to contact someone on the steering committee to see how rigid the security is at the host site to determine if there is a possibility of making an exception. I urge you to try to plan effectively and register before the deadline!

I am very excited about our next meeting. We will have two excellent speakers. Our first speaker will be Cynthia Zender from SAS. She is coming all the way from New Mexico to speak about Creating Complex Reports. Our next speaker will be Dana Rafiee. Dana is making a return appearance at HASUG and we are glad that he is available to speak to us about in-database processing. This is something that is only available with Netezza and Teradata. It is a fascinating topic I am sure will be of great interest to all.

Our Google Groups list is growing. 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.

May Meeting Highlights

(Helen Wang, Ingenix)

The 2008 second quarter meeting was held on May 15th 2008 at Bristol-Myers Squibb. Speakers were Terry Druckman from SAS Institute and Kirk Lafler from Software Intelligence Corporation.

Terry introduced SAS Visual BI to the audience – a new business visualization solution powered by JMP software. It brings SAS power into JMP. It 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.

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Terry demonstrated how to do a distribution on a dataset, how to use Journal to do a Bubble Chart, how to script commands, and a lot more. For now JMP can run stored processes, but JMP script can not be run in SAS.

Kirk gave a presentation about building reusable SAS Macro Tools. Macros can be very useful and efficient. Kirk started from the basic concept and then gave examples of some very handy ways to use Macros, like creating a comma-delimited value list and creating macros containing positional parameters. Dictionary Tables/Views is read-only but tables/views contain information SAS collects from a session. Thru sample programs, Kirk showed how to use it to capture information for reporting purposes, and construct reusable tools with macros. Strategies for troubleshooting and debugging macros were also illustrated.

NEXT HASUG MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT

Our next meeting is on:

**Thursday August 21th, 2008 at:
Yale New Haven Health Systems
300 George Street, First Floor
New Haven, CT 06511
from 9:00 am to noon**

Our topics and Speakers are:

“Creating Complex Reports”
Cynthia Zender, SAS Institute, Inc.,
Cary, NC

Are you confused about whether you need a detail report or a summary report? Do you wonder whether you're using the right reporting procedure for your report? Have you ever spent a lot of time going down the road with one procedure, only to discover that you need to switch to a different procedure to get what you want or closer to what you want?

This paper is for intermediate SAS(R) programmers who want to see a gallery of complex reports and review the code that produced them. We will cover the pros and cons of PROC REPORT, PROC TABULATE, and DATA _NULL_ for each report. All report output will be produced using ODS (rather than LISTING) output. Get out your wrenches and tool belts, and fasten your seat belt for the ride; this is going to be a real nuts-and-bolts paper presentation.

Cynthia Zender, the ODS and Report Writing Curriculum Manager, has been using SAS for over 20 years and is responsible for the ODS curriculum development, including topics that range from introductory ODS to advanced topics such as ODS and XML. Cynthia divides her time between instructing and curriculum development. Cynthia is a SAS Certified Professional. Prior to joining SAS, she worked with a variety of industries using SAS for application development and report writing.

“New Architecture and Speed with In-Database Processing on Netezza and Teradata Data Warehouse Appliances”
Dana Rafiee, Destiny Corporation,
Rocky Hill, CT

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One of the biggest challenges organizations have is how they store and retrieve for analysis large amounts of data. This problem has plagued industries for years. As data sizes grow into Terabytes and Petabytes, organizations continue to face these challenges as users want to analyze and report on 'the whole data'. SAS has partnered with both Teradata and Netezza, Data Warehouse Appliance vendors. These vendors are pioneers of the self-contained warehouse appliance, which contains a database, storage and SQL processing. Each appliance contains multiple computers and storage disks to offer intelligent, massive parallel processing with load rates of 500GB per hour. The largest worldwide data customers such as Google, AOL and the NYSE had no other choices but to look to new, innovative technology to allow them to not only store enormous amounts of data, but to also reduce their query times from 24 hours down to 4 minutes. They outgrew the traditional Oracle and DB2 types of environments. SAS R&D has also jumped on board to work with these vendors to perform traditional SAS processing such as scoring 'IN' the database, hence gaining incredible speed for SAS customers.

Dana Rafiee is an IT Principal, Sr. Systems Designer, and Sr. SAS Instructor for Destiny Corp. He has over 19 years experience training individuals on all aspects of SAS Software. He also consults in the areas of applications development and design in 4th Generation Languages, Operating Systems, Networking, and Communications.

Dana has been a consultant, systems designer, and trainer on many applications development projects and implementations for several concerns including U.S. Census Bureau; RAND Corporation; the States of CA, NY, & FL; BMG; EMI; Pfizer; and other Fortune 500 companies. His expertise brings together an understanding of system configurations, web-based delivery and optimization, efficient access to relational databases, and decision support tools, including SAS, Cognos, Oracle, Business Objects, Brio, and Futrix.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Future General Meetings and Conferences:

August 21, 2008
Yale New Haven Health Systems,
New Haven, CT
Sept 14-17, 2008
NESUG, Pittsburgh, PA
November 20, 2008
Mashantucket Pequot Museum &
Research Center, Mashantucket, CT

HASUG Steering Committee Meetings:

August 21, 2008
Immediately after HASUG meeting
Sept 18, 2008
Conference call, 11:30-12:30
November 20, 2008
Immediately after HASUG meeting

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 2:

Data Manipulation Techniques

Aug 25 – 27

SAS Programming 1: Essentials

Sep 24 – 26

SAS Report Writing 1:

Using Procedures and ODS

Sep 30 – Oct 2

SAS Programming 3:

Advanced Techniques and Efficiencies

Oct 15 – 17

SAS Macro Language 1: Essentials

Oct 30 – 31

SAS Programming 1: Essentials

Nov 12 – 14

Querying and Reporting Using SAS Enterprise Guide

Dec 4 – 5

SAS Programming 2:

Data Manipulation Techniques

Dec 10 – 12

SAS SQL 1: Essentials

Dec 18 - 19

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 www.destinycorp.com.

All courses are offered on following dates:

August 6 – 9, 2008

October 15 – 17, 2008

December 8 – 10, 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

Graphing in SAS® Software

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

Add-in to Microsoft Office: The Word

and Excel Interface to SAS®

1 day

Book Review

(by Karol Katz, Yale University School of Medicine)

Title: *Cody's Data Cleaning Techniques Using SAS, Second Edition*

By: Ron Cody

Publisher: SAS Press

ISBN: 978-1-59994-659-7

Pages: 272

Price: \$39.95

Copyright date: April 2008

Clean data is critical to accurate analysis. By implementing programs and macros in Cody's Data Cleaning Techniques you can achieve the goal of a "clean" SAS dataset. Easy to follow examples identify invalid, missing, or out of range data. Also included are chapters working with dates and matching Primary Key (Identifier) variables across multiple files. The Second Edition incorporates new features in SAS9. This book is a valuable tool for all SAS users to prepare data for analysis.

Kirk's Korner

Quick & Simple Tips

(Kirk Paul Lafler, Software Intelligence Corporation)

Tip: Manipulating Data with PROC SQL

This tip will illustrate concatenation, character alignment, and phonetic and pattern matching character-string operations in manipulating data.

Concatenation and Character Alignment

The default alignment for character data is to the left, however character columns or expressions can also be aligned to the right. Two functions are available for

character alignment: LEFT and RIGHT. The next example combines the concatenation operator "||" and the TRIM function with the LEFT function to left align a character expression while inserting blank spaces and a dash "-" between two character columns to subset "PG-rated" movies.

PROC SQL Code

```
PROC SQL;
SELECT LEFT(TRIM(title) || " - " ||
category) AS Concatenation_Alignment
FROM movies
WHERE rating = "PG";
QUIT;
```

Results

Concatenation_Alignment

```
=====
Casablanca - Drama
Jaws - Action Adventure
Poltergeist - Horror
Rocky - Action Adventure
Star Wars - Action Sci-Fi
```

Phonetic Matching (Sounds-Like Operator =)*

A technique for finding names that sound alike or have spelling variations is available in PROC SQL. Although not technically a function, the sounds-like operator "=*" searches and selects character data based on two expressions: the search value and the matched value.

Anyone that has looked for a last name in a local telephone directory is quickly reminded of the possible phonetic variations. To illustrate how the sounds-like operator works, we will search on the movie title in the MOVIES table using the string "Rucky" for any and all phonetic variations related to the movie title "Rocky".

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PROC SQL Code

```
PROC SQL;
SELECT title, rating, category
FROM movies
WHERE title =* "Rucky";
QUIT;
```

Results

Title	Rating	Category
Rocky	PG	Action Adventure

Finding Patterns in a String (Pattern Matching % and _)

Constructing specific search patterns in string expressions is a simple process with the LIKE predicate. The % acts as a wildcard character representing any number of characters, including any combination of upper or lower case characters. Combining the LIKE predicate with the % (percent sign) permits case-sensitive searches and is a popular technique used by savvy SQL programmers to find patterns in their data. The next example finds patterns in the movie category containing the uppercase character 'D' in the first position followed by any number of characters in the CATEGORY column.

PROC SQL Code

```
PROC SQL;
SELECT title, rating, category
FROM movies
WHERE category LIKE 'D%';
QUIT;
```

Results

Title	Rating	Category
Casablanca	PG	Drama
Forrest Gump	PG-13	Drama
Michael Dressed to Kill	PG-13	Drama
Ghos	R	Drama Mysteries
Titanic	PG-13	Drama Romance
Silence of the Lambs	PG-13	Drama Romance
	R	Drama Suspense

CONTACT INFORMATION

If you would like more information or have any questions about this tip, please contact Kirk Paul Lafler at Software Intelligence Corporation, P.O. Box 1390, Spring Valley, California 91979-1390, or at KirkLafler@cs.com.

Kirk's company provides many SAS services, including programming and training. He is the author of four books including *PROC SQL: Beyond the Basics Using SAS by SAS Institute*.

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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".

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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, and location.

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 oreply@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>
Azhagarasan Annadorai	Kaizentric Technologies	(510) 343-5135	azhagarasan@kaizentric.com
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Helen Wang	Ingenix	(860) 221-0480	Helen.Wang@ingenix.com
Gerald Zuckier	Aetna	(860) 636-4053	GZuckier@alum.mit.edu

**DIRECTIONS to
Yale New Haven Health Systems, 300 George Street**

FROM POINTS ALONG I-91 SOUTH

Take Exit 1, and then follow from all points.

FROM I-95 SOUTH

Take Exit 47, continuing onto CT-34 (N. Frontage Rd) toward DOWNTOWN NEW HAVEN. Take exit 3. Then follow directions below.

FROM ALL POINTS

Take exit 3 (NORTH FRONTAGE ROAD) moving into the right-most lane. Turn right at the first traffic light, turning onto YORK STREET. Turn right at the first traffic light onto GEORGE STREET.

300 GEORGE STREET is the gray paneled building on the right hand side of the street, directly before the light.

Limited Public parking is located on the left hand side of the street, at Pro-Park, at the corner of George Street and College Street.

**DIRECTIONS to
Air Rights Garage**

*From New York – I95 North to Exit 47 (Downtown New Haven). Take 3rd Exit off connector. Please stay to the left side of traffic. **Before** you arrive at the first traffic light (York Street), you will turn left into the Air Rights Garage entrance (appropriate signs will be indicated).*

*From Hartford – I91 South to Exit 1 (Downtown New Haven). Take 3rd Exit off connector. Please stay to the left side of traffic. **Before** you arrive at the first traffic light (York Street), you will turn left into the Air Rights Garage entrance (appropriate signs will be indicated).*

*From Old Saybrook - I95 South to Exit 47 (Downtown New Haven). Take 3rd Exit off connector. Please stay to the left side of traffic. **Before** you arrive at the first traffic light (York Street), you will turn left into the Air Rights Garage entrance (appropriate signs will be indicated).*

