



HARTFORD AREA SAS® USERS GROUP

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Third Quarter, August 2009

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<http://www.hasug.org>

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CHAIRPERSON'S NOTES

(Karol Katz, Yale University)

I am pleased to accept the HASUG chairperson's position for the coming year. My first order of business is to thank Janet Stuelpner. As our chairperson for the past two years, she used her organizational skills to help HASUG remain a strong and active group, providing members with varied and interesting programs.

For over 20 years HASUG has been a meeting place for SAS users across Connecticut. As always, we continue to encourage you to get involved by contributing in any way you can, whether by presenting at a meeting, preparing an article for the newsletter, or serving as a host and providing a site to hold a meeting. The HASUG Steering Committee plans upcoming meetings. The committee meets after the quarterly HASUG meeting and holds one conference call between meetings. We encourage and welcome your participation. If you are interested in joining, please speak to anyone on the steering committee.

We are always looking for User presentations for upcoming meetings, whether it is a quick 10 minute tip or a full 45-60 minute presentation. This is an excellent opportunity not only to share your knowledge and your experience with your peers, but also to get feedback and ideas on the work you are doing with SAS. Our August Meeting includes a Coder's Corner where several members will offer SAS tips they use. Maybe one or more will be useful to you.

NESUG, the North East SAS Users Group educational conference, is earlier than usual this year, September 13-16. It is the first time the conference will be held in Vermont. If you have not attended a conference recently you owe yourself a treat. Check out the conference information on the web at the following link, www.nesug.org. I have attended many NESUG conferences. They always offered great opportunities for training, networking, and learning about what is going on in the SAS world. If you attend, I am sure you will come home with new SAS skills.

I look forward to seeing you at our August meeting. Please use our online registration form to register. Should the number of registered attendees come close to reaching the room's capacity we will shut off further registrations. If your plans change, please cancel your registration. Failure to do this might prevent someone else from attending this meeting.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Future General Meetings and Conferences:

Aug 20, 2009
SAS Institute, Glastonbury, CT
Sep 13-16, 2009
NESUG, Burlington, VT
November 19, 2009
Pfizer, New London, CT
February 25, 2010
Yale Health Systems,
New Haven, CT

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HASUG Steering Committee

Meetings:

Aug 20, 2009

Immediately after HASUG
meeting

September 17, 2009

Conference call 11:30-12:30

November 19, 2009

Immediately after HASUG
meeting

MAY MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

(Gerry Zuckier, Aetna)

A substantial crowd attended the most recent HASUG meeting at Anthem BCBS' North Haven offices, on May 21, 2009.

The first speaker was Timothy D'Auria of Creative Computing, Inc. on the topic, "Using Text Mining to Save Lives". Timothy discussed the use of SAS text mining to analyze the large amounts of unstructured text which appear in clinicians' notes and medical charts. As both a SAS data miner and an EMT, Timothy was a natural to write a text mining application which used EMT's notes in addition to the structured case data to aid hospitals in choosing correct treatment of emergency cases; his presentation featured an example of this application in action.

The second speaker was well-known SAS trainer and consultant Robert Virgile, presenting "The Most Important Efficiency Techniques". Bob stressed the need to take a wider view of efficiency than just increasing the speed of a program, reminding us that the cost of the effort required to maintain the program and to interpret the results often

greatly outweighs the cost of the program's run time. In addition, he pointed out that there are other hardware resources involved as well, such as bulk data storage, which often represent the limiting factor. He highlighted several less well known tips and techniques, including some introduced in the most recent versions of SAS.

NEXT HASUG MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT

Our next meeting is on:

Thursday, August 20, 2009

at

SAS Institute Glastonbury, CT

95 Glastonbury Blvd #3

Glastonbury, CT 06033

from 9:00 am to noon

Registration will be open until 50 attendees register, or until 4:00pm on Wednesday, Aug 19th.

If you register, and later find you cannot attend, please cancel your registration.

Refreshments to be served & time for conversation beginning at 8:30.

Our topics and Speakers are:

"Continuation of Series-- Web Reporting"

Dwight Fowler, SAS Institute

This presentation begins with an overview of SAS web clients, highlighting the version 9.2 enhancements, but also covering baseline v9.x capabilities.

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The talk will focus on Web Report Studio and the SAS Information Delivery Portal. A key understanding is that these are the first complete product offerings from SAS requiring no software at all to be installed on the desktop. SAS Web Report Studio is a 'zero footprint' tool for designing and viewing reports based on data defined in the SAS server. SAS Information Delivery Portal is a tool for capturing and viewing multiple kinds of content together. Typically a front end, customers use it to congregate their reports and graphs, enabling observation of lots of data and the status of the business all in one place. Both of these products continue to harness the power of SAS programming 'under the covers', and are not just for point and click. Dwight will show how SAS programs can be used from these web front ends. He will also discuss how this technology differs from SAS/IntrNet, a product with which many are familiar. This is another chapter in Dwight's ongoing, 'SAS 9 Technology Concepts', overview for HASUG. Previous presentations have been on Stored Processes, Microsoft Integration, and Data Integration.

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.

Coder's Corner:

"Two Useful Macros for Your SAS Toolbox"

Barbara Barrett, Bristol-Myers Squibb

"Picture This"

Rob Krajcik, Bristol-Myers Squibb

"%procfreq_compare"

Chuck Patridge, ISO Innovative Analytics

"Enterprise Guide. Conditional Logic: Which Way to Go"

Janet Stuelpner, SAS Institute

Presentations:

"Two Useful Macros for Your SAS Toolbox"

The Parse macro takes a string and converts the individual items into macro variables and providing a count of the number of items in the string. The Empty macro writes either a default or customized message to the output file when there are no observations to be reported.

"Picture This"

Three picture formats for you to use.

"%procfreq_compare"

This macro takes 2 SAS datasets, and runs a ONE-WAY Frequency on a list of vars which are common to both datasets. It then compares the differences in the frequencies of these variables, and produces a proc print of the distributions with their differences.

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“Enterprise Guide. Conditional Logic: Which Way to Go”

Sometimes you want to run a simple listing. But other times you want to summarize the data. Wouldn't it be nice to be able to set a condition so that you don't have to change your code to accomplish this? In Enterprise Guide 4.2, you are now able to do this. This quick presentation will show you how.

Presenters:

Barbara Barrett has over twenty years of pharmaceutical experience, including work in Clinical Research. She has twenty years of SAS programming experience in multiple therapeutic areas with a concentration in Oncology. Barbara is currently at Bristol-Myers Squibb.

Rob Krajcik has been working with SAS software since 1981. His programming 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. Outside work Rob is mostly interested in aviation, both as a private pilot and as a basic ground instructor, and spends a lot of his free time towards both goals.

Charles Patridge has seen SAS in use since 1979 at more than 21 companies on two continents. He is currently working at ISO Innovative Analytics as a Data Manager developing Predictive Analytical Models for the Property & Casualty Insurance and Mortgage Industries utilizing Text Mining. Charles specializes in "fuzzy merge" applications. His areas of SAS expertise

lay in BASE, STAT, AF, FSP, Macros, and ETS. Charles founded the Hartford Area SAS User Group in 1983 and has been a member of the steering committee ever since. His website www.SCONSIG.com (SAS Consultant Special Interest Group) shares SAS Tips and Techniques and "links jobs with people and people with jobs" worldwide since 1994. Charles holds a BS in Mathematics with 40 graduate hours in Statistics and passed LOMA I & II, HIAA I & II, Actuarial Parts I & II.

Janet Stuelpner provided programming support in the areas of clinical trials, outcomes research and the financial industry. Janet has been a participant in many user groups on all levels as a chairperson, section chair and speaker. She most recently joined SAS Institute as a Solutions Architect in the Health and Life Sciences Industry Solutions Group.

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 24 – 26
SAS Report Writing 1: Using Procedures and ODS: Sep 9 - 11
SAS Programming 1: Essentials: Sep 14 – 16

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SAS Programming 3: Advanced
Techniques and Efficiencies: Oct 5 - 7

SAS Macro Language 1: Essentials:
Oct 15 – 16

SAS Programming 1: Essentials:
Nov 11 - 13

SAS Macro Language 2: Developing
Macro Applications: Nov 16 - 17

SAS Enterprise Guide 1: Querying and
Reporting: Dec 3 - 4

SAS Programming 2: Data Manipulation
Techniques: Dec 9 - 11

SAS SQL 1: Essentials: Dec 17 - 18

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.

Course Schedule

**All courses are offered on the following dates in 2009:
August 17 – 19**

2-day courses:

Introduction to Programming Using SAS software

Programming III: Advanced Techniques
Output Delivery System (ODS) Basics
Version 9 Changes and Enhancements
Enterprise Guide Querying and
Reporting

SQL Processing with SAS® Software

3-day courses:

Programming I SAS® Essentials

Programming II:

Data Manipulation Using the Data Step
Report Writing:

A Programming Approach

Macros in SAS® Software

Tips & Techniques

(Charles Patridge, ISO Innovative Analytics)

Tips from, “Questions from the Field”, SAS Institute

Question: Is there a quick set of key strokes to commenting and/or un-commenting a block of statements?

Answer: In the enhanced editor under Windows, you can highlight a statement or a block of statements and press the **CTRL key along with a forward slash to place comments around that statement or each statement in the block of statements.** CTRL-SHIFT-/ will remove line comments from any lines that are highlighted.

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Note that this method does not work on non-Windows systems or in the (non-enhanced) Program Editor on Windows.

Question: How do you create a format without coding all the values between 15 and 100 that would map a range to a label as follows:

Low < 15 mapped to 14
15 <- 16 mapped to 15
16 <- 17 mapped to 16
17 <- 18 mapped to 17
...
98 <- 99 mapped to 98
99 <- 100 mapped to 99
100 - high mapped to 100

In other words, values up to but not including 15 should print '14.' Values between 15 and 99 should print their integer digits. Values of 100 or greater should print '100.'

Answer: The PICTURE statement in the FORMAT procedure will create this format without a lengthy list of ranges and labels. The open-ended beginning and end of the range can be defined using the NOEDIT option. NOEDIT prints the format label as entered, without using the label digits as placeholders for data value digits.

For example, the following code creates a test file, defines a format, and prints the values using the format:

```
/* Data step to create test data */  
data test;  
do WithPicture = 1 to 110 by .3333;  
    NoFormat=WithPicture;  
    output;  
end;
```

```
run;  
  
/* Create a user-defined format  
*/  
/* NOEDIT - specifies that label  
numbers are literal */  
/*      characters rather than digit  
selectors */  
  
proc format;  
    picture myfmt low <- 15 = '14' (noedit)  
/*prints 14*/  
        15 <- 100 = '99' /*print  
integer digits only*/  
        100 <- high = '100' (noedit)  
/*prints 100*/;  
run;  
  
/* Test the newly created format */  
proc print data=test;  
    format WithPicture myfmt. ;  
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. Only the list administrators have access to subscription information. Only List administrators will be able to send out email messages to the HASUG members.

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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>
Kathleen Alber	Service National Corp.	(203) 315-4312	kalber@1fbusa.com
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Chuck Patridge	Independent Consultant		charles_s_patridge@prodigy.net
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Janet Stuelpner	SAS Institute	(203) 966-7520	jstuelpner@usa.net
Mahinda Yapa	Pitney Bowes	(203) 922-4662	myapa@yahoo.com
Helen Wang	Ingenix	(860) 231-8241	Helen.Wang@ingenix.com
Gerald Zuckier	Aetna	(860) 636-4053	GZuckier@alum.mit.edu

**Directions to
SAS Institute Inc.
Hartford Training Center
95 Glastonbury Blvd.
Glastonbury, CT 06033**

**Phone 860-633-4119
Fax 860-633-4064**

from Bradley International Airport

- **Get on Route 20 Eastbound (Bradley Connector) until intersection with Interstate Route 91.**
- **Get on Route 91 Southbound.**
- **Stay on Route 91 South, all the way through Hartford, to Exit 25 N, for Route 3, Putnam Bridge, Glastonbury.**
- **Take your first right hand exit after the river, for "Main Street, Glastonbury."**
- **Left at end of exit onto Glastonbury Boulevard.**
- **Just ahead on your left, is a 4-story brick and glass building. Take a left and park in Visitors Parking behind the building.**
- **SAS is on the third floor.**

Directions from Amtrak Train Station in Downtown Hartford

- **Get on Route 91 Southbound and refer to directions above.**

OR

- **Get on Route 84 Eastbound. Go over bridge over Connecticut River, staying right.**
- **Get on Route 2 East. Go to Exit 6, Griswold Street.**
- **Take right at end of exit. Go to light (intersection with Main Street Glastonbury).**
- **Go straight across onto Glastonbury Boulevard.**
- **On your right is a 4-story brick and glass building. Take a right and park in Visitors Parking behind the building.**
- **SAS is on the third floor.**

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Directions from South of Hartford (New Haven, Stamford, Bridgeport)

Follow Route 91 Northbound to Exit 25 N. Follow directions above (from Bradley International Airport) at exit.

Directions from West of Hartford (New York, Danbury, Waterbury)

- Take Route 84 Eastbound to intersection with Route 691 (Cheshire), Exit 27.
- Follow Route 691 to intersection with Route 91 Northbound.
- Follow Route 91 North to Exit 25 N. Follow directions above (from Bradley International Airport) at exit.

