



## HARTFORD AREA SAS® USERS GROUP

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Third Quarter, August 2010

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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 (Karol Katz, Yale University)

At our May meeting, three members; Jessica Hampton, Vikash Jain and Parag Shiralkar joined the HASUG Steering Committee. Janet Steulpner resigned, and I agreed to serve as chairman for another year. Thanks to our hosts at BMS, and to everyone who participated in our annual raffle. We raised enough money to keep our website up and running through 2011.

For this August meeting we head back to New London. Our host is eClinical Solutions. I look forward to a sunny day and two informative presentations.

I enjoy reading SAS newsletters from other locations, particularly for the SAS tips. Every so often I find one that I can implement to save time and improve the programming logic in my own work. One of my favorites is VIEWS News, from "across the pond", in the UK. Issue 50 is this quarter's newsletter available at [http://www.sascommunity.org/mwiki/images/0/0a/VIEWS\\_News\\_Issue50.pdf](http://www.sascommunity.org/mwiki/images/0/0a/VIEWS_News_Issue50.pdf)

The current issue contains code to save data in Excel2007 using DDE(dynamic data exchange). Since I upgraded to Office2007 recently, and often send data to others in Excel, I will certainly use this info.

Another favorite is "The Missing Semicolon™" a complimentary newsletter available at [http://www.sys-seminar.com/sas\\_newsletter/tms2010winter.pdf](http://www.sys-seminar.com/sas_newsletter/tms2010winter.pdf), provided by SYSTEMS SEMINAR CONSULTANTS, INC that offers helpful programming solutions and tips

developed by their staff and focuses on other current issues relevant to SAS software professionals.

In addition to tips in this "Flash", daily tips are available at our WIKI site, [www.SAScommunity.org](http://www.SAScommunity.org). If you have time to browse, you may find a time saving tip at one of these locations.

## MAY Meeting Highlights (Cindy Johnson, BMS)

The second quarter HASUG meeting was held at Bristol Myers Squibb on May 14, 2010. It was a great meeting with 2 excellent speakers and the annual basket raffle to raise money to support our website subscription.

The first speaker was Janet Stuelpner from SAS Institute speaking on, "**Data Integration for Clinical Data**". Janet described the basic concepts of integrating clinical data into "data targets". She explained the process necessary for integrating different types of data into a specific output, i.e. data target. She described the importance of the metadata and its impact on simplification of this process.

SAS has a product for enabling this process called SAS® Data Integration. It is a GUI based package that simply enables a user to perform typical tasks required when using Clinical Data.

Michael Davis returned to his hometown SAS Users Group from his current home in Pennsylvania.

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The topic, “**Development On A Dime: Creating your SAS Programming Environment**“, is Michael’s thoughts on the benefit of creating a convenient and comfortable programming environment in which SAS© is run. This presentation helped one to create a programming environment in which Base SAS© can run effectively. Some key considerations in defining an environment were presented (such as batch vs. interactive, editor choice, etc.). Michael gave many useful tips related to specific environments during his presentation such as color coding output for interactive SAS© usage and %macro skip.

During the May Meeting we held our annual elections of Committee members. Those current members who were interested in continuing on the committee were introduced as well as the new volunteers. All were unanimously voted in. Karol Katz has graciously offered to be Chairman this year. See the Member Section in the FLASH for the steering Committee members and their contact information.

For the second year in a row we have successfully used the May meeting to raffle off books and SAS© items as a way to defray the costs of keeping the HASUG website up and running. Once again we were able to support the website and keep our HASUG membership free to all.

Thanks to all of you who participated. Congratulations to all of you who won.

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### Future General Meetings and Conferences:

August 12, 2010  
eClinical Solutions, New London, CT  
November 12, 2010  
The Hartford, Hartford, CT  
November 14-17 2010  
NESUG, Baltimore, MD

### HASUG Steering Committee Meetings:

August 12, 2010  
Immediately after HASUG meeting  
September 16, 2009  
Conference call 11:30-12:30  
November 12, 2010  
Immediately after HASUG meeting

## NEXT HASUG MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT

Our next meeting is on:  
**Thursday, Aug 12, 2010**  
**at**  
**eClinical Solutions, a division of Eliassen Group**  
**Atrium Offices, New London Mall, FL 2, Suite A230**  
**351 North Frontage Road**  
**New London, CT 06320**

**from 9:00 am to noon**

*Registration will be open until noon on Wednesday, Aug 11th.*  
*Refreshments to be served, & time for conversation, beginning at 8:30.*

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Our topics and Speakers are:

**“A Picture is Worth a Thousand Words: Integrated Visualization of Clinical Data”**

**Vikash Jain, eClinical Solutions**

Researchers in the Clinical domain are interested in presenting their data and compiled text using visual graphics. This not only increases the clarity of the presentation, but also makes it easier for their target audience to understand the distribution of data and to draw inferences right away when they eyeball it at first glance. With this objective in mind, this paper will concentrate on how to produce various kinds of box plots with an integrated mean distribution and a reference line. We will be incorporating an array of BOXPLOT procedure options available to the user. We will also show how to annotate descriptive statistics and data outliers dynamically in a more efficient manner using SAS®9 PROC BOXPLOT options. Also covered is a discussion on powerful but simple techniques to incorporate the tabulated summary of statistics or a list report of outliers based on user business needs. These will be demonstrated in this paper on a case by case scenario with a visual presentation.

**Vikash Jain** is currently a Principal Statistical Programmer at eClinical Solutions, a division of Eliassen Group, New London, CT. He is SAS Certified Professional and has 9+ years of consulting experience in Pharmaceutical, Health Care and Financial sectors, specializing in Clinical Study Reporting in Safety and Efficacy, Adhoc Post Marketing Drug Analysis, Health Care

& Survey Research Analysis, Clinical Report Standardization and Business Process Optimization. He has presented various papers at SAS Global Forum and NESUG conferences and also published various peer reviewed publications in medical journals. He holds a Masters in Applied Statistics from Oakland University, Rochester, MI

**“Multiple Graphical and Tabular Reports on the Same Page of the Output using New ODS Features”**

**Niraj J. Pandya, eClinical Solutions**

Generation of multiple graphs or tables on a single page might sound like a difficult task with SAS® 8 and older versions but it has become an easy task now with advanced features of SAS 9. Generating such outputs demanded a great set of programming skills in the past. Now this task is as easy as 1 2 3. Such outputs are generally a multiple frames, one window kind of report and it is hard to get such outputs through conventional SAS programming which usually gives a listing form of output. Advanced features of Output Delivery System (ODS) are greatly helpful to overcome the limitations of traditional SAS output. This paper focuses on various features of ODS, new powerful SAS Version 9 capabilities and functionalities of output destinations like HTML and PDF to get multiple graphs, charts, maps, listings and tables on a single page.

Use of ODS tagsets to create HTML panels, and by that generating a tabular and graphical output together on a single page with ActiveX functionality of SAS, is described in detail in this paper.

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The new ODS LAYOUT capability of SAS is also explained, which can insert multiple tabular and graphical forms of reports in a single PDF page. This paper is intended for intermediate level of SAS users working on Windows/UNIX platforms.

**Niraj J. Pandya** is currently working as a lead/senior statistical programmer on his team at eClinical Solutions, a division of Eliassen Group, New London, CT. He is a SAS® certified professional and has been working as a SAS Programmer and Analyst for more than five years, concentrating on clinical trials data reporting. He is a recipient of Best Paper Award for his paper in the Technical Techniques section of PharmaSUG 2009 conference and has presented many papers in different regional and national SAS conferences which were highly acclaimed by both audience and sections chairs. His interests and expertise in the pharmaceutical industry and statistical analysis began during graduate studies and have resulted in a successful career in SAS programming, clinical trials data analysis and data reporting.

### **Continuing With Education...**

(Peter Praise)

**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 Report Writing 1: Using Procedures and ODS	Sep 08 - 10
SAS Programming 1: Essentials	Sep 13 - 15
SAS Programming 2: Data Manipulation Techniques	Sep 29 - Oct 01
SAS Programming 3: Advanced Techniques and Efficiencies	Oct 06 - 08
SAS Macro Language 1: Essentials	Oct 14 - 15
SAS Programming 1: Essentials	Nov 08 - 10
SAS Macro Language 2: Developing Macro Applications	Nov 18 - 19
SAS Enterprise Guide 1: Querying and Reporting	Dec 02 - 03
SAS Programming 2: Data Manipulation Techniques	Dec 08 - 10
SAS SQL 1: Essentials	Dec 16 - 17

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 one year from course dates.

Please visit the Destiny Corporation website for more training dates. To register for a course or to get more information, contact Destiny at 1-800-7-TRAINING or at [www.destinycorp.com](http://www.destinycorp.com).

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Destiny Course Schedule: All courses are offered on Sep 13 - 15.

#### 2-day courses

Introduction to Programming Using SAS Software

Programming III: Advanced Techniques  
Output Delivery System (ODS) Basics  
SAS Version 9 Changes and Enhancements

Enterprise Guide Querying and Reporting

SQL Processing in SAS Software

#### 3-day courses

Programming I: SAS Essentials

Programming II: Data Manipulation  
Using the Data Step

Report Writing: A Programming Approach in SAS Software

Macros in SAS Software

## **Tips & Techniques**

(Charles Patridge, ISO Innovative Analytics)

Usage Note 38719: Use PRXMATCH in place of multiple INDEX functions

If you need to search a character variable for multiple different substrings, the conventional method is to link several INDEX function calls together with OR conditions:

```
if index(lowercase(charvar),'this') > 0 or
if index(lowercase(charvar),'that') > 0 or
if index(lowercase(charvar),'other') > 0
then found = 1;
else found=0;
```

The PRXMATCH function, for Perl Regular Expressions Match, can do it all

in a single call. Less typing and fewer chances for mistakes:

```
if
prxmatch("m/this|that|other/i",charvar) >
0 then found=1;
else found=0;
```

The 'm' at the beginning of the search string tells PRXMATCH that it is doing a matching operation. The 'i' at the end makes it a case insensitive match so that "THIS" is equal to "this" for the purpose of matching. The pipes separate the search strings. Do not add spaces unless they are part of the matching criteria because every character counts.

*For more information see PRXMATCH in the Functions section of the [SAS Language Reference:Dictionary](#) in the Online SAS Documentation*

## **Congratulations on free NESUG Registration!**

This year NESUG offered to each Local SAS Users Group one free conference registration to a LUG leader. The recipient of the first free NESUG conference registration for a HASUG leader is Parag Shiralkar. Congratulations Parag! Parag is also our new NESUG liaison.

NESUG 2010 is to be held in Baltimore, MD, November 14-17

## **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, 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](mailto: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

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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

<b><u>Name</u></b>	<b><u>Organization</u></b>	<b><u>Telephone</u></b>	<b><u>E-Mail</u></b>
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Gerald Zuckier	Aetna	(860) 273-2841	GZuckier@alum.mit.edu

**Directions to:  
eClinical Solutions  
A division of Eliassen Group  
Atrium Offices,  
New London Mall, FL 2, Suite A230  
351 North Frontage Road  
New London, CT 06320**

**Driving Directions from South:**

- On I-95 North take EXIT 82A toward FRONTAGE RD/NEW LONDON.
- Turn SLIGHT RIGHT onto VAUXHALL ST EXT
- VAUXHALL ST EXT becomes VAUXHALL ST.
- Turn LEFT onto COLMAN ST/US-1.
- Take the I-95 S ramp toward NEW HAVEN.
- Turn SLIGHT RIGHT onto N FRONTAGE RD.
- 351 N FRONTAGE RD is on the RIGHT.

**Driving Directions from North:**

- On I-95 South Take the US-1 exit, EXIT 83, toward NEW LONDON/FRONTAGE RDS/SHOPPING MALLS
- Stay STRAIGHT to go onto N FRONTAGE RD/US-1 S.
- Continue to follow N FRONTAGE RD
- 351 N FRONTAGE RD is on the RIGHT

**Note:** Suite A 230 is located above Marshals. Use the door to the Atrium Building and come to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor. You need not enter Marshals.

