



## **SAS® Tech Report**

**March 11, 2008**

Spring has sprung in some parts of the world ... but alas, a new *Tech Report* editor has not. I have the esteemed responsibility, as a manager in SAS External Communications, of hiring someone to fill Shelley Sessoms' talented shoes. But because one of the main aspects of this person's job will be to communicate with you, our most engaged customers, I want to make sure we find a good fit.

In the meantime, we've got tech tips and updates for you, including a profile of Richard Wright, longtime SAS user. Richard comments on the value of online SAS communities. Have you visited [sascommunity.org](http://sascommunity.org) today? Check it out ... or, if you're attending [SAS Global Forum](#) next week, you can learn more there. I'll see you in San Antonio!

**Kelly LeVoyer**

Manager, Marketing Editorial

## SAS News

### **Basic Statistics Using SAS® Enterprise Guide®: A Primer**

By: Geoff Der and Brian S. Everitt

List price: 39.95 USD

244 pages

ISBN: 978-1-59994-573-6\*\*

ISBN 10: \*\*

Publisher: SAS Press

Copyright Date: November 2007

#### Description:

Now it's easy to perform many of the most common statistical techniques when you use the SAS Enterprise Guide point-and-click interface to access the power of SAS. Emphasizing the practical aspects of the analysis, this example-rich guide shows you how to conduct a wide range of statistical analyses without any SAS programming required. One or more real data sets, a brief introduction of the technique, and a clear explanation of the SAS Enterprise Guide output are provided for each analysis. Exercises at the end of each chapter help you consolidate what has been learned.

#### Topics include:

- Analysis of variance
- Dealing with categorical data
- Logistic regression
- Regression
- Significance tests
- Survival analysis
- And more!

This text is ideal for those who want to use SAS to analyze their data, but do not have the time to undertake the considerable amount of learning involved in the programming approach.

#### Related Links: Companion Sites

##### SAS Products and Releases:

Base SAS: 9.2, 9.1.3, 9.1.2, 9.1, 9.0

SAS Enterprise Guide: 9.1.3, 9.1.2, 9.1, 9.0

Operating Systems: All

\*\* ISBNs have changed from 10 to 13 digits. To form the 13-digit ISBN, a prefix of "978" is added and the last digit is changed.

Order online: <http://www.sas.com/apps/pubscat/bookdetails.jsp?pc=61625&promo=EN>

## **Power Talk with Richard Wright**

Richard Wright's use of SAS started as an opportunity to make a little extra money while he was studying at the University of Oregon in the late 1970s.

Wright was majoring in economics and computer and information science. He was the first student at the university to own a personal computer — an Apple II. His econometrics professor, seeing his dual pursuit, asked him to write a multistep auto-regression program testing a theory on US - Canadian exchange rates. "He tossed me a book on something called SAS. A couple of months and three boxes of punch cards later, I had my first SAS program."

Today, Wright is regular contributor to the SAS Knowledge Base, offering his tips and advice on using SAS. He works for state agencies in Texas and is certified in base and advanced SAS programming. [View Wright's contributed tips](#)

### **Using SAS to Help State Government Run Smoothly**

For the past 20 years, Wright has worked in state government using SAS for a broad array of projects. "I have used it to compile and analyze worker compensation medical costs, usage, and system performance; to generate school finance estimates; to analyze and monitor risk exposure in state agencies; to generate precinct maps; to extract information from word documents; and to generate e-mail reports," Wright says.

Wright has often found innovative uses for SAS — sometimes to the point of being a bit embarrassing. One of the functions of a division he worked in was to monitor the state house and senate financial committee meetings. "But they would adjourn with no definite return date or time, so we would have to periodically monitor the live Web feed for their return," he says.

"I got the bright idea to run the Web site through some SAS code, and when the committee was back in session, to send an e-mail to the appropriate beeper. And it worked. Trouble was when I first tried this, I forgot to put a stop in the data step, which resulted in a half-dozen beepers getting called 10 times a minute," he recalls.

Wright has even put SAS to use in his volunteer pursuits. "I did a little GIS and analytical work when I was the campaign treasurer for a friend who was running for the board of the local community college. That was exciting - downloading gigabytes of census track information to a PC at dial-up speeds."

Wright did take a break from government work to take a position with a small energy contracting firm. There he was stuck using dBase, Excel and WordPerfect on an AT&T 6300. "I didn't use SAS then, but I wanted to."

### **Learning More and Helping Others**

Wright enjoys staying abreast of the latest developments and helping others do the same. "I find myself constantly referring to the 'what's new' part of the online documentation for insight into

alternative ways of approaching a task. Sometimes this leads to a new function; sometimes it leads to a new proc. Sometimes it suggests other paths to explore. In the same vein, I find that reading the SAS communities and SAS-L sites help, but frequently from a more 'clinical' or pragmatic perspective." Wright has recently been working with SAS Learning Edition to prepare presentations on subjects like using multiple SAS sessions in a virtual machine environment.

His knowledge has made him a popular "go-to" person in the SAS community. "I've always made myself available for help. I take questions through e-mail, in person, through the local SAS user group, the online SAS community and SAS-L. I do it as much for myself. It forces me to re-examine how to explain something or to hone how a SAS 'something' works."

## Statement of Support for Microsoft® Internet Explorer

SAS Enterprise BI Server and SAS BI Server (SAS 9.1.3 SP4) now support Microsoft Internet Explorer 7 (IE 7) on Windows XP Professional SP2. This announcement does not infer support for IE 7 on Windows Vista operating system.

Support is limited to IE 7 on Windows XP Professional SP2 for all SAS Foundation products, the SAS Enterprise BI Server and SAS BI Server. Support for SAS solutions is projected to be available in the near future.

SAS 9.1.3 Foundation products are supported on IE 7 on Windows Vista. For more information, read SAS 9.1.3 Support for Microsoft Windows Vista

<http://support.sas.com/techsup/pcn/vista.html>

Required hot fixes for SAS 9.1.3 SP4 SAS Enterprise BI Server and SAS BI Server support for IE 7 on Windows XP Professional SP2 are now available for download. Click the following links to access the fixes:

- Hot fix 913WEBINFRAKIT  
<http://ftp.sas.com/techsup/download/hotfix/idp913.html>
- Hot fix 31WEBOLAPVR  
<http://ftp.sas.com/techsup/download/hotfix/wov31.html>
- Hot fix 31CITATNWEB  
<http://ftp.sas.com/techsup/download/hotfix/wrs31.html>
- Hot fix 31WEBRPTVR  
<http://ftp.sas.com/techsup/download/hotfix/wrv31.html>

For more details, read [SAS Note 18994](#), SAS supports SAS 9.1.3 SP4 with Internet Explorer 7 on Windows XP Professional.

## Derive More Uses from the Round Function

### Sample 31109: Unusual Uses of the Round Function

Most people use the round function to round to the nearest decimal. There are other great ways to use the round function. You can use it to round to something other than the nearest decimal, such as to the nearest dollar value or to round times. The following code snippets provide examples of how you can expand your use of the round function.

#### Example showing how to round to the nearest decimal.

```
DATA _null_;
    cost = 4.99;
    units = 3;
    ucost = Round(cost/units,.01);
    PUT cost units ucost ;
RUN;
```

#### Example showing how to round a single value to the nearest quarter, the nearest nickel, and the nearest \$5.

```
DATA _null_;
    x = 234.2357222;
    x2 = Round(x, .25); * the nearest quarter;
    x3 = Round(x, .05); * the nearest nickel;
    x4 = Round(x, 5);   * the nearest 5 dollars;
    Put x x2 x3 x4;
RUN;
```

#### Example showing how to round times.

First a SAS datetime value is created using the DHMS function. Then the ROUND function is used with the HMS function to round to the nearest 15 minutes, 7 1/2 minutes and 15 seconds.

```
DATA _null_;
    dt = dhms('12mar2003'D,14,23,10); * create a datetime - 2:23pm;
    dt2 = Round(dt,hms(0,15,00)); * round it to nearest 15 minutes;
    dt3 = Round(dt,hms(0,7,30)); * round it to nearest 7 1/2
minutes;
    dt4 = Round(dt,hms(0,0,15)); * to the nearest 15 seconds;
    Put (dt dt2 dt3 dt4) (DATETIME. ' ');
RUN;
```

### Example showing how to round times using datetime constants.

```
DATA _null_;
  dt = '12mar2003:14:23:10'DT; * create a datetime - 2:23pm;
  dt2 = Round(dt,'0:15:00'T); * round it to nearest 15 minutes;
  dt3 = Round(dt,'0:7:30'T); * round it to nearest 7 1/2 minutes;
  dt4 = Round(dt,'0:00:15'T); * to the nearest 15 seconds;
  Put (dt dt2 dt3 dt4) (DATETIME. ' ');
RUN;
```

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### About the Author

Richard Wright began writing SAS code over 25 years ago keying code and data on punch cards as a student at University of Oregon. Since then he has worked at various agencies for the state of Texas. He is certified in Base and Advanced SAS.

## Sample 31096: How to Extract SYBASE Stored Procedures Using PROC SQL

This sample provides a simple way of extracting SYBASE stored procedures using PROC SQL. The code below:

```
connects to a SYBASE database on a UNIX server
extracts all of the information in SYSCOMMENTS (SYBASE stores procedures here)
stores the procedures in a SAS variable named TEXT
stores the variable TEXT in a SAS table named ONE
disconnects from the SYBASE database
```

**NOTE:** In retrieving all of the information stored in SYSCOMMENTS, you might find any or all of the following to be true:

```
unexpected or unwanted information
that the expected information has been deleted
that the user may not have administrative access/end user permission to access
SYSCOMMENTS
```

Therefore, you may have to confirm access to the information and may have to do additional programming to ensure that the results are totally inclusive of what is wanted and mutually exclusive of what is not wanted.

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### About the Author

Bryan K. Beverly is a Software Architect and Team Leader with BAE Systems Information Technology. He has been using SAS for 20+ years and is currently supporting SAS-based systems at the Bureau of Labor Statistics. Bryan has served as a presenter and volunteer at SAS conferences for more than 10 years.

## Events

### **SAS® Global Forum 2008**

<http://support.sas.com/events/sasglobalforum/2008/>

March 16-19  
San Antonio

### **F2008 Business Forecasting Conference**

<http://www.sas.com/events/fx>

June 2-3  
Cary, North Carolina

### **PharmaSUG**

<http://www.pharmasug.org>

June 1-4  
Atlanta, Georgia

## Webcasts

### **Better Decisions Faster with SAS® Optimization**

<http://www.sas.com/events/cm/149050/index.html>

On-Demand Webcast

### **Mining Text for Golden Service**

<http://www.bettermanagement.com/seminars/seminar.aspx?l=14536>

On-Demand Webcast

## Multimedia

### **New SGF Video Blog!**

<http://blogs.sas.com/sascom/index.php?/categories/11-SAS-Global-Forum>

Check out "Inside SAS Global Forum" for commentary from attendees, speakers and SAS employees. Also, see what goes on behind the scenes to prepare for the event.