

Keeping you up to date on what's happening at SAS

What's up at SAS

It's been a very busy year so far here at SAS, and another month has gone by. We hope you all had a relaxing and well deserved break over long weekend.

Last month saw the annual Global Forum being held in Texas, where many exciting announcements were made. It was at the Forum that SAS International announced its acquisition of Teragram, a U.S based company that has acquired a leading position in natural language processing and advanced linguistic technology. This acquisition should enhance the SAS business analytics and text mining offerings. Also in international news, US based Wescon Credit Union has selected a SAS solution.

On the local front, in a first for SAS for the year, a very successful 'Awareness Day' at the Human Sciences Research Council (HSRC) was held in Pretoria. The half day seminar was designed to create an awareness of SAS training and support and was broadcast to HSRC employees in both Cape Town and Durban. SAS is proud to announce it will be sponsoring the Digital Africa Summit, which will be held at the Hilton Hotel in Sandton from 22 – 24 April 2008. The event will be focusing on "next generation convergence driving positive change" and will discuss issues facing the African market.

This month's featured product, in light of the recent Teragram acquisition, is SAS Data Mining and Text Mining.

Let's hope the rolling black outs stay away for another while. Until next month.

SAS makes time for HSRC users

SAS Institute held an awareness conference for SAS users at the Human Sciences Research Council (HSRC)



in Pretoria. Congratulations to Lydia Mogoboe for organising this highly successful event. The half day seminar, which was broadcast to HSRC attendees in Cape Town and Durban, was held to create an awareness of the SAS training and support available, and to demonstrate to HSRC users how to get the most out of their SAS software.

Some of the industry experts speaking at the awareness meeting included Mr Goran Dragosavac from SAS South Africa, Ronelle Brandt from Stats SA and Hans de Roos from Octoplus Information Solutions.

The event was also designed to provide networking opportunities between SAS users and SAS experts. By providing support to

SAS clients in this manner SAS delegates were able to address issues and queries using a face to face and intimate approach.

Stats SA reaps SAS BI rewards, expands

Statistics SA, the official statistical body of South Africa, is expanding its SAS 9 EIP initiatives across the entire organisation following the successful implementation and migration to SAS 9 from SAS 8 last year.

Ronelle Brandt, Manager: Application Development and Processing Techniques at Stats SA says that the company took a decision two years ago to standardise and centralise its processing systems. Stats SA then implemented the SAS 9 EIP solution on a 64-bit Itanium platform, with SAS Enterprise Guide and the SAS Add-In for Microsoft Office as the client tools. Before using SAS, knowledge workers did their summaries, analysis and graphs with different tools and reports were manually collated. This created an opportunity for potential errors.

With the seamless integration of the platform last year, Brandt says knowledge workers have adapted quickly to the new environment. Usage of the EIP architecture has increased dramatically and Statistics SA is looking to expand its infrastructure to accommodate more users on the system.

LOCAL NEWS

Local interest spikes at BI Conference, says SAS

South African businesses that have implemented Business Intelligence (BI) initiatives say they are deriving excellent results from their solutions at enterprise level. This was the key message the 2008 annual ITWeb BI conference.

This year SAS had several customers speaking at the event as industry experts on the implementation of BI, including Ronelle Brandt from Stats SA, Judy Goodall from Momentum and Gustav Heymann from Fifth Discipline.

SAS sponsors Digital Africa Summit

SAS is sponsoring the 6th Annual Digital Africa Summit, to be held at the Hilton Sandton Hotel from the 22 – 24 April. The programme this year will focus on “next generation convergence driving positive change” and will centre around the new global currency created by access to information and the sharing of knowledge.

The summit will provide a platform for debate between leading regulatory authorities and operators from Africa and the world, as well as important solution providers and system integrators.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

SAS acquires Teragram to strengthen industry-leading text mining, analytics

SAS has acquired Teragram, the leader in natural language processing (NLP) and advanced linguistic technology. This will enhance SAS' own robust text mining and analytical BI offerings, and extend them to enterprise and mobile search.

Teragram's NLP technologies enable richer data processing at the level of words, linguistic relations and word meanings. Teragram has developed and maintains large annotated dictionaries containing several hundred million words in more than 30 languages.

With the addition of more resources from SAS, Teragram's existing customers and OEM partners will see enhanced R&D and support from Teragram, which will operate as a SAS company.

Wescom selects SAS to improve credit risk management

Wescom Credit Union, one of the largest credit unions in the US, chose SAS to help forecast portfolio credit loss. More precisely predicting future loan losses – a key component to Wescom's business plan – will help to improve proactive risk management.

With SAS software, Wescom hopes to more effectively balance risk across all portfolios. In addition, the credit union will be able to utilise the information within their collection strategies and collect according to forecasted portfolio losses rather than by risk score, which is just one indicator of potential losses.

Product in the Spotlight

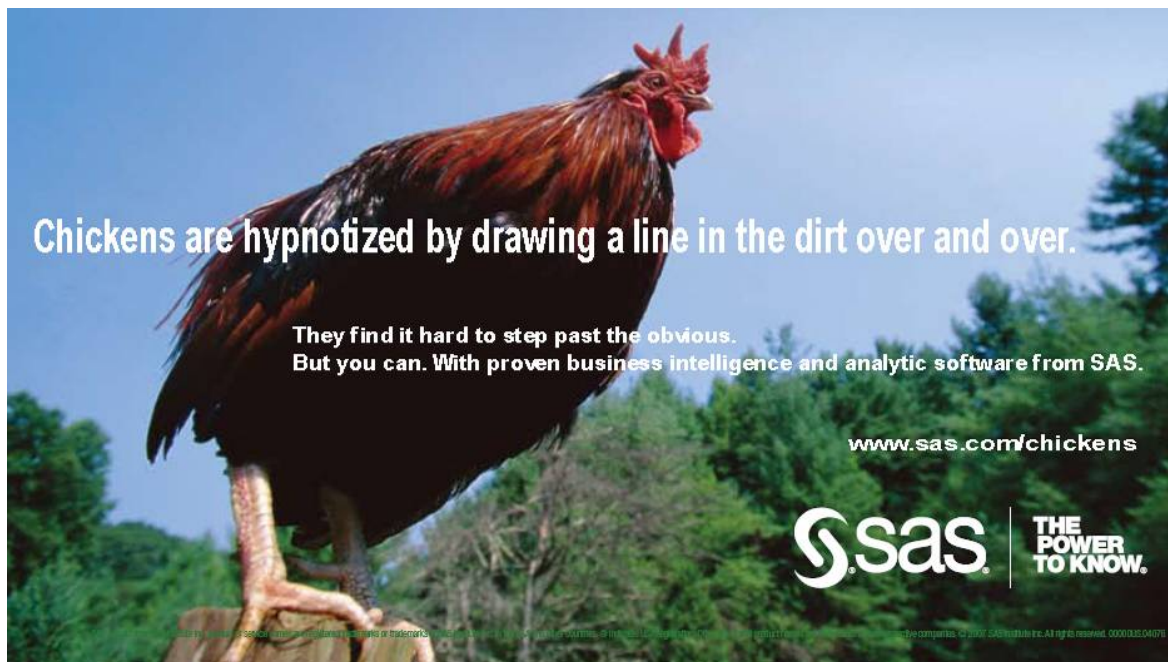
SAS Data Mining and Text Mining

Every organisation accumulates huge volumes of data from a variety of sources on a daily basis. Data mining is the process of selecting, exploring and modeling large amounts of raw data to uncover previously unknown trends and patterns. Text mining applies the same analysis techniques to text-based documents.

Only SAS offers a rich suite of integrated data mining tools that provide:

- Unprecedented ease of use.
- Ability to explore and exploit corporate data for strategic business advantage
- Reduced time to decisions and a more accurate organisational view.
- Services and training to help organisations get started right away.

For more information visit <http://www.sas.com/technologies/analytics/datamining/>



The bit at the end

We hope you enjoyed this edition of SAS Talk, if you have any suggestions for improvement, comments or interesting SAS info, please email marketing@zaf.sas.com.