

QUEST

Queensland Users Exploring
SAS Technology



Welcome to QUEST Q3 2008

No video today...

INSTEAD

Tips & Techniques

Tips & Techniques - #1

Q: Can you copy and paste between SAS Enterprise Guide projects?

A:

- Open two EG sessions, one with the project to copy from and the other with the project to paste to.
- In the first project, hold down the control key and select all data sources and tasks to copy over. DO NOT select any of the task results (HTML, PDF, etc.) or else for some reason you won't be able to copy.
- After selecting the data and tasks, right-click and Copy, then go to the new project and right-click -> Paste.
- Then, use Tools -> Replace SAS Server to switch the server reference. But remember the data source links must all be valid on the new server definition for everything to work.
- Then rerun the Flow to recreate the results in the new project.

Tips & Techniques - #2

Q: How can I easily get a “top 10” report using SQL?

A:

Use the `outobs=10` option with the `order by` clause. The `nowarn` option prevents a SAS warning in the log...

```
proc sql outobs=10 nowarn;  
  *output a report of the top 10 swimming race times :o) ;  
  select swimmer_name  
         ,race_date  
         ,race_time  
         ,race_placing  
  from swim_records  
  where race_type="100m freestyle"  
  order by race_time, race_date  
  ;  
  * then, you could continue on with other SQL statements  
  by 'clearing' the options again like this ;  
  reset outobs=max warn;  
  * <more SQL here> ;  
quit;
```

Tips & Techniques - #3

Q: How do you set up email to work with SAS Enterprise Guide?

A:

- In the SAS Workspace Server config file, add the following statements:
 - -emailsys smtp
 - -emailhost mailhost.fyi.sas.com
 - -emailport 25
- In SAS Enterprise Guide (Tools/Options/Email Setting)
 - set the mail host to the same as the emailhost above as the outgoing server, along with user name and password.

Tips & Techniques - #4

Q: How to easily determine the start and end of a financial year?

A:

- Rather than writing long winded and error-prone if/then/else statements to work out the beginning and end of a financial year, this can be done reliably with just the INTNX function and a YEAR.7 interval/shift-index. YEAR.7 means a year that starts in the 7th month.

- For example:

```
data _null_;  
    startOfThisFinYear = intnx('year.7', today(), 0, 'beginning');  
    endOfThisFinYear = intnx('year.7', today(), 0, 'end');  
    put startOfThisFinYear= date9. endOfThisFinYear= date9.;  
run;
```

which generates...

```
startOfThisFinYear=01JUL2008 endOfThisFinYear=30JUN2009
```

Tips & Techniques - #5

Q: What is a “name prefix list” and how are they useful?

A:

- A name prefix list allows you to specify a list of all variables that begin with a prefix, but without having to name each one individually.
- For example, “blah:” means all variables beginning with “blah” (i.e. blah1, blahA, blahAbc, blah123 etc.) Using an underscore as a prefix is very handy for temporary variables.
- For example:

```
data mydata;
  _part1='Hello';
  _part2='QUEST';
  _part3='Users';
  v8Method = trim(left(_part1))
              || ' ' || trim(left(_part2))
              || ' ' || trim(left(_part3));
  v9Method = catx(' ', of _part:);
  *uncomment below to drop all variables with underscore prefix;
  *drop _;;
run;
***Another tip is the use of the V9 catx function - look it up in the help;
```

Your turn - Prize for a Tip

- Who has a tip they would like to get up and share with us?
- We have 3 gifts to give...

House keeping

- Please fill in the evaluation forms
 - Interested in joining the QUEST committee?
 - Interested in presenting at a future QUEST?
- Courtesy to the presenters
 - No talking during the presentation, unless encouraged by presenter
 - Keep questions to the end

Agenda

- John Franklin, *Credit Union Australia*
 - Operational Business Intelligence: From Disparate Source Systems to Executive Dashboard and Reporting
- short break
- Peter Hughes *Pre-Sales Consultant, SAS Institute Australia*
 - New Features of SAS Enterprise 4.2
- Networking