In the Know

Latest News from SAS UK

Issue 19 – February / March 2006

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Thank you to everyone who completed our recent reader survey. Your responses, suggestions, likes and dislikes, are invaluable and will help us to develop In the Know. The winners of the prize draw are Maxine Crawley, Capital One; Helen Richardson, Pfizer Limited; and Jonnie Grady, HBOS plc. Congratulations!

In response to your comments, we are refining our content to better suit your needs and this will include more shared user experiences and hints and tips as many of you enjoy hearing from your industry peers. The SAS community is wide and varied and we are always looking to include a selection of your SAS hints and tips together with stories on how you are making the most of your SAS investment. This issue includes one reader's suggestion for useful links to SAS information.

In celebration of the RBS 6 Nations championship and SAS' appointment as the official data and competitive intelligence partner, we are offering you the opportunity to win a specially commissioned Result jacket by sending in your own SAS hints and tips or a short write up on your use of SAS. Alternatively, we would be happy to contact you for a brief interview. We will send you a jacket if your submission is published. Contact us at newsletter@suk.sas.com.

We are also looking for your views on hands-on Business Intelligence workshops – help us plan an event that suits you: http://www.sas.com/uk/events/bi_survey

CORPORATE NEWS

SAS Kicks Off as Official Data and Competitive Intelligence Partner to the RBS 6 Nations Championship

SAS has announced that it has been appointed as the official data and competitive intelligence partner of the RBS 6 Nations Championship, the world's biggest annual rugby tournament.

As part of the new partnership SAS will be providing the official RBS 6 Nations broadcasters (including the BBC, France Television, RTE and La7) with a comprehensive graphics and on-screen analysis. In addition a live data feed of match intelligence will be provided to the BBC Interactive TV rugby application, allowing fans at home to view real time competitive intelligence simply by pressing the red button.

SAS representatives will be present at all RBS 6 Nations matches, distributing post match data and analysis to all media representatives immediately after the game. This intelligence will also be emailed to participating unions and team coaches as well as to over 300 journalists from the local, national and European press.

Alastair Sim, Director of Strategy and Marketing for SAS, UK & Ireland commented: "We are extremely excited about the potential of this opportunity and are very much looking forward to developing a successful partnership between SAS and

the Six Nations. For nearly three decades SAS has excelled in creating competitive intelligence for organisations in business and government from massive amounts of data and we now look forward to bringing our expertise to this fantastic Championship."

Jacques Laurans, the Chairman of the Six Nations committee, added: "We are delighted to welcome SAS as an official partner. They have already demonstrated that they understand the complex requirements of the greatest annual rugby tournament in the world. We are extremely confident of SAS' ability to deliver valuable data and competitive intelligence in a very challenging environment."

Read more at: http://www.sas.com/uk/6nations/index.html

CORPORATE NEWS

SAS Positioned in Leaders Quadrant for Business Intelligence Platforms Magic Quadrant

SAS has been positioned by Gartner, Inc. in the Leaders Quadrant in the "Magic Quadrant for Business Intelligence Platforms, 1Q06" report. Leaders are vendors that are able to demonstrate reasonably strong breadth and depth of BI platform capabilities, as well as deliver on enterprise-wide implementations that support a broad BI strategy. Leaders successfully articulate a business proposition that resonates with buyers, supported by the viability and operational capability to deliver on a global basis.

"SAS delivers better answers faster with the most comprehensive offering on the market, one that integrates predictive analytics, data management and BI software. Our SAS®9 Enterprise Intelligence Platform brings together all the capabilities necessary for companies to be successful in meeting their business issues head-on," said Jim Davis, senior vice president and chief marketing officer at SAS. "In 2005, customers came to SAS in record-breaking numbers for business intelligence and business analytics software, and we believe SAS' position in the leader quadrant in the Business Intelligence Platforms Magic Quadrant further reflects the confidence our customers have shown in our BI capabilities."

SAS differentiates itself from other conventional BI vendors in the industry by providing unmatched technology and expertise in advanced analytics, data management and tailored solutions for specific industries, such as banking, life sciences, manufacturing and retail. SAS takes enterprises Beyond BI™ with a fast, simple and complete platform that integrates analytics to supply insight and hindsight in the form of historical reports as well as predictive analytics that help predict outcomes and provide greater insight and foresight. With these capabilities, SAS offers users at all levels immediate access to cleansed and reliable data through targeted user interfaces that match the skill level of the individual user. For more information on SAS' industry-leading vision of BI, please visit: www.sas.com/technologies/bi.

To view the Magic Quadrant report, see: www.sas.com/news/analysts

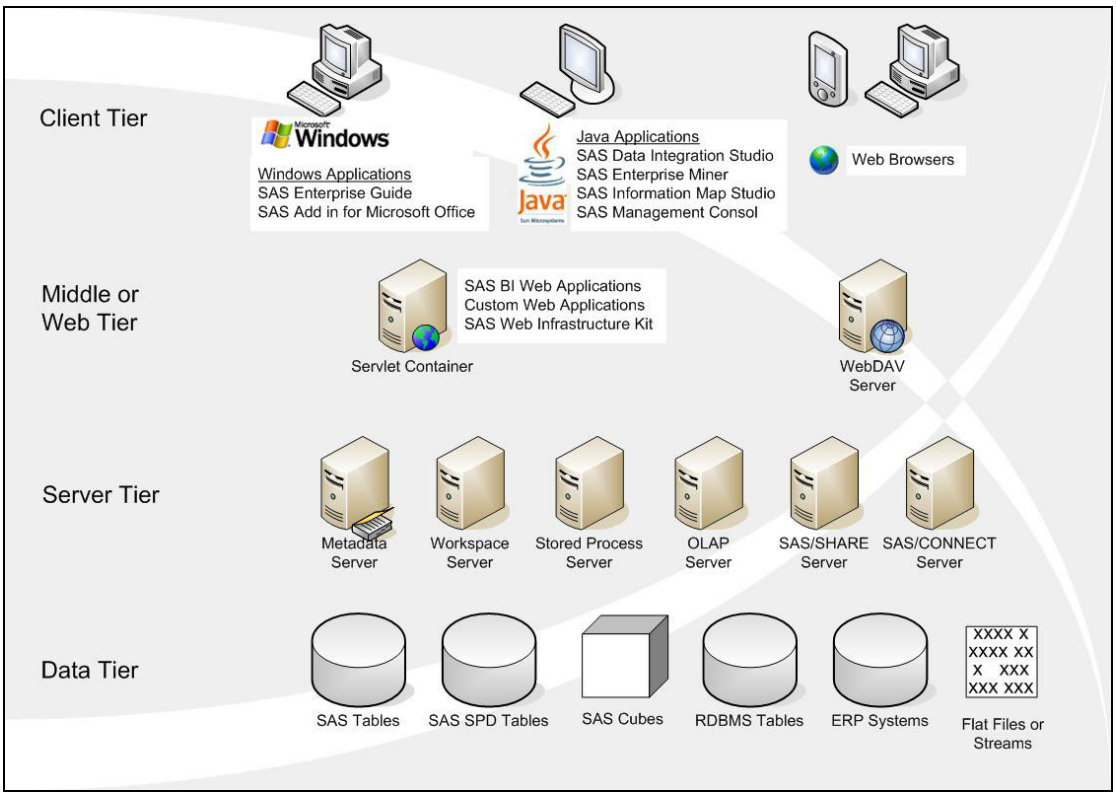
Source: Gartner Research. "Magic Quadrant for Business Intelligence Platforms, 1Q06" by Kurt Schlegel, Bill Hostmann, Andreas Bitterer, Betsy Burton. January 9, 2006.

About the Magic Quadrant
The Magic Quadrant is copyrighted January 9, 2006 by Gartner, Inc. and is reused with permission. The Magic Quadrant is a graphical representation of a marketplace at and for a specific time period. It depicts Gartner's analysis of how certain vendors measure against criteria for that marketplace, as defined by Gartner. Gartner does not endorse any vendor, product or service depicted in the Magic Quadrant, and does not advise technology users to select only those vendors placed in the "Leaders" quadrant. The Magic Quadrant is intended solely as a research tool, and is not meant to be a specific guide to action. Gartner disclaims all warranties, express or implied, with respect to this research, including any warranties of merchantability or fitness for a particular purpose.

Dissecting SAS

This article outlines and describes the components of the SAS® platform and how they relate to each other.

SAS® Platform – A Layered and Tiered Approach
To understand the SAS platform you should first understand the four tiers that make up the architecture and then the layers of technology within these tiers.



Data Tier
At the heart of any SAS license is Base SAS which in turn has three primary layers

- Input Layer
- Processing Layer
- Output Layer

Input Layer
The input layer represents SAS statements and APIs that point to and read or write data. For the most part every SAS installation, solution or application will include SAS code or SAS APIs that in turn include FILENAME or LIBNAME statements that point to folders, directories, files or other data sources. These are used for both input and output. SAS can read almost any data because of the engines supported by the LIBNAME statement. Some LIBNAME engines come from Base SAS and some are licensed separately (e.g. SAS/ACCESS® to Oracle).

The real benefits of this approach are that once a LIBNAME or FILENAME has been defined it can be referred to by its name from then on without worrying about details, locations or formats. This is what makes SAS so portable. The LIBNAME engines that are part of Base SAS are:

- Native SAS®9 through SAS 6 Datasets or Tables
- Native SAS® Scalable Performance Data Engine Tables
- Sequential Tape Decks or Reels
- SPSS Tables
- XML

- TCP/IP Ports

The following engines require additional licensing on top of Base SAS in most situations:

- Relational Databases – DB2, Informix, ODBC, OLE-DB, Oracle, SQL Server, Sybase, Teradata, and MySQL
- Non-Relational Databases – ADABAS, CA-IDMS, IMS, PC File Formats, and System 2000
- ERP System Access (what SAS calls Data Surveyors) – Oracle Applications, PeopleSoft, SAP and Siebel

While the LIBNAME points to a directory or folder the FILENAME statement points to a file or streaming data source. The data sources supported by the FILENAME statement in Base SAS are:

- Flat Files (of any record format)
- FTP
- SMTP (email)
- SOCKET
- URL or HTTP

A SAS programmer could write these statements but the SAS Platform allows an IT Administrator to define the pointers in the SAS® Management Console making the data sources (an entire data base or single file) available seamlessly to the rest of the components in the SAS Platform. The result is that the end user gets the information that they need, when they need it.

Server Tier
The majority of SAS processing takes place on the Server Tier. It is the Server Tier that handles, manages or executes all of the three primary layers within Base SAS.

Processing Layer
Within Base SAS code, processing takes place in Procedures, Data Steps and Macros. Those that know SAS code understand that these are amongst the most powerful methods of data manipulation and analytics on the market. In SAS®9, with its persona based GUIs, the need for users and analysts to write SAS code has been removed. SAS® Enterprise Guide®, SAS® Data Integration Studio and SAS® Enterprise Miner™ provide the functionality without requiring knowledge of the language.

However, the SAS 4GL is at the heart of every SAS implementation and understanding its power will enable any customer to further customise, troubleshoot and extend the value of their SAS applications.

Procedures
Base SAS delivers many pre-written and pre-tested procedures to manipulate or transform data. Traditional SAS users and SAS employees call these “procs” because of how they are coded in SAS programs. It is these procedures that are often called from the client GUIs. As a user completes dialog screens they are supplying the values to options in the procedure itself. It is still the case that knowing the actual procedure helps a customer to better know the available capabilities, know how to troubleshoot problems and where to get documentation on what can be accomplished.

Procedures need input data and output destinations. In SAS®9 the ability for an IT administrator to define the inputs and outputs in one place (in the metadata) protects the end user from needing to understand these concepts (the GUIs pick them up automatically), but can also make the programmer’s life much easier.

Data Step
There can be no doubt as to the power of Data Step. It can be as simple as a few lines of code that create a data table or view or it can be very complex performing transformations that are beyond the normal scope of rival software or SQL.

The Data Step has hundreds of available functions that can be used to further manipulate data such as functions for date comparison and processing, string handling, hex to decimal conversations and mathematical computations.

The Data Step is an integral part of SAS because it is sometimes needed to prepare, massage or join data to get it into the desired shape for use as the input to a procedure. In SAS®9 the client GUIs are extending the power of SAS to groups of users that are quite unaware of this programming language. However, just like the SAS procedure, the customer that understands SAS Data Step can increase the value of their SAS investment.

Macro Language
The SAS Macro language allows users to write macro code that dynamically creates SAS 4GL code. It can be easily used to accomplish difficult tasks or can be very complex and accomplish amazingly advanced tasks. The Macro language is used behind the scenes in almost all of the SAS GUIs – many times as pre-processing or clean-up tasks. Macros can be written and saved in Macro Libraries that are available to all SAS processes.

Output Layer
In the same way the procedures data steps can read from any data source with the use of FILENAME and LIBNAME statements, they can also write back to these locations since both are for input and output – with few exceptions. In addition to creating tables many SAS Procedures create other forms of output, such as HTML, RTF or PDF. The capability to generate these result types comes from the SAS Output Delivery System.

Many of the client GUIs utilise SAS ODS behind the scenes to manage output and with each new release the power and flexibility of these output options gets stronger and even more robust.

Stored Processes
Stored Processes are saved SAS programs that are registered in the central metadata repository, have an added ability to prompt for parameters (ie, Macro Variables), and are callable from many SAS GUIs. All of the information in the earlier sections on the Input, Processing and Output Layers of SAS applies to Stored Processes. A Stored Process can contain all of the functionality and power of SAS and can also be made available to non applications and GUIs.

Stored Processes can be authored by a SAS programmer or by point-and-click via SAS Enterprise Guide. Once created a Stored Process allows the non-programming user to take advantage of these common processes for use in interfaces such as SAS Enterprise Guide, SAS® Web Report Studio, SAS® Information Delivery Portal and SAS® Add-In for Microsoft Office, etc.

Middle (or Web) Tier
The Web Tier is a layer that enables clients on varying platforms (Windows, Unix, Linux, zOS) running varying application types (Windows, Java, Browser) to communicate with Web applications and servers on other varying platforms. It is a middleware layer that is described better in other papers and documents.

In some situations it is not needed. For example, if a Windows user has SAS Enterprise Guide and PC SAS installed locally on their computer, no Web Tier is needed to do basic SAS processing.

The WebDAV component is optional but needed for applications that require the storing of content, such as Stored Process output, by Web applications for later retrieval.

Client Tier
The Client Tier is the most visible aspect of SAS®9 and the most obvious change over earlier versions.

The Client GUIs are designed around the personas of the people who use them and make best and most appropriate use of the SAS technologies described above, whilst utilising the most suitable architecture and technology.

SAS Enterprise Guide is a Windows-only application based on the .NET framework from Microsoft. By using Windows technology the power users and analysts get the full functionality they need on an operating system they already use.

IT oriented clients, such as SAS® Enterprise Data Integration Studio, SAS® Management Console and SAS® Information Map Studio are Java applications as their users are as likely to use Windows as Unix operating systems

Mass population clients, such as SAS Web Report Studio and the SAS Information Delivery Portal are web based and need only a browser to use them. This reduces the strain on IT by reliving much of the burden of desktop maintenance.

Conclusion
Although SAS has evolved significantly, the traditional skills that many SAS programmers have developed over the years can complement the new ways of working, and still be used to increase the value of a customer's investment in SAS.

This article is also available to download or read online at:
http://www.sas.com/uk/newsletter/feature/19feb_mar06/anatomy.html

Data Integration: Time to Look Again?

As a SAS® user, you are familiar with the power you can gain from SAS' data management capabilities. You have been involved in providing data and applications to support decision-making, and understand the benefits of having a consistent foundation from which to work. The foundations you have built combine current and historical operational data and enable the business to identify trends and predict outcomes.

It's likely, however, that your capability has grown organically as your experience with SAS has grown. This article aims to bring you up-to-date with new capabilities within the SAS® Enterprise Intelligence Platform.

Strategies for data integration

Experience has shown that organisations need to adopt a strategy for data integration because they have a wide range of requirements to address, including the need to:

- Report on an operational level from a single database (operational reporting) and across multiple databases (data federation)
- Move data from one database to another (data migration)
- Co-ordinate records in databases (data synchronisation)
- Consistently store master reference data (master data management)
- Consolidate data from multiple databases (ETL) into a single view of customer, product, employees - allowing you to report, analyse, predict and optimise

Due to the breadth of capability required and the complexity of some of the tasks involved, data integration remains a major challenge for many organisations. In fact, analysts estimate that between 70 and 80% of all data integration solutions are still hand-coded. This often leads to programs that are difficult to maintain and requires deployment of significant resources to manage and execute. Tools are now available, however, to help ensure process efficiency and deliver the data quality the business demands.

New capabilities

To support your data integration strategy, new capabilities within the SAS Enterprise Intelligence Platform are designed to make your life easier in four key areas:

- Increased speed – up to 45% faster performance than SAS® 8
- Greater consistency and accuracy – via a single metadata architecture
- Improved productivity through ease of use – via an optimised task interface
- Increased flexibility – grid deployment, customisable, etc.

"SAS enables you to manage consistent and trusted data across the enterprise," says Leigh Bates, Product Manager, SAS UK. "You can access, cleanse, integrate and manage growing data volumes more efficiently and cost-effectively – so you can spend more time delivering strategic value through the use of that data. SAS capabilities are directly mapped to overcoming the barriers to data integration, accelerating and increasing the return on investment from your information assets."

The SAS® advantage

Rapid Development - tools include drag and drop wizards. SAS programs can also be packaged into re-usable transformations for distribution across teams.

ETL - extract, transform and load from multiple platforms and sources, a classic SAS benefit.

Data Quality - processing efficiency is maximised through integrated data quality routines to identify anomalies and initiate action to standardise, consolidate and match data.

Data Migration – with the introduction of new applications and upgrades, organisations need to migrate data from legacy applications. Data integration capabilities in SAS are a key driver of success in such projects.

Data Synchronisation - ensuring data consistency across many applications is a challenge. With SAS, synchronisation is an ongoing ETL process that occurs between operational systems.

Data Federation - SAS enables business users to integrate data from multiple sources into a single virtual view; data remains at the source while the virtual integrated view stays in memory, to be queried as needed, so removing the storage overhead.

Leigh Bates adds, “The latest SAS solutions bring a new level of control and accountability to all aspects of data integration: from auto-generated audit trails of changes over a project lifecycle, to easy-to-use metadata management and a single administrative window into information systems.

“The bottom line is that the SAS® Data Integration Solution is fast, accurate, simple and flexible, allowing you to make the most of your data assets to fuel effective decision making across the organisation.”

Learn more at www.sas.com/technologies/dw

SUPPORT & SERVICES

See Your Course More Clearly with Free Bollé Skiing Goggles

A pair of Bollé Skiing Goggles can be yours by simply booking and attending a public SAS course before 30 April 2006; and quoting 'SKI-ITK'. You can also claim a free ski hat by attending Presenting Data Graphically with SAS®, taking place in March.

For terms and conditions and to view the extensive range of public SAS courses, please visit our website: http://www.sas.com/offices/europe/uk/education/

SUPPORT & SERVICES

Multiple Delegate Discount on SAS Courses

Are you looking at booking multiple delegates to attend the same public SAS course? If so, you can now save money by booking three delegates for a discount of 5% each or four delegates for a 10% discount each. Please quote 'MDD' when booking. The offer is not available in conjunction with other offers and full terms and conditions apply.

Read more online: http://www.sas.com/offices/europe/uk/education/index.html

SUPPORT & SERVICES

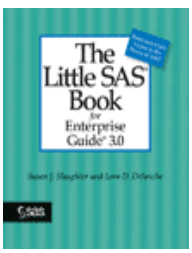
Special Offer on Business User Courses

SAS offers three courses designed specifically for the business user: Introduction to SAS® Web Report Studio, Accessing SAS Data from Microsoft Office Applications and Introduction to the SAS® Information Delivery Portal. You can now save money by booking all three courses together.

Read more online: http://www.sas.com/offices/europe/uk/education/roles/index.html

SUPPORT & SERVICES

The Little SAS Book for SAS® Enterprise Guide® 3.0



Learning to use SAS Enterprise Guide has never been easier! With The Little SAS Book for Enterprise Guide 3.0, Susan Slaughter and Lora Delwiche help you quickly become familiar with the SAS Enterprise Guide point-and-click environment. A series of carefully designed tutorials help you master the basics of the tasks you'll want to do most frequently. The reference section of the book expands on the tutorial topics, focusing on specific features. If you are new to SAS or new to SAS Enterprise Guide, this book will be an invaluable tool for you to use on your way to becoming an expert.

Order your copy online: http://www.sas.com/apps/pubscat/bookdetails.jsp?pc=60410&promo=FB

SAS Hot Fixes: An Evolving Process

A **Hot fix** is an individual quick fix to an immediate critical problem, an essential fix to a commonly recurring problem or a fix for necessary system maintenance.

A **Hot fix bundle** is simply an accumulation of one or more individual hot fixes.

A **Defect** is a description of a bug in the SAS software.

An **Alert Note** lists problems or defects that users need to be aware of before installing or while using The SAS System. You can receive them by subscribing to the TSNEWS-L listserv. For information on how the TSNEWS-L listserv works and how to subscribe to it please visit:

http://www.sas.com/service/techsup/news/tsnews.html

A **Service Pack** is a complete software update containing system enhancements and bug fixes in one installable package.

A hot fix is usually created for a priority alert defect, while alert and commonly encountered defects remain the primary focus for hot fixes, the hot fix process has branched out to provide fixes for less critical and less widespread defects. Hot fixes are also helping customers to maintain older SAS Systems until they are ready to upgrade to the latest production release.

This evolving fix process has resulted in several commonly asked questions.

Q: Do I need to apply every available hot fix to my SAS installation?
A: SAS users are encouraged to keep their SAS System as up-to-date as possible, yet there is no reason to feel obligated to install all SAS hot fixes at every SAS site. Applying only the hot fixes that impact the way an individual site uses SAS is an acceptable approach.

Q: Is it ok to apply hot fixes only on an "as-needed" basis?
A: Yes. Many SAS customers apply a hot fix only if someone at their site runs across a specific problem that a hot fix addresses.

Q: Are there certain critical hot fixes that I should apply to my SAS installation?
A: SAS Technical Support identifies issues that are critical to customers. These issues are indicated on the hot fix download site with the word *ALERT*. If you think a specific ALERT issue could impact your site, you should install the appropriate hot fix.

Q: Other than ALERT issues, how do I know which hot fixes I really need?
A: The answer will vary based on how your site uses SAS. You may want to apply hot fixes for specific SAS procedures, products or solutions which are critical to your site. You should also install hot fixes which are referenced in SAS documentation or which are recommended to you by SAS Technical Support consultants.

Q: Are hot fixes safe to apply to my SAS installation?
A: We make every effort to ensure that hot fixes are safe. Hot fixes are tested to confirm that they not only address the issues at hand, but also to make sure no regressions (i.e. new problems) are introduced. SAS hot fixes are fully supported.

Q: Is it ok to not install any SAS hot fixes?
A: If you are not experiencing a problem addressed by a hot fix, do not feel obligated to install the hot fix. However, you should monitor ALERT issues on the hot fix download site and consider the potential impact of these issues based on your use of SAS.

More FAQ on using SAS hot fixes can be found at the following site:

http://ftp.sas.com/techsup/download/hotfix/faq.html

Please visit the following site to download the latest SAS Hot fixes and Service packs:
http://ftp.sas.com/techsup/download/hotfix/hotfix.html

HINTS & TIPS

How do I Change the Table Cell Borders using BASE ODS HTML?

In this example we are using BASE ODS to create a report in html format. The example uses CSS (Cascading Style Sheets) style properties and the HTMLSTYLE attribute with the border parameter to enhance the table borders. A CSS is a simple mechanism for adding styles such as fonts, colours, margins etc., to an HTML file. The HTMLSTYLE= attribute is used to define a style locally in a tag (that is, an inline style) instead of embedded it in a <style> block or externally in a CSS file.

The ODS code below shows how you can change the style of the cell borders for each column within the sample CLASS dataset using Proc Report to create your table and BASE ODS HTML code to modify the output.

```
/* Use ODS syntax to write to a HTML format file */

ods html file="d:\temp\report.html";

/* Define how you would like the columns and headers displayed e.g. Font, Font sizes,
Colours etc */

proc report data=sasuser.class nowd split='#'
style(header)=[font_face=arial font_size=3.5
foreground=blue background=beige borderwidth=5px bordercolor=green]
style(column)=[font_face=optima foreground=black background=white cellwidth=30];

/* Define which columns you would like to appear in the report */

column name weight age height;

define name / display ;
define weight / display ;
define age / display ;
define height / display;

/* Use CSS style properties to specify how you would like the borders displayed for each
column */

compute name;
call define ('name', "style",
'style={htmlstyle="border-bottom: 3px dotted green;border-left: 2px dotted green;
border-right: 2px dotted green ;border-top: none"}');
endcomp;

compute weight;
call define ('weight', "style",
'style={htmlstyle="border-bottom:2px solid brown;border-left: 3px solid brown;
border-right: 3px solid brown;border-top: none"}');
endcomp;

compute age;
call define ('age', "style",
'style={htmlstyle="border-bottom:2px solid blue;border-left: 2px solid blue;
border-right: 2px solid blue ;border-top: none"}');
endcomp;

compute height;
call define ('height', "style",
'style={htmlstyle="border-bottom:3px dashed red ;border-left: 3px dashed red;
```

```
border-right: 3px dashed red;border-top: none"}');
endcomp;

run;

ods html close;
```

This example is not applicable for RTF and PDF output formats.

For more examples of using the Output Delivery System, please visit the following website:
http://support.sas.com/rnd/base/index-ods-resources.html

This hint & tip is available online: http://www.sas.com/uk/newsletter/feature/19feb_mar06/base.html

HINTS & TIPS

Useful Links for SAS Information

In Issue 6 of In the Know, we talked about where you could find an index of SAS Books with Online Sample Code:
http://support.sas.com/documentation/onlinedoc/code.samples.html

Below are many more useful web links where you can obtain technical information to help with any SAS queries you may have.

SAS Notes - Primary source of information used by Technical Support consultants to answer questions from our customers:
http://support.sas.com/techsup/search/sasnotes.html

Technical Support Documents - (Also known as TS Docs and Technical Notes) Documents that address specific programming problems, processes, product changes, or provide other helpful information.
http://support.sas.com/techsup/tnote/technote.html

FAQ - A collection of the questions most commonly asked of our Technical Support Staff.
http://support.sas.com/techsup/faq/
http://support.sas.com/faq/

SAS Sample Programs - Check this page for a variety of samples, technical tips, and how-to advice.
http://support.sas.com/techsup/sample/sample_library.html
http://support.sas.com/ctx/samples/index.jsp

Software, Hot Fixes, Service Packs and Maintenance Levels - View and download SAS System hot fixes and additional software.
http://ftp.sas.com/techsup/download/hotfix/hotfix.html
http://support.sas.com/techsup/tnote/tnote_maint.html
http://www.sas.com/apps/demosdownloads/setupintro.jsp?listing=cat&sublist=none

Administrator Documentation - Resources for SAS administrators including alert notes, installation instructions, Setinit instructions, and system requirements.
http://support.sas.com/documentation/installcenter/
http://support.sas.com/documentation/installcenter/admindoc.html

Technical Support News - Get the latest from the Technical Support Division, including news about the SASware Ballot and find out how to keep informed through mailing lists.
http://support.sas.com/techsup/news/index.html

Documentation - Locate product-specific documentation by selecting a product name from the list below. If you do not find documentation for your product, refer to the SAS OnlineDoc for the complete documentation set.
http://support.sas.com/documentation/onlinedoc/

SAS/Access Validation - This application provides information about the relationship between your Operating System, your DBMS and your SAS Release.
http://support.sas.com/techsup/access/searchPage.hsql

User Groups - The close relationship between SAS and its customers includes support for many local, regional, international and special-interest SAS user groups.
http://support.sas.com/usergroups/intro.html

SAS Users Group International Online Proceedings - Read SUGI proceedings online or purchase SUGI papers on CD.
http://support.sas.com/usergroups/sugi/proceedings/index.html

SAS Publishing - SAS Books available on line.
http://support.sas.com/publishing/index.html

Products & Solutions - A complete list of SAS products and solutions.
http://www.sas.com/products/

SAS Technical Papers - Explore the technical papers and presentations written by the SAS technical staff.
http://support.sas.com/documentation/whitepaper/technical/

Magazines & Newsletters - SAS news and information delivered to your inbox.
http://support.sas.com/documentation/periodicals/index.html

SAS Certification - SAS offers five globally recognised certifications exams.
http://www.sas.com/offices/europe/uk/certification/index.html

Migration Community – A field guide for successfully migrating your organization to SAS®9.
http://support.sas.com/rnd/migration/index.html
http://support.sas.com/rnd/migration/resources/peaceful.html

HINTS & TIPS

Share Your Thoughts and Receive an RBS 6 Nations Result Jacket

Are there topics that you would like to see covered in Hints & Tips or do you have a hint & tip of your own that you would like to share with other readers? Please contact us with your ideas and if we publish your hint & tip, we will send you a specially commissioned Result jacket!

Email: newsletter@suk.sas.com

EVENTS

Hands-On Business Intelligence Workshops

Following the success of the hands-on Business Intelligence workshops held at SAS Forum UK 2005, we are considering re-running regional workshops throughout 2006. The workshops will provide you with an opportunity to work directly with SAS® BI Server, including SAS® Web Report Studio, in a live guided session. To ensure that you are able to benefit fully from these workshops we are interested in hearing your feedback on locations and timings before we plan the final events.

To have your say, please complete this short survey: http://www.sas.com/uk/events/bi_survey

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Technology Web Seminar Series: Data Integration - 15 March

This web seminar focuses on the topic of Data Integration, its importance to the BI Platform and the latest trends in the market. Featuring Butler Group's research director, Tim Jennings, this session provides SAS users with an opportunity to see how SAS® Enterprise Data Integration Server can combine data from disparate "silos" of information in the most timely, cost-efficient manner.

Read more and register online: http://www.sas.com/uk/events/webseminar_di/

Technology Web Seminar Series: Business Intelligence - 22 March

SAS, in partnership with one of the UK's leading analysts will discuss how the information delivery mission has changed. Where previously it was good enough to provide management information to executives, today's challenge is to deploy information across the entire organisation.

Read more and register online: http://www.sas.com/uk/events/webseminar_bi/

SAS Forum International 2006 – Geneva, 16-18 May

The premier international event for enterprise business intelligence takes place in Geneva, Switzerland with renowned Nobel Prize Laureate, Edward C. Prescott featuring as the keynote speaker. Read more online and sign up for regular email updates for the most highly attended event in the European professional's calendar.

Read more and register online:
http://support.sas.com/events/sasforuminternational2006/home.html

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