



In this issue ...

- **SAS® Enterprise Guide expert share a hint from his new book**
- **Top tips from SAS® Support**
- **SAS® Forum UK 2007**
- **Recommended Reading**
- **Other News includes:**
 - **News from the Blogosphere**
 - **Take our web survey and claim your free gift**
 - **Free weather station offer**



Phil Male
Editor, Marketing
SAS UK

IN THE KNOW:

The newsletter for smart users of SAS®

Welcome to 'In the Know'

Dear Readers

Welcome to issue 28 of In the Know (ITK). ITK brings you news, tips, special offers and information from the world of SAS.

SAS Enterprise Guide is a great way to make best use of the power of SAS. Neil Constable, SAS trainer and author of '*SAS Programming for Enterprise Guide Users*' shares some of his knowledge in our lead article. You can also find out about some of the other books available in our 'Recommended Reading' section. Click on 'Top Tips from SAS Support' for more useful hints and ideas from our friends in SAS Support.

In 'News from the Blogosphere' we take a look at the newly launched SAS blog spot.

Finally, I hope that I'll get a chance to meet up with some of you at this year's SAS Forum UK. If you haven't registered yet, take a look at the SAS Forum section.

Phil Male, Editor, Marketing
October 2007

'In the Know' is one of a range of SAS newsletters and publications that you can subscribe to.

Take a look at

www.sas.com/uk/pubs

to find out more.

**THE
POWER
TO KNOW®**

Top Tips from SAS® Customer Support

TIP 1: UPDATE: Support for SAS® on Microsoft Windows Vista™

General availability of Microsoft Windows Vista has generated many requests from existing SAS customers for support of this operating system. SAS is now announcing support of Microsoft Vista for some of our 9.1.3 SP4 products.

- Starting in July 2007, Microsoft Windows Vista is supported with SAS 9.1.3 SP4 for an identified set of products. Please see Usage Note SN-020402 below for more details on products supported:
<http://support.sas.com/techsup/unotes/SN/020/020402.html>
- SAS 9.1.3 SP4 supports 3 of the 5 Windows Vista editions for 32-bit editions only. The following versions are targeted at the business market:
 - o Windows Vista Business
 - o Windows Vista Enterprise - available only to Microsoft Enterprise Agreement customers
 - o Windows Vista Ultimate
- SAS 9.1.3 SP4 does NOT support the editions targeted at the consumer market. These editions include Windows Vista Home Premium and Windows Vista Home Basic.
- SAS 9.1.3 SP4 products support the three 32-bit versions of Windows Vista that are targeted at the business market. SAS 9.1.3.SP4 does not support Windows Vista 64-bit editions at this time. More information on Windows Vista 64-bit edi-

tions can be found here at: support.microsoft.com/kb/932795/en-us.

- There are significant hardware requirements to run Windows Vista.
 - o The general recommendation is to deploy Windows Vista on only new personal computers, since older hardware lacks the power to take advantage of the operating system.
 - o Machines that carry the “Windows Vista Capable” label can use basic Vista features such as User Account Control and search, but not the new Aero interface.
 - o Windows Vista Premium Ready machines are capable of using all of Vista’s features.
- Internet Explorer 7, the default Web browser for Vista, is supported.
 - o The SAS Windowing Environment, also known as Display Manager, uses IE 7 to display Output Delivery System output (ODS). ODS utilizes IE Active X control in rendering HTML.
 - o At this time, IE 7 rendering is not supported for the Information Delivery Portal, Web Report Studio, SAS OLAP Viewer for Java or any SAS solutions.

For more details, read Support and installation of SAS 9.1.3 SP4 on Microsoft Windows Vista at:

<http://support.sas.com/techsup/unotes/SN/020/020430.html>

TIP 2: New Dashboard Capability for SAS® Enterprise BI Server Portlet Application Combines Ease of Use, Graphical Appeal

The recent release of the SAS® BI Dashboard is one more compelling reason to upgrade to 9.1.3 Service Pack 4 (SP4) and enjoy the full benefits of your investment. For some time now, customers have been asking SAS to deliver an out-of-the-box dashboard capability with the SAS Enterprise BI Server. Dashboarding has always been possible with the SAS Enterprise BI server, but with the arrival of the SAS BI Dashboard, a new portlet application available to SAS Enterprise Business Intelligence Server customers running SAS 9.1.3 SP4, it just got even easier and more visually appealing.

Dashboarding, simply put, is a way to represent numbers in an easily consumable, graphical form. A dashboard is only able to convey the information provided to it, and the value of that information can vary wildly, as can the interpretation of what is being displayed. To be of maximum value, a dashboard should go beyond the traditional display of actual vs. target numbers, displaying numbers linked to an organisation’s strategy, cause-and-effect relationships and business process.

The SAS BI Dashboard allows the rapid creation and deployment of dashboards that display data from a wide variety of sources and systems.

It features point-and-click interfaces, a variety of graphical indicators that can be selected by the viewer and the ability to consume data for display from a wide variety of sources. Users will find they can quickly devise dashboards without the need to write or maintain code. They can also display forward-looking indicators (additional software to generate information may be required), giving decision makers early warnings of trouble ahead so problems can be prevented, or confirmation that the forecast is bright so needless preventative measures can be avoided.

If you have an interest in the SAS BI Dashboard and meet the criteria, ask your SAS account representative how you can get it. If you have a need for dashboards and do not have the SAS Enterprise BI Server, it may be time to take a look at what SAS software can do to help transform your organisation. If this sounds like something that your company needs, don't stop with the SAS BI Dashboard, take a look at SAS for Performance Management as well.

TIP 3: Import CSV files and create SAS® data sets on the fly!

(Written by Mohammad Abbas)

SAS users and programmers are familiar with the traditional way in which SAS reads external files such as CSV or TXT files using Filename and Infile statement. For example:

```
filename oscar "H:\ACCOUNTS\
People\Mohammad\stat_data\
Barley.csv";

data Barley;

infile oscar;

input yield variety $ year site $;

run;
```

As can be seen this method of reading external files works well, however on an industrial scale, and in high pressure working environments where there is a need for speed, the traditional approach becomes less manageable when handling large number of CSV files that are not of fixed data structure.

For example:

1. If the user wants to read multiple CSV files and to create multiple SAS data sets simultaneously.
2. If the CSV files to be read are regularly changeable both in variable names, formats and data values.

The Macro, I am submitting, works well both in terms practicality and selectivity. It offers the user the chance to select which data sets to be imported. It also offers the user the chance to generate summary statistics by customising the macro to include one or more of SAS Procedures.

Here, I describe the practical aspects of using the Macro.

Create "what I called Datalog" which is essentially an Excel sheet saved as in CSV format containing the Name and Path of the CSV files to be imported into SAS.

Datalog.csv

Name	Path
Barley	C:\stat_data\Barley.csv
Bloodpressure	C:\stat_data\Bloodpressure.csv

The body of the macro is divided into 3 key sections:

Section 1

Defines macro variables for Datalog, file path and libref. In this case I created 2 file paths to add flexibility to using the macro for example at home or at work.

```
options symbolgen mlogic
nomprint;
```

```
/*Leave options on as SAS will
issue a message when Do While
Loop is false*/
```

```
%let dsname = Datalog;
```

```
%let path1 = C:\stat_data\
&&dsname..csv;
```

```
%let path2 = H:\accounts\
people\mohammad\stat_data\
&&dsname..csv;
```

```
%let libto = Stat;
```

Section 2

In this section, 3 positional parameters are defined (n, x, index)

n: is a counting macro variable representing the lower limit of the number of CSV files to be read into SAS.

x: is a macro variable to switch between path1 or path2 (e.g. C:\ or H:\).

index: is a variable that can be thought of as observation number(row number) representing the upper limit of the number of CSV files to be read into SAS.

```
%Macro get_data(n,x,index);
/*Check if datalog exists in dir, if
it exists then import it from Excel
and create SAS data set called
Datalog*/
```

```
%IF &n <= &index %then %Do;
%let foundit = %sysfunc(exist(&&
path&x..&dsname));
```

```
proc import datafile= "&&path&x"
out=&libto..&dsname
dbms=dlm
replace;
delimiter= ",";
getnames=yes;
run;
```

Title “Comma Delimited Files Listing In &dsname as of &sysdate”;

```
proc print data=&libto.&dsname  
;run;
```

Title “ “;

Section 3

Here, the macro uses the Do While loop to iterate through the observations of datalog. As long as &n is less than or equal to &index, (i.e. the Do While condition is true) the macro will extract the name, path and index of each CSV dataset within the bounds of the positional parameters &n and &index in the macro call %get_data(n,x,index).

This part of the macro used DO While to loop through the name, path of each CSV file and extracts the data sets specified by the upper limit index and the lower limit n.

```
%DO %WHILE (&n <=&index);
```

```
data _NULL_;  
set &libto.&dsname end=last;  
if _N_ =&n then Do;  
call symput('path',Path);  
call symput('dsn',Name);
```

```
if not last then index+1;  
else if last then  
call symput ('index',index);  
End;  
run;
```

```
proc import datafile= “&path”  
out= &libto.&dsn  
dbms=dlm  
replace;  
delimiter=“,” ;  
getnames=yes;  
run;
```

Title “Data set &dsn”;

```
proc print data=&libto.&dsn;  
run;
```

Title “ “;

```
%let n=%eval(&n+1);  
%let log1 = C:\log\statlog.txt;  
%let log2 = H:\..\..\statlog.txt;
```

```
proc printto log=”&&log&x”;  
run;
```

```
%End;  
%End;
```

Two additional points to mention here:

1. As you can see the details of the log is written to a local folder. This is for clarity and ease of viewing of Note, Warnings and Error Messages. I would like to add that if SAS stops executing the macro for whatever reason, the error messages will be written to the external log txt file.
2. To view the CSV files in HTML Format as they are uploaded into SAS, Go to Tools—Options – Preferences—Select the Results Tab Under Listing Checkbox Deselect Create Listing Under HTML checkbox select Create HTML

Point 2 can also be achieved using ODS HTML to output HTML viewer to a local folder or to a web browser.

```
ODS LISTING CLOSE;  
ODS HTML FILE = “C:\sas_output\  
&dsn.html”;
```

```
proc print data=&libto.&dsn;  
run;
```

Section 4

In this section, the data step here is for checking if &n gt &index. If it is then an Error Message is written to the log to notify the user that the macro has stopped executing.

```
Data _NULL_;  
set &libto.&dsname;  
%IF &n gt &Index %then %Put  
ERROR Ending execution: Check  
values of n and Index (n must be  
less than or equal to index);  
run;
```

```
%Mend get_data;  
  
/* Macro Call*/  
%get_data(1,2,2);
```

To conclude:

I believe this macro is simple, efficient and it offers the following advantages

1. Speeds up input of TXT or CSV files
2. Central repository for all CSV files. It requires very little effort in maintaining the listing of CSV file names and paths. It also prevents the datasets from being spread in various folders and hence minimizes clutter and loss of data files.
3. Although this macro is run locally, none-the-less, it remained very efficient when reading CSV files to a SAS library on the UNIX SERVER. It took approximately 4.5 minutes to read 67 data sets ranging from 10 observations to 32000 when the server was relatively busy.



SAS® FORUM UNITED KINGDOM 2007 BIRMINGHAM

31 October – 1 November 2007

The fast track to solving business critical issues

SAS® Forum UK 2007 is aimed at smart users of SAS and provides the perfect opportunity to hear the current news from the world of SAS, learn from the experiences and achievements of leading UK companies and address specific questions about SAS software directly to our experts.

Highlights over the 2 days include:

- **Keynote Addresses** – by Keith Collins, Senior Vice President & Chief Technology Officer, SAS, Aiman Zeid from the SAS Global BI & DI Consulting Practice and our Platinum sponsor Atos Origin
- **Solutions Showcase** – topics include:
 - o Customer Intelligence:
The Evolution of Customer Management, Customer Experience Capability, Marketing Effectiveness and Marketing Optimisation
 - o Risk Intelligence: Fraud Detection Strategies, Risk Reporting and Integrating Risk Analysis with MS Office
 - o Enterprise Intelligence Platform:
Putting the Business Intelligence of the Future into Practice
 - o Performance Management:
Driving Profitability, Strategic Alignment, Integrated Performance Management and IT Performance Management
- **Industry Sessions** – best practice experiences from Orange, Gloucestershire Constabulary, IMS Health, DWP, Detica on Financial Services Authority and Definitive Quality Solutions on Norwich Union Healthcare

- **Partners Exhibition Area**
– presentations and solutions from key partners helping you to make the most of SAS.
- **Knowledge Zone** – exhibition area and opportunity to meet the SAS technology experts
- **Information Evolution Assessment Centre** – assess your organisation's business intelligence 'IQ' and benchmark your score against a SAS database approaching 1000 companies.

To register for the forum go to:

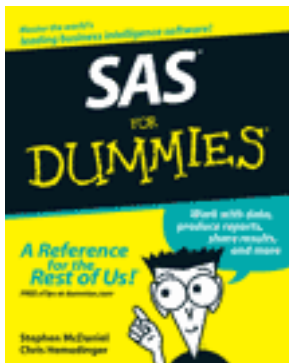
www.sas.com/uk/forum.

Recommended Reading

As well as Neil's new book on SAS Enterprise Guide, (see article 1), a number of new and exciting titles have recently become available from SAS Publishing.

SAS® For Dummies

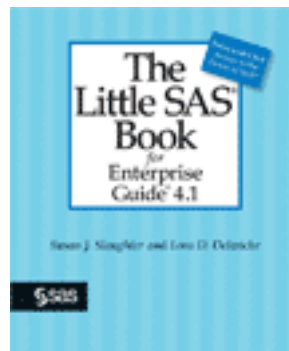
SAS® For Dummies is the introductory title in the fun and easy Dummies format to get up and running using SAS 9, SAS' statistical and data analysis software.



The book will introduce you to the commonly used features of the software, then jump right into the practical: getting your various types of data into the software, producing reports, working with the data, basic SAS programs, macros, working with SAS and databases. **[Read more on the SAS Publishing website.](#)**

The Little SAS® Book for Enterprise Guide 4.1

Learning to use SAS® Enterprise Guide has never been easier! With The Little SAS® Book for Enterprise Guide 4.1, 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 will 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 on your way to becoming an expert. **[Read more on the SAS Publishing website.](#)**

Data Preparation for Analytics Using SAS®

Are you involved in data preparation for analytics? This new user-friendly text offers practical advice in the form of SAS coding tips and tricks, focusing on a business point of view.



Learn about predictive modeling concepts for data mart creation, data preparation for time series analysis, using various SAS procedures and SAS® Enterprise Miner for scoring, and using powerful SAS macros to make changes among various data mart structures. **[Read more on the SAS Publishing website.](#)**

Other News ...

News from the blogosphere

The big news from the SAS blogosphere is the launch of blogs.sas. Simply visit <http://blogs.sas.com> to see current and featured blogs.

You can read Alison Bolen of sascom's 'sascom voices' and Gary Cokins, international performance management expert's 'closing the intelligence gap'. There are many more as well, so take time to check it out.

Take our web survey and claim your free gift

Receive a free gift when you complete our Website Feedback Survey. We are always looking at ways to enhance the SAS UK website so your feedback is important and invaluable to us.

This is your opportunity to tell us what you think of the information available and the way it is presented. We are keen to know more about the people who use our website and the survey results will be used to establish priorities for its development.

As a 'thank you' for taking the time to share your comments and suggestions we will send you a free gift. To complete the survey go to the [Website Review](#) web page.

Free weather station offer

Improve your career outlook with your free SAS weather station when you book and attend a public course between 16th August and 31st October 2007.

Your weather station tells you:

- The time in two time zones
- Temperature
- Humidity
- A weather forecast.

It's also an alarm clock, and much more ...

To claim your transmitter quote code 'WEATHER' when booking.

For more information go to the [Weather](#) web page.



THE
POWER
TO KNOW.

SAS UK WITTINGTON HOUSE HENLEY ROAD MEDMENHAM

MARLOW BUCKS SL7 2EB +44 1628 486933 [WWW.SAS.COM/UK](http://www.sas.com/uk)

SAS and all other SAS Institute Inc. product or service names are registered trademarks or trademarks of SAS Institute Inc. in the USA and other countries. ® indicates USA registration. Other brand and product names are trademarks of their respective companies. Copyright © 2007, SAS Institute Inc. All rights reserved.