The Quality Imperative: 
SAS Institute’s Commitment to Quality

A corporate statement of SAS’ commitment to product quality, service quality, and customer satisfaction
Release Information

The version of this paper is January 2020.

Unless otherwise indicated, this document relates only to SAS 9.4, SAS Viya, and the products that are available with SAS 9.4 and SAS Viya. It also relates to services from the date of this paper forward. Quality processes are continually evolving. Therefore, SAS reserves the right to modify the processes described in this document at any time. If you are using SAS 9.4 and SAS Viya and have questions about processes in those releases, send email to qualitypaper@sas.com.

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Introduction

Introducing SAS

For SAS, the pursuit of excellence lies at the heart of the products that we deliver. Jim Goodnight, CEO of SAS, states that “SAS’ commitment to quality permeates every division and employee throughout our global company. From the software we produce, to the customers we serve, and through our collaboration with each other, quality is at our core. It’s who we are and is the foundation on which our company was built.”

SAS is the world’s largest privately held software company with nearly 14,000 employees and 84,000 customer sites in 148 countries. Forging strong relationships with our customers have made us a leader in analytics for more than 40 years. Our focus on customer needs is demonstrated in our annual re-investment of over 25% of revenues into research and development, where the industry average is close to 15%.

SAS provides an integrated suite of artificial intelligence, analytics, business intelligence, customer intelligence, data management, fraud, and risk solutions. Our products transform data into the information organizations use to make good decisions. SAS enables customers to apply analytics wherever they demand—whether in the cloud, on-site, at the device, or with machines as full partners in human decision making. As Goodnight said, “We aim to help every customer turn analytic insights into value. We do so by adapting to changing markets, working with disruptive technologies, and remaining relentlessly committed to innovation. This has allowed us to remain a leader across core markets while providing innovative solutions to our customers’ most challenging business problems.”

SAS, the company, runs our own operational systems on SAS technology. Since SAS software is licensed, we know that customers have a regular opportunity to evaluate their SAS software investment. We understand. As one of the largest customers of SAS software, we live the importance of high-quality, reliable software.

The Quality Imperative

*SAS’ commitment to quality is constant, like our commitment to the customer. The two really go hand-in-hand. When we talk about quality, it’s not just about quality assurance and software testing. The Quality Imperative articulates how quality is in everything we do. —Oliver Schabenberger, Executive Vice President, Chief Operating Officer and Chief Technology Officer*

The SAS Quality Imperative ([www.sas.com/qualitypaper](http://www.sas.com/qualitypaper)) describes the essential role of quality in the creation and delivery of SAS products and services. The products distributed by SAS that are covered in this paper are listed in Appendix 9: SAS Products.

JMP and SAS Global Hosting and US Professional Services also have papers to document their unique processes and tools:

- JMP: A Commitment to Quality ([http://www.jmp.com/qualitystatement](http://www.jmp.com/qualitystatement))
To learn more about our company, customers, and our award-winning culture where quality is integrated into all that we do, visit our website:

- Customer success page (www.sas.com/customers)
- Annual report (www.sas.com/annual-report)
- SAS Corporate Social Responsibility (www.sas.com/csr)
- Security Assurance from SAS (www.sas.com/security-assurance)
- Recognition from independent industry experts (http://www.sas.com/awards/index.html)

Human Resources

Our Employees

*Our culture is based on three simple things: trust, flexibility and values. SAS is a company built on relationships, and our relationships with customers are only going to be as good as our employees’ experience at SAS. That experience is based on meaningful work, empowering leadership, and a world-class work environment.* —Jim Goodnight, CEO of SAS

Focusing on people and relationships—making employees a top priority—leads to more productive, satisfied, and dedicated employees. To achieve that ideal, employees must be trusted, valued, and believe that they can make a difference. To support the creative process and balance work and family, SAS provides a flexible work environment that enables them to be the most productive.

*SAS’ strength comes from its culture, which is rich in diverse people, talent, and ideas. Our collective strength and passion for what we do drive innovative solutions that solve the most complex customer problems.* —Jennifer Mann, Vice President, SAS Human Resources

The company’s work-life programs and unique corporate culture continue to receive accolades—at global, regional, and local levels—for being a great workplace. In 2019, SAS celebrated its 23rd year as one of Fortune magazine’s best US workplaces. Many of our country offices have also been recognized for their workplace culture by the Great Place to Work Institute or by Top Employer. A full list of corporate awards can be found here: [http://www.sas.com/awards/index.html](http://www.sas.com/awards/index.html).

The recognition speaks to the employee-focused philosophy behind SAS' corporate culture since the company’s founding in 1976: if you treat employees as if they make a difference to the company, then they will make a difference to the company. At the heart of this unique business model is a simple idea: satisfied employees lead to satisfied customers. One metric that illustrates the degree of employee satisfaction is SAS’ annual turnover rate of 8% as compared to the US software industry average of 13%.

SAS’ work teams thrive on a diverse interplay of experience, backgrounds, and perspectives. Employees’ collective strength and passion for what they do ignites big ideas and powerful bonds. SAS continues to provide equal employment opportunity for all employees regardless of age, race, color, gender identity, religion, creed, ancestry, nation origin, citizenship, marital status, sexual orientation, disability, medical condition, veteran status, pregnancy or any other protected class as defined by federal, state, or local law.
Quality Workforce

Designing and implementing SAS software requires a development staff with highly developed programming skills and significant subject-matter expertise. As part of SAS’ effort to attract and retain the best available employees, the Human Resources Division has implemented a number of programs, as shown in the following examples:

- To be considered for an open position, all applicants must meet the specific education, training, and experience qualifications for the open position.
- For each position at the company, there is a written job description that specifies the necessary education or experience and job functions.
- Competency-based interviewing is used to identify the ability, experience, and knowledge that is required for a particular position. In addition, numerous interviews are conducted with an applicant. This practice enables SAS to be as inclusive as possible, while also enabling the interviewee to experience the culture and the people who create the culture.
- SAS’ approach to performance management is aligned to business needs, employee skills, and career development. We promote ongoing conversations between managers and employees around expectations, skills, and development. Performance management occurs continually.
- SAS performs pre-employment drug, alcohol, and criminal background screening on every final applicant for employment in accordance with SAS’ Human Resources policy. In addition, we conduct background checks on contractors and other third parties per the SAS Human Resources policy for contingent workers.
- All SAS staff nominated and assigned to any agreed project role must have the skills, experience, and knowledge required to meet assigned duties or deliver expected work products. Recognition as a best place to work enables SAS to hire and retain the best employees in the industry.

At SAS, analytical and statistical software is designed, written, and tested by highly specialized and educated statisticians to ensure that the proper numeric algorithms are selected and implemented, as demonstrated by the following metrics:

- More than two-thirds of the development and testing staff working on statistical products in SAS Foundation have advanced degrees, and more than two-thirds of them have PhDs in fields such as statistics, mathematics, and operations research.
- Of the analysts who are working in the Global Hosting and U.S. Professional Services Advanced Analytics Lab, more than three quarters have advanced degrees in fields such as statistics, mathematics, and analytics. Nearly one quarter of the analysts hold doctorate degrees.
- Within the JMP Division, more than half of the analytics developers and testers have advanced degrees, and most of those have PhDs.

Subject matter expertise is also important. Product developers have experience in operations research, time series analysis, finance, pharmaceuticals, and other fields through previous work experience and education.

Our organization is built on the high quality of our employees and the executives who lead them. See the executive biographical information (https://www.sas.com/en_us/company-information/leadership.html) to learn more about SAS executives. We consider our organizational chart to be confidential and do not disclose it.

Employee Training

The technical training and professional development of our employees is critical to the SAS quality process. Employee training at SAS is an ongoing endeavor that begins during new employee orientation and continues throughout employment. SAS offers several formal and informal mentoring programs to grow and nurture internal talent. Training content can be delivered through a variety of channels, such as instructor-led and e-learning courses, to provide staff with options that are most appropriate for their learning style. Many training courses are accessible through the SAS
Learning Management System and are available for viewing at any time. Furthermore, an extensive corporate library contains bound volumes, periodical subscriptions, complete SAS documentation, and audio and video training materials. For more information, see Appendix 2: Employee Training.

Employee Certifications

SAS employees have achieved various professional certifications in hardware and software that enhance their ability to deliver a quality product to customers. These include Certified Information Systems Security Professional (CISSP®), Project Management Professional (PMP), Six Sigma, Information Technology Infrastructure Library (ITIL), American Society for Quality Manager of Quality/Organizational Excellence, Certified Software Quality Engineer (CSQE), and various hardware and software personal certifications.

Work Environment

Quality Starts with Communication

Employees are influential at SAS because the company's leadership understands that employees have valuable feedback and are the main drivers of change, momentum, and innovation.

At a company with nearly 14,000 employees in 59 countries around the world, connecting with employees is important. The SAS Internal Communications team responds to the challenge by using a broad range of communication tools. Our most recent Employee Communications Survey, conducted in 2017, found that the majority of employees believe that communication from executives is consistent, aligned, and authentic. To further amplify executive voices and encourage transparency, SAS expanded its corporate intranet to include dynamic content from leadership about our corporate strategy and company goals.

In addition to the intranet—our primary internal communications vehicle—SAS facilitates webcasts, podcasts, and town hall events. Lunch-and-Learn sessions provide opportunities for peer-to-peer learning and networking. Other internal forums enable subject matter experts to instruct, share knowledge, and spark creativity. Innovative BetaLabs invite SAS employees across the company to interact with software before it is released, promoting internal knowledge of SAS products, and generating invaluable feedback for product teams. BetaLabs promote communication on product quality and features within SAS so that potential issues are found and resolved before the products are released to the market. Unified instant messaging and real-time file sharing tools enable SAS employees to communicate, collaborate, and coordinate with each other across the globe.

Social media use within SAS continues to expand—from blogs to our internal social media platform—to create a tight-knit virtual community. In addition, most major divisions have regular internal webcasts that enable employees to obtain updates on divisional priorities, and to ask questions of upper-level management. Several divisions also deliver periodic newsletters, support dedicated divisional websites or wikis or both, and produce podcasts. These media are updated regularly with information about divisional priorities, goals, news, and changes.

Whether executives are hosting a webcast for a global audience, holding a town hall event at a regional office, or meeting informally over coffee with a handful of employees, there is an atmosphere of sharing and openness. Employees in the audience or watching online are encouraged to ask whatever is on their minds. Besides encouraging employee comments in face-to-face meetings with executives, almost every event is followed by a survey, which allows employees to offer feedback anonymously.

SAS also receives feedback from employees via the annual Great Place to Work survey and a company-wide global survey. In 2016, SAS conducted a Global Employee Survey. Human Resource Business Partners worked with division heads and country managers to address the most notable concerns and propose recommended courses of action. The company used this feedback to implement new programs. Many divisions conducted their own feedback surveys to
follow up on areas of specific concern to them. To the overall survey question of “Taking everything into account, I would say this is a great place to work,” 94% responded positively.

**Corporate Services**

The groups in Corporate Services are responsible for the safe and secure work environment of nearly 14,000 employees on the SAS Cary campus and at regional offices throughout the world. A Corporate Services Global Management team aligns operational processes around best practices and related business strategies globally. The Corporate Services Division works with offices globally to adhere to SAS’ statement on sustainability. For more information, see [www.sas.com/csr](http://www.sas.com/csr).

**Corporate Real Estate**

The Corporate Real Estate Department is responsible for global workplace solutions. This includes real estate strategy, space management, lease transactions, design and construction, office branding, art, furniture, and ergonomic support.

**Facilities**

The 300 developed acres that comprise the SAS Worldwide Headquarters campus are maintained by SAS’ Facilities Department. This group has more than 200 employees who work in Facilities Management, Facilities Services, Housekeeping, and Interior and Exterior Landscaping.

**Security and Safety**

SAS’ Security and Safety Department provides a safe and secure work environment at SAS’ Worldwide Headquarters and supports worldwide operations. The exact combination of safety and security measures is based on the needs of the location. One example of different needs is based on whether SAS leases a space within a secured building or owns a building. SAS deploys physical, personnel, electronic, and procedural measures, such as the following:

- Pre-employment screening.
- Security and safety awareness and education activities.
- Access control through staffed gates, card access readers, and security reception desks.
- Fire detection, alarm, and suppression (protection) systems.
- Closed circuit television (CCTV) system.
- Uniformed security personnel for both proactive deterrent patrols and various emergency and non-emergency (customer service) responses.
- Every U.S. regional office has CCTVs and card access readers.
- Most global spaces have property management companies that we rely upon who know the local constraints on securing buildings. For example, we ensure that access controls are in place in all global locations, but some countries will not allow CCTV.

SAS strives to continually provide all employees with the safety and health knowledge, tools, and environment needed to have a safe, healthy, and productive work life, minimizing the risk of accidents, injury, and exposure to health
hazards. The Security and Safety Department fulfills these responsibilities by primarily focusing on these organizational goals:

- Prediction and assessment by evaluating the probability, criticality, and business impact of potential security and safety risks.
- Prevention and protection by implementing the necessary controls to minimize the negative business impact of identified security, safety, and fire risks while providing a safe and secure environment.
- Detection and investigation by identifying security-related exposures to emergencies and critical incidents to limit injury to people, as well as damage to property and the environment.
- Compliance with all local, state, and federal environmental regulations.
- In the U.S., our Safety Department is dedicated to ensuring compliance in accordance to the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA).

Security and Safety is also the point of contact for the following:

- Coordination of many safety programs, such as CPR, first aid, defensive driving, child safety, life safety, hearing conservation, respiratory protection, bloodborne pathogens, and similar initiatives.
- Administering a comprehensive program to prevent, identify, and correct Indoor Air Quality (IAQ) concerns and to strive to reduce our impact on the environment.
- Loss control services.

Access to SAS Data Centers is restricted to authorized employees and contractors tasked with maintaining the hardware or software in those environments, and business partners who support specific business operations.

- SAS Data Center management is responsible for authorizing and reviewing physical access monthly.
- Badge readers are located at each entry point to hosting rooms, and badges must always be worn and visible within the SAS Data Center.
- The SAS Global Hosting and US Professional Services environment for hosted customers requires additional badge readers and Personal Identification Number (PIN) codes.

Business Continuity Management

Business Continuity Management (BCM) refers to an organization’s plans and procedures aimed at protecting its key assets and continuing its critical business functions in the event of anticipated and unanticipated threats. BCM takes into consideration the primary factors that customers consider when selecting the strategic vendors to which they entrust their business: corporate governance, information security, and corporate social responsibility. For information about SAS’ BCM Program, see https://www.sas.com/content/dam/SAS/en_us/doc/other1/csr-continuity-of-business-107776.pdf. You can also send email to BCMProgramOffice@sas.com.

Availability of Source Code

A copy of the source code for all supported production products is kept in a secure off-site environment to enable recovery following a disaster. SAS staff has ready access to all nightly backups, and the off-site code is updated weekly to make sure that it is current. Customers have inquired whether source code is available for an FDA audit if required for compliance needs. SAS would allow the FDA to examine relevant portions of the source code on a secure machine at SAS headquarters pursuant to appropriate confidentiality agreements.

BCM in Hosted Environments

Supplier Diversity

SAS is committed to diversity among our suppliers. SAS customers represent a wide range of industries, people and locations—and we want this same level of diversity reflected in our supplier community.

Our goal is to develop and maintain collaborative relationships with suppliers that meet SAS’ global business needs. Any supplier that provides the goods and services relevant to SAS must demonstrate a “value-added” benefit. These benefits can include: cost savings, competitive pricing, customer focusing, innovative business solutions, and a commitment to SAS’ values.

Suppliers interested in doing business through our SAS Supplier Diversity Program must be 51% owned and operated by a woman, minority, veteran, person with disability, LGBTQ, or other socio-economically disadvantaged business. Businesses must be certified as “diverse” by a third-party agency and located within the United States.

As part of the Corporate Services Division, our supplier diversity team advances the goals and objectives of the company’s supplier diversity initiatives. SAS is a member of the National Minority Supplier Development Council (NMSDC), the Women’s Business Center of North Carolina, the North Carolina MWBE Coordinators’ Network and The North Carolina Veteran’s Business Association.

We also direct our outreach, volunteer, partnership, and sponsorship efforts to many local, national, and global organizations. This year we have supported and participated in outreach and training events with a variety of organizations that we feel provide advocacy and economic opportunity to diverse and socio-economically disadvantaged businesses. A sampling of the organizations includes: The Canadian Aboriginal Minority Supplier Council, our local Small Business and Technology Development Center, the North Carolina Military Business Center, and the National LGBT Chamber of Commerce and Disability.

Information Technology

SAS Information Technology (IT) partners with SAS business units to deliver global services that increase business value through trust and partnership. IT is committed to service excellence and has established practices, including continuous service improvement, which provide a framework for measuring and improving performance. The following quality practices are in place to ensure that IT provides and supports quality services:

Software Engineering

- Enterprise architecture to drive an integrated environment that is responsive to change and supportive of the delivery of the business strategy.
- Comprehensive enterprise solution testing (unit, functional, usability, load and performance, exploratory, accessibility, and so on) to ensure that solutions meet functional and nonfunctional requirements.
- End-user testing of SAS offerings to provide feedback to R&D groups regarding fit for IT use.

Cloud Service Development

- Public-cloud service security automation to enforce secure service use and utilization.
- Security-driven development of cloud-native software-as-a-service platform.
- Application of platform and cloud-native design best practices.
- Automated DevSecOps CI/CD pipeline of developed cloud services.
Security and Compliance

• Layered industry standard security controls and defenses to protect the business.
• Penetration testing to identify and resolve systemic weaknesses within the overall information security program.
• Security audit and compliance to ensure adherence to security controls and defenses.

Service Excellence

• Rich automation with a focus on self-service to ensure repeatable processes and to drive efficiencies.
• DevOps to ensure collaboration and communication of both software developers and operations professionals while automating the process of software delivery and infrastructure changes.
• Operational processes that are based on the Information Technology Infrastructure Library (ITIL) framework (request, incident, problem, change, configuration management, and knowledge management) to ensure a quality service management approach.
• Supplier qualification and audits against set criteria to ensure that quality requirements are met.
• Project management with strong application of agile to plan, track, and control global projects.
• Strong business relationship management with IT’s internal business partners to ensure business alignment of priorities and initiatives.
• Training and development for SAS employees to ensure that skill sets are strong and relevant.

Continuous Improvement

• Root cause analysis to prevent recurring incidents.
• Metrics and analytics to measure, optimize, and forecast.

SAS IT is committed to providing quality services. We have documented IT policies and procedures that outline our approach. All SAS employees with access to the IT environment are required to be trained on these policies and procedures. These policies and procedures are updated and approved by IT leadership, including our CIO and CISO, on an annual basis.

Protecting Privacy

SAS is committed to complying with all applicable global data protection and privacy laws, both with respect to personal information about our employees and with respect to personal information that is collected or received from our customers. To prevent unauthorized access or disclosure, to maintain data accuracy, and to ensure appropriate and lawful use, we have put in place reasonable physical, electronic, and managerial procedures to safeguard and secure such information. For more information, see:

• SAS Privacy Statement (www.sas.com/privacy)
• Persons in the European Union should access the EEA version of this Privacy Statement applicable to processing of personal information subject to the General Data Protection Regulation. (https://www.sas.com/en_us/legal/privacy/eea-privacy-statement-corp.html)
Quality in Software Development

Technical Industry Standards

Encouraging creativity is important in an R&D environment. Standards, however, are needed so that the resulting software fits together as a whole. Our standards and guidelines cover various aspects of the final product—defining what is needed for the various pieces to work together and making possible common user interface features. At SAS, we monitor external standards, process assessments, and industry requirements, such as the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) and the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) standards, the Capability Maturity Model Integration (CMMI) process assessment, the FDA Code of Federal Regulations, and others. SAS’ internal quality processes have evolved based on our understanding and assessment of such external factors. We also participate in standards development groups to bring the software-only producer voice into the discussion, and we constantly update our standards as technology evolves and customers’ needs change. SAS supports external and industry standards through support of employee activities in the following areas:

- Monitoring external and industry standards, process assessments, and industry requirements, such as ISO and IEEE standards, and the CMMI process assessment.
- Participating in various external standards committees.
- Reviewing IEEE standards and applying those standards that are appropriate to SAS software.
- Playing a key role in many vendor-sponsored, independent software vendor councils so that SAS performs effectively on the latest versions of these vendors’ operating environments.
- Supporting industry-sponsored interfaces.
- Maintaining strategic and cooperative relationships with the leading hardware and software manufacturers.
- Supporting employee membership in professional organizations.
- Making industry information and issues available to employees on the company’s internal website.

R&D Standards

There is a strong business need for consistency in our customer-facing products and documentation. R&D uses internal standards, procedures, and guidelines to ensure that consistent development methods, architectural components, software engineering processes, and tools are used by staff to produce quality deliverables for customers. By adopting standard approaches for customer deliverables and the methods for producing them, we can more efficiently satisfy our customer requirements. These standards, which are continually being refined, expanded, and enhanced, are formally documented and are approved by the Chief Technology Officer.

To provide a foundation for consistent coding practices, development teams follow documented standards for software security, globalization, accessibility, interfaces, and others, along with procedures and guidelines that ensure conformance to standards.

Software Security

SAS is committed to delivering and maintaining products that are designed to meet the security requirements of its customers. All product teams are required to be trained on the SAS Software Security Policy, and compliance with our software security policy standards and procedures is required by all R&D product teams. For more information about the SAS Software Security Framework and the SAS Software Security Policy, see the papers and links highlighted on the SAS Security Assurance website (www.sas.com/security-assurance). Details on software security standards are found in this paper’s Software Security Testing section.
Software Globalization

Software globalization refers to the process of designing and developing applications that function for multiple cultures. This process consists of two core functions: internationalization (i18n) and localization (l10n).

Internationalization entails designing and implementing software so that the English version of the software functions properly and processes data correctly for any locale or region of the world. Internationalization also ensures that the software is designed so that it is ready for the localization process.

Localization, on the other hand, is mostly driven by market demand. It is the process of adapting software for a particular geographical region or locale. Translation of the user interface, system messages, and documentation is a large part (but not all) of the localization process. Most importantly, not all global markets require that the product be localized (translated) into their native language.

At SAS, software globalization teams around the world spearhead efforts to drive quality and best practices in this area in the following ways:

**Internationalization:**
- Executing formal test plans simultaneously with the development cycle in order to detect cultural or language bias in SAS software as early as possible
- Handling data represented in character encodings that are supported by modern technologies
- Supporting collation of data according to expected linguistic or cultural guidelines
- Supporting formatting of dates, times, and numbers according to cultural expectations
- Supporting multilingual data processing
- Supporting SAS products in multiple languages to meet the needs of international customers
- Supporting a report model that allows one report to be translated into many languages
- Testing in non-English environments
- Testing with non-English data
- Testing with multilingual data

**Localization:**
- Localizing software on a schedule that allows for simultaneous delivery with English
- Maximizing reuse of translations to ensure consistency and higher quality user experience
- Testing localized versions of the software in country to provide higher quality translations

**Accessibility**

SAS is committed to improving accessibility in its software products and solutions. For all new product development, SAS designs products as guided by U.S. and international standards for accessibility. Our primary target for all software is the Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) 2.0 at the A and AA levels, as defined by the World Wide Web Consortium (W3C). We also follow the U.S. Access Board’s Section 508 guidelines in Chapter 3, Chapter 5, and Chapter 6.

Members of the R&D staff receive training in accessibility technologies, such as Accessible Rich Internet Applications (ARIA, a specification from the W3C). Internal training on WCAG, keyboard operations, software accessibility, and web accessibility is available. Internal training on effective testing with assistive technologies, such as screen readers and voice input devices, helps testers validate adherence to accessibility standards. Product test suites include an
accessibility test plan: using a standard test case, products are tested to evaluate functional performance with assistive technologies. By making our products accessible, exposing interface information (for example, name, state, methods), not only do we promote interoperability with assistive technologies, but we also enhance our ability to automate testing.

There is a central contact within R&D for accessibility-related issues. This person looks at available tools, coordinates training, establishes guidelines and checklists, assists in testing applications for compliance, and works with customers to address accessibility questions. We provide alternate means for accessing support services, along with alternate formats of support documentation to accommodate the communication needs of users with disabilities. We continue to refine the software development process so that accessibility is considered at every step in the process.

For more information, see http://www.sas.com/accessibility.

Interface Standards

SAS follows user interface standards that are based on research, usability testing, and other disciplines. The standards are compiled with input and approval from the user experience design, visual design, accessibility, documentation, internationalization, and legal teams. SAS user interface standards govern the following areas:

User interaction and visual design
- Accessibility
- Embedded user assistance (including legal information) and terminology
- Internationalization

Following these standards promotes these results:
- Ensures that SAS products are usable
- Establishes a consistent look-and-feel for SAS products
- Provides a high-quality user experience to all users

Ensuring Reliability

Testing

One measure of reliability is obtained by testing. See the Software Testing section of this paper for details about the processes, tools, and types of testing that we use to ensure reliability.

Secure Development Process

We scan all of the components of our software, including third-party components, against Common Vulnerabilities and Exposures (CVE) that have been published in the National Vulnerability Database (NVD), which is maintained by the U.S. government’s National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST). This enables us to detect potential security vulnerabilities and weaknesses so that they can be remediated as quickly as possible. We publish security bulletins on our website as part of our formal Product Security Incident Response Team (PSIRT) process. For details, see Software Security.

Shared Sublibraries and Code Reuse

We have a rich tradition of reuse and we regularly use our prior work as the building blocks of innovations in applications. SAS software products share the same sublibraries or components. As a result, there is a high incidence of code reuse. Developers are encouraged to reuse routines when possible. Each routine is tested in the development environment and then across supported operating environments. We have several reuse categories of shared components: MultiVendor Architecture (MVA) and threaded kernel (TK) libraries; SAS and SAS Component Language
Low-level, reusable modules are unit tested and then used in developing more complex modules. Shared components are tested on machines with multiple SAS releases and are also tested after installing or uninstalling releases. The benefit of shared sublibraries is that a significant percentage of code has been tested collectively across a wide variety of operating and computing environments. SAS is built with source code and components that are reused from release to release. This adds stability to the software because each successive release of SAS software inherits code that has been tested and used in prior releases.

We also benefit from the reuse of third-party components that SAS has licensed. For details, see Third-Party Components. The benefits include using well-tested components. Such widely used components are easier for customers to manage and administer because they are known entities. Furthermore, when new staff use familiar libraries, fewer defects arise.

Numerical Accuracy

Two of the most critical issues in software development, especially for analytical software, are the accuracy and reliability of results. In this context, accuracy describes the degree of agreement between the reported result and the unique true value, if such exists. Sometimes, rather than a unique solution, any solution from a set of solutions is also acceptable. Reliability is a more subjective measure, taking into account the degree of confidence in the accuracy of the result.

There are two factors that affect the accuracy of a computed result. The first factor is the hardware’s ability to represent real numbers in finite precision. Not all real numbers can be represented in binary finite precision, and that means that representation of real numbers might introduce errors because of binary rounding. Arithmetic operations might also introduce rounding errors.

The second factor is the software itself. Internally, for analytical computations in SAS software, all numeric representations, functions, and operations are calculated by using double-precision, floating-point arithmetic that offers the maximum level of precision provided by the underlying architecture. Although single-precision arithmetic allows only 6 to 7 significant digits, double precision arithmetic allows 15 to 16 significant digits. Accuracy might be further limited by the algorithms that are selected and by the implementation strategies. Algorithms must be chosen carefully and coded to achieve optimal performance, as measured by speed, efficiency, and precision.

At SAS, developers carefully select and code efficient algorithms for numeric operations to guarantee a reasonable number of correct digits and the maximum domain of evaluation on most machines. When the software cannot guarantee this predetermined level of accuracy, the software is designed to return a missing result rather than a potentially inaccurate result.

In response to industrial concerns about the numerical accuracy of computations from statistical software, the National Institute of Standards and Technology’s (NIST) Information Technology Laboratory provided data sets with certified values for a variety of statistical methods (NIST 2007). As one of many approaches to ensure accuracy, SAS integrates NIST data into automated tests and compares SAS results to the results that are supplied by NIST.

Our developers take steps to verify that SAS works correctly with operating system datetime functions. In general, we rely upon operating system datetime values and perform checks to ensure correct functioning for special situations, such as daylight savings time.

SAS procedures have numerous options that alter the nature and extent of output. However, the same output is always produced with the same options, even across hardware and operating systems within standard machine precision limits (typically 1E-12 or smaller). This assumes that the same random number seed is specified for algorithms requiring pseudo-random number generation.

SAS’ uncompromising pursuit of accuracy has firmly established SAS software as one of the most reliable products on the market today. Extensive use of SAS software in medical and pharmaceutical research, government statistical
reporting, and government and academic epidemiological studies attests to customers’ confidence in the accuracy of SAS software.

For more information about validating a statistical procedure, see Appendix 5.

For more information about numerical precision, see:

- The paper ”Assessing the Numerical Accuracy of SAS Software” (http://support.sas.com/rnd/app/stat/papers/statisticalaccuracy.pdf)

Algorithm Choices

SAS staff reviews the relevant literature and evaluates established algorithms for numerical stability, time requirements, and space requirements. We choose one or more algorithms that provide the best combinations of these sometimes conflicting requirements. If we cannot find satisfactory algorithms in the literature, then we might perform research to develop better algorithms in-house. All algorithms that we use are tested extensively. Furthermore, our statistical software documentation provides sections that cover computational details and references to source literature.

Third-Party Components

SAS integrates with a number of third-party software components, including Java Runtime Environments (JREs), application servers, web servers, webDAV servers, browsers, and databases. Some of these components are provided by SAS and are installed along with SAS products. Others must be acquired directly from the third-party software vendor either on media that is delivered directly to users or ordered over the internet. We review licenses for all our third-party components, including open-source components, to ensure that we comply with all requirements. Just like SAS, our partners are continually updating and improving their software to address customer-reported problems, performance issues, new operating system releases, and the latest security threats. Keeping up with all these changes is a challenge for us and, more importantly, it is a challenge for our customers. We have a defined process for identifying and integrating third-party products into our software. We test most of the baselines with a large number of configurations. We also test above some of the baseline releases if we are aware of issues or believe that there might be issues.

SAS users can find third-party components on the Third-Party Software Downloads website at http://support.sas.com/resources/thirdpartysupport/baseline_plus.html. This page contains links to third-party software that we have tested but do not redistribute with our products. It also contains links to our latest release recommendations for all of our components. The page also has important customer bulletins that are related to the components that we have delivered, are recommending, or have evaluated.

In general, it is our intent to treat the components that are delivered with our products as a minimum version, rather than as an absolute requirement. If customers need a third-party component upgrade that is not addressed on our website, they can contact SAS Technical Support for guidance.

Software Quality

At SAS, quality is integrated into each step of the software development process. Every executive, manager, and staff member who plays a part in software development and support is responsible for building quality into our products and services. Senior R&D leadership monitor key quality indicators throughout the software development life cycle. The Chief Technology Officer of R&D is accountable for the overall quality of SAS software.
Continuous Improvement

Product teams use retrospectives to improve processes and software quality. During the retrospective process, teams discuss project details and identify opportunities for improvement. Teams then develop a concrete plan of action for implementing the changes and following up on the results. Over the course of the software development cycle, teams may perform retrospectives at any or all of these times:

- Periodically within a release cycle
- On a release boundary
- On an ad hoc basis to immediately address a specific issue

In addition to retrospectives, development teams use other continuous improvement methods to improve software quality and the customer experience. These include a focus on personal and professional development, sharing best practices, conducting both internal and external usability reviews, and acting on customer feedback.

Software Quality Engineering Team

The Software Quality Engineering team engages and collaborates with R&D staff to define, document, and integrate quality processes, technologies, and best practices, including:

- Publication and communication of R&D guidelines and best practices
- Education and mentorship of new staff
- Facilitation of requirements, retrospectives, and process improvement efforts
- Preparation of external quality documents and participation in customer meetings
- Promotion of continuous quality improvement in SAS processes and technologies

SAS Architecture

The SAS Platform

The SAS Platform includes both SAS Viya and SAS 9.4. SAS Viya modernizes elements of the SAS Platform and can coexist with SAS 9.4 or stand on its own. This section describes SAS Viya, SAS 9.4, and it illustrates how the SAS Platform achieves quality by design through architecture.

SAS Viya

SAS Viya was created to deliver an elastic and scalable cloud-ready analytics engine that embraces open analytics coding environments. SAS Viya provides a unifying environment for the entire analytics life cycle, with powerful analytic techniques that are accessible from a variety of interfaces, including programming, scripting, and visualization. These include:

- A Multicloud Architecture with no infrastructure lock-in. SAS Viya can scale to accommodate growing data volumes, more users, or more complex analytics. SAS Viya supports both public and private cloud deployments.
- Supporting a single, consistent platform for management of the entire analytics life cycle, which is open to both SAS and other programming languages such as Python, R, Java, and Lua calling into a single, underlying analytics code base.
- Providing access to analytic techniques (machine learning, descriptive statistics, forecasting methods, optimization algorithms, and so on) from a variety of interfaces—programming, scripting, and visualization.
- Automatically distributing data and analytical workloads across the cores of a single server or the nodes of a massive computing cluster, taking advantage of parallel processing regardless of data size.
Consolidated Analytic Environment

SAS Viya can be accessed via modern visualization clients, REST APIs, and interfaces from other programming languages. The SAS Viya analytic procedures are consolidated in SAS Cloud Analytic Services (CAS server) with a single point of administration and management. All interfaces to SAS Viya access this layer for analytic processing so that no matter how users interact with SAS Viya, they receive correct and consistent results.

Cloud-Ready Technology Stack

SAS Viya is built on a cloud-ready technology stack. From the SAS Cloud Analytic Services that power SAS Viya analytics at the core to the microservices that supply the REST APIs and functional interfaces, SAS Viya is built to be cloud native. SAS Viya uses open-source technologies such as Java and Spring Boot to deliver a set of microservices. These microservices support common functionality, such as login and authorization, identity management, preferences, auditing, data management, data access, and more. SAS Viya uses the OAuth open standard for authorization, allowing SAS Viya to integrate with third-party clients and services. SAS Viya also provides public REST APIs and uses TLS to secure communications. SAS Viya can deploy on the open-source Cloud Foundry platform and uses standard deployment technologies such as Ansible and RPMs for traditional deployments on IaaS providers like AWS and Microsoft Azure, as well as on premises in private cloud, virtualized, and physical machine environments.

SAS 9.4

At SAS, quality by design is evidenced in a number of areas such as these:

- The use of intelligent components (intelligent clients, intelligent storage, intelligent servers)
- SAS software’s MultiVendor Architecture
- Shared sublibraries and code reuse
- A scalable performance data server that increases performance by enabling parallel processing
- The use of maximum numerical precision

Third-party components are often integrated into SAS offerings, making intelligent architecture a necessity. Our intelligent architecture is used for SAS Foundation, the SAS Intelligence Platform, and SAS solutions.

SAS Foundation

SAS Foundation is based on MultiVendor Architecture, which facilitates developing, managing, and maintaining the source code of the system and enabling quality to be built in at the structural level. Because the SAS Foundation development process is built around SAS MultiVendor Architecture, the amount of code that is rewritten for each operating environment on which our software runs is minimized. Thus, the chance for errors decreases because about 85% of the code is reused on all operating environments that are supported by SAS software.

The fundamental goal of SAS MultiVendor Architecture is to provide the highest degree of portability across a broad range of operating environments while exploiting the particular advantages of each.

SAS Intelligence Platform

SAS 9.4 uses an n-tier architecture that enables distributed functionality across computer resources so that each type of work is performed by the resources that are most appropriate to the job. For a large company, the tiers can be installed across a multiple machines with different operating systems. For prototyping, demonstrations, or very small enterprises, all of the tiers can be installed on a single machine. The architecture consists of the following four tiers: Data Sources, SAS Servers, Middle Tier, and Clients.
SAS 9.4 middle-tier components include a service-oriented architecture that is built around its Web Infrastructure Platform. Java J2SE and J2EE technologies, which are portable and reusable, are used for desktop client and web application components of SAS®9.

The adoption of J2SE and J2EE technologies allows SAS to use the development, testing, and customer acceptance baselines of the broad Java vendor and customer community. These technologies take advantage of Java’s portability to operating system and application server deployment environments. This further enables customers to use the IT standards, acceptance testing, support staffing, and operating practices established within their organizations for this class of application.


SAS Solutions

SAS solutions provide industry-specific functionality in these key focus areas: Analytics Platform, Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning, Customer Intelligence, Data Management, Fraud and Security Intelligence, Risk, and Retail. Most solutions extend SAS architecture by using a component based on Java for the business logic and surface the functionality through web-based thin-client and rich-client presentation layers. Using SAS architecture gives SAS solutions several advantages:

- Solutions can scale from one machine to multimachine implementations to meet the performance needs of the customer.
- The common metadata repository enables common data sharing and management across systems.
- Most important, the SAS architecture enables the solutions to draw upon the analytical power of SAS to differentiate SAS solutions from those of competitors.

SAS Cloud

SAS Cloud is a globally available environment, managed centrally by SAS. SAS products are delivered from SAS R&D after being created and tested using the same quality process described in this paper. For more information about the quality processes and controls, see https://www.sas.com/en/white-papers/quality-sas-global-hosting-us-professional-services-107370.html.

The Research and Development Process

Software Development at SAS

The Research and Development Division of SAS drives software research, development, and production for the company. SAS focuses on quality by design, using mature software engineering principles to build in quality from the beginning. To support quality by design, SAS engineering practices emphasize rigorous requirements and architectural design phases, implementation plans and methodologies, and additional quality assurance and testing activities. R&D teams use a defined and documented software development process as described below. The following section describes the overall SAS software development process.
Because of customer needs, industry requirements, and technology differences, JMP and SAS Global Hosting and US Professional Services have specific refinements and differences in the processes and tools that they use, as described in these documents:

- JMP: A Commitment to Quality (http://wwwjmp.com/qualitystatement)

The SAS Software Development Life Cycle

As shown in Figure 1, our software development life cycle involves four phases of development: Product Visualization; Code and Product Research, Innovation, and Creation; Delivery; and Maintenance. Software development at SAS does not always follow a formal order. However, it typically begins with the initiation tasks of the Product Visualization phase and includes all phases and tasks shown below.
Each phase of the SAS software development life cycle is explained below. It is the role of the Executive Team, product development management, and testing management to assess the progress through the project life cycle and to report findings to upper management. Underlying the process are the ongoing tasks of project management, integrating with product management, and evaluating for quality and completeness.

Product Visualization

Delivering high-quality software is made possible by a fact-based, customer-focused, repeatable process that gathers customer requirements, refines them into a realistic product plan, and implements the plan on schedule. The SAS software development process begins with gathering ideas for a potential new product, function, or enhancements that are being considered for subsequent software releases. Suggestions for new or enhanced functionality and problem resolution are gathered from sources such as these:

- Customer Advisory Board, councils, and focus groups
- Feedback from development partners and early adopters
- Analyst research
- Consultant feedback
- Internal tracking system reports
- Enhancement requests
- Internal user feedback, including feedback from BetaLabs
- Market research
- Professional conferences and communities
- Technical Support (www.sas.com/support)
- Feedback from SAS Education Division courses
- Usability and accessibility studies
- SAS Global Forum, as well as regional, international, and special interest user group meetings

This feedback is collected in various input documents that are archived and accessible to team members. This input is used in determining the scope of a project. Project managers, product managers, and development teams meet to plan the release. Planning the release includes determining the scope of the release and its main themes, as well as creating a listing of suggested updates.

Planning and managing software development projects makes it possible to achieve the intended project outcomes. Project planning involves estimating project tasks, identifying milestones, determining resource needs, producing a timeline, identifying risks, and verifying that the project team and management are committed to the plan. Project teams also determine the optimal project approach needed for successfully delivering a quality product. Project managers track and review the progress of the project, comparing it to the plan for the release. If results deviate from the planned activities, then corrective actions might be taken, such as revising the plan for the release, reducing enhancements, or reallocating resources to meet the current plan.

Code and Product Research, Innovation, and Creation

Planning and Scoping

During the release planning sessions, the themes for the release are determined and a preliminary prioritized product backlog is created. The prioritized product backlog is continually refined throughout the project. The entire development team, often including representatives from other divisions such as Product Management, meets to plan
their work. This includes determining what resources are available and agreeing on which requirements to work on from the prioritized product backlog. Project managers monitor the team’s progress against the plan using project management tools. See R&D Project Management for more details.

During this stage of software development, user documentation requirements are defined and incorporated into the overall project planning. Development team members start planning customer support needs and services. They also begin creating the materials that will be included in the software packaging. As the product matures, customer support materials are created and reviewed for accuracy.

Requirements

During the requirements stage, development requirements are created from the prioritized backlog that was created during the release planning sessions. Requirements identify a capability, physical characteristic, or quality factor that bounds a product or process problem for which a solution can be pursued. Requirements are analyzed to determine whether they are necessary, understandable, achievable, complete, unambiguous, and verifiable. This process validates the requirements for the innovation or enhancement request. Requirements are documented through various electronic means, and are continually reviewed and prioritized as described above in Planning and Scoping.

Design and Prototyping

The design team translates requirements into user interface concepts and interaction designs. They create user flows, screen designs, and interactive prototypes to visualize how end users might work with the functionality. This is followed by an iterative design process that includes customer feedback and usability testing. All stakeholders in the product team collaborate to decide on a design direction. Development teams create a high-level architecture for the software based on the requirements and designs. Development team members develop a testing strategy to support customer-focused product development. Test plans might include descriptions that outline testing strategies, tools, and processes. These plans are electronically archived and are accessible to all development team members.

Creation

Development teams write product code, unit tests, and installs based on SAS coding guidelines. The testing members of the development team begin writing tests based on test plans and testing guidelines. Before integration, code is tested and evaluated for stability. Problems are identified, tracked, and resolved. If fixes to the code are approved, the code is promoted to source management and scheduled for the software build.

Integration

During integration, stable code is merged into an image on the platforms that are scheduled for delivery. Code is available through a source management system. Testing continues according to the testing strategy. (See the sections on Software Quality and Software Testing for details about testing.) Problems continue to be identified, tracked, and resolved in the development cycle. The development team ensures that the software meets quality goals.

Delivery

Sign-Off

A team that includes the R&D director, development manager, test manager, documentation writer, and Technical Support consultant conducts reviews and software sign-off according to the due diligence guidelines under the guidance of the Director of Software Quality. A due diligence list signifies what each signature means. When the product completes sign-off, the Release Engineering Division provides external access to the software. See R&D Sign-Off for additional details.
System Release

After sign-off, the software enters the system release process. The software is made available for electronic download using a promotion process to secure repositories. The promotion process is validated as correct using a checksum process.

Maintenance Operations

The current version of SAS is the most current release in General Availability status. We provide problem alert notices and source-level maintenance (executable modules or "hot fixes") for selected critical problems occurring in this release. For all versions, regardless of age, we provide technical support in accordance with the Technical Support policies. However, if a customer chooses not to install the most current release of the software, then the level of support available diminishes over time. More information can be found in the links below:

- Support services for current and prior releases of software are documented on the SAS Technical Support Services and Policies web page at http://support.sas.com/techsup/support.html#non-current.
- The process for software fixes in the field is outlined later in this document in Software Fixes in the Field.

Retirement

The R&D division directors, Marketing, and Technical Support management work together to determine when a product or host should be retired. Any remaining customers are notified of product status, and limited support might be provided. See the web page on noncurrent releases, available at http://support.sas.com/techsup/support.html#non-current.

R&D Project Management

The mission of SAS R&D project managers is to provide services to increase the likelihood of delivering projects on time, within budget, and according to functional and quality specifications. Each commercial product is assigned a project manager who works with the project team to scope the work and establish a schedule. In some cases, project managers are assigned to internal projects that improve the supporting infrastructure that production products use. The scope of work and planned schedule become the foundation for the ongoing tracking and oversight of the project. On an ongoing basis, they work with the project team to identify project risks and develop mitigation plans to address them. When actual status deviates from the plan, project managers work with development and testing management to determine and implement actions to get the project back on course. Examples of actions can include changes in scope, timelines, resources allocation, and so on. Throughout the project, project managers ensure adequate visibility into the overall health of the project via status reporting, project reviews, and surfacing project data to a company-wide scorecard to ensure that the project is meeting the stated goals and objectives. Status reporting and project reviews occur at both the individual team level as well as at the executive and enterprise level.

R&D Quality Review and Oversight

The R&D Executive Team consists of vice president-level representatives from across the R&D organization. This team provides cross-divisional management and oversight of all R&D product releases. The team meets regularly to evaluate the progress, quality, and readiness of upcoming releases.

The SAS R&D Scorecard, visible to all R&D employees, surfaces key quality and progress metrics from each development project. The R&D Executive Team reviews this scorecard regularly to anticipate areas of concern, and develops targeted mitigation strategies, such as resource-balancing across teams, to better help teams deliver on their
schedule, feature, and quality commitments. The R&D Executive Team encourages openness and transparency in progress reporting so that teams can comfortably surface project concerns to the R&D Executive Team, confident that the information will be received and dealt with in a fair and positive manner.

Research and Development Tools

SAS developers and testers are supported by a variety of software tools. The toolset includes tools that are developed, tested, and maintained internally and software that is acquired to meet specific R&D needs. We have built audit procedures into the development environment; our process has been designed so that development cannot move forward without following the required procedures. Furthermore, we maintain a set of tools for each development operating environment.

We have developed processes to automate most of our source code management activities. Developers and build managers have tools to check out, check in, compare, and build the source code. Testware is managed by the same source code management systems. Testers have automation tools for writing, executing, and evaluating tests. All documentation about source code and test program changes is kept in the source code management system. Antivirus software is installed on all SAS PCs, and all run real-time checking of files. The virus signatures are updated automatically at regular intervals.

The Research and Development Environment

To provide consistency and to facilitate communication between various development groups, SAS has established a common development environment for use wherever it is practical and appropriate. Authorized developers and testers use various in-house tools or repository access commands to make changes to files held in the repositories. All developers and all specific hosts to which SAS is ported have access to the same repositories.

Tools for Developers and Build Managers

For consistency and repeatability, developers and build managers use tools to access, compare, and build the source code for both internal testing and customer delivery. Our automated tools facilitate our processes. Documentation and audit-trail functionality are built into these tools. The database also includes change control information about the pushed code. For developers, software quality is enhanced by the following tools:

- Special compilers that provide extensive diagnostics
- A debugger that provides the same user interface on multiple operating environments
- Tools to detect run-time errors such as memory leaks or incorrect memory access
- Timing tools that provide detailed analysis of the performance of sections of code
- Automated testing to make sure that only successfully tested code enters the production build process
- Semantic versioning for JAR files in the SAS Viya build environment

Change Control

Throughout the software development life cycle, strict control is maintained over all source code, which the company protects as a principal asset and trade secret. Our toolset, which is routinely updated to take advantage of the latest technologies, controls development staff access to source code and their ability to make changes and fixes. Revision history is kept for all modules in source management; in this way, we maintain earlier versions in addition to a history of who made changes and why those changes were made.

Our version control procedures include methods to make sure that each build of the software has a new revision date. For each external release of the software, there is a Technical Support number and release number. Solutions have an
“About” window that includes the version numbers. Development and production versions are uniquely identified, and changes and enhancements for the production versions are documented.

Through the source management system, developers can check out source code segments into their private work area for changes and fixes. During this time, other developers can simultaneously check out the same files. Changes are evaluated automatically at check-in and merged appropriately. Otherwise, the developer is asked to resolve the difference. Each source code change is logged for audit purposes. Those items that are shared or called by other modules are kept in libraries that allow multiple accesses. The corrected code or documentation is included in the next image of the software for verification by testers.

Problem Reporting and Resolution

Problems are tracked through online problem tracking systems until the problem is resolved and verified. The systems enable testers and software developers to report problems and to request software changes. If a test fails during formal testing, the tester determines whether it is a problem with the test, the documentation, or the code. If the test has an error, the test is updated. If the documentation or software has an error, the tester reports the problem.

High-priority problems include those that cause system failure or that produce incorrect, unreliable, or misleading results. Problems that result in the loss or corruption of data, performance degradation, and potential security vulnerabilities are also considered high-priority. The same is true of problems that depart significantly from the product function that is specified in the user documentation. Low-priority problems include nonfunctional cosmetic features or problems for which there are convenient workarounds. Minor problems might be deferred for fixes in later releases of the software. Testers can consult with Technical Support consultants about the priority of a problem according to past user feedback. In all cases, problems are tracked through problem tracking systems until the problem is resolved and verified.

Testing Tools

The testing staff has a broad range of tools that are maintained by dedicated tool support teams:

- Test drivers that execute command-line-based tests on multiple platforms (operating systems and programming environments).
- Test drivers that execute tests through a memory-leak detection tool and report the results.
- Coverage analysis tools for C, Java, and JavaScript sources that highlight potential areas for improved coverage and optimize regression testing.
- Problem tracking tools for tracking defects, enhancements, issues, and suggestions found during and after software development and testing.
- Test management and tracking tools to record test cases and their results history for all platforms.
- Multiple internal or proprietary testing tools and processes targeting key features and functions that cannot be tested using third-party tools.
- Multiple third-party and open-source test automation tools that are maintained and supported by internal dedicated support teams and contributors.

We have an extensive amount of Java code in SAS software. Our testing staff uses a variety of tools to evaluate software quality of Java code, such as:

- Internally supported tools to validate software fixes using a continuous integration model
- Internally supported tools to execute unit, integration, and acceptance tests nightly
- Industry standard unit test tools
• Java coverage analysis
• Enhanced static analysis
• Performance monitoring tools

Various reports such as the following are available to testers for evaluating software quality and testing progress:

• Queries of the problem tracking databases about number, age, type, and severity of defects, by internal group structure or product
• Verification status of individual defects as well as responsible tester or testing department
• Stability of code by tracking the number of test and source files pushed within a given time frame

Project Management Tools

Software-based tools are used to assist R&D project managers. An internal system tracks all products that are planned for production release. The tracking system is integrated with our product release sign-off process. This process ensures that all leaders for each project refer to a set of criteria before issuing their sign off. This promotes a high and consistent level of due diligence that helps SAS ensure that only high-quality products are released to customers. Other tools are targeted for specific purposes and together they provide comprehensive coverage of all aspects of the project under development. Here are examples of tools that project managers use:

• Template libraries for project artifacts and reviews
• Tracking systems for measuring outstanding defects and features work
• Standardized tooling for defining the product and release engineering setup
• Project management software for planning, tracking, and managing the release

Software Testing

Overview

Test teams are staffed with highly skilled team members who have both product and testing expertise. Representatives from test teams meet regularly to discuss best practices, test automation techniques, and process improvement opportunities. Guidance is available online through our Quality Portal and numerous internal testing sites maintained by the testing community. R&D and Corporate training staff offer a variety of education courses to broaden the technical and domain skills of testers. Test managers participate in formal reviews and provide a key signature for the product sign-off before the software can ship.

Testing involves software developers and testers. Developers and testers work together early in the design process to exchange ideas and strategies. Developers are expected to perform unit testing on the software that they are writing. Early testing by the development groups assures a constantly improving baseline of software quality that gives the platform and solution developers a stable work environment.

The SAS software development process follows a formal approach that involves planning, developing, executing, and testing. Software testing processes launch early in the development life cycle and continue until R&D development and test managers sign off. Test teams work to verify the successful implementation of new features and to validate the continued baseline of existing features. R&D test teams choose from an evolving set of testing methodologies,
including requirements-based testing, use-case testing, white-box testing, integration testing, exploratory testing, and systems testing. Testing tasks include the following steps:

- Providing feedback into the design phase of the software development process
- Designing test plans or strategies
- Writing and maintaining test procedures and test tools
- Completing early exploratory manual testing
- Writing automated tests or manual test scripts
- Maintaining reusable libraries of tests
- Running tests and reporting results
- Performing manual testing per scripts
- Reporting defects
- Verifying fixes
- Analyzing and improving test coverage
- Monitoring quality metrics
- Reviewing customer documentation
- Testing for performance, security, national language support, and accessibility and usability
- Writing and supporting qualification tests and samples

Test directors and test managers are responsible for making sure that the testing process is followed. Developers and testers collaborate throughout code implementation. Testers and developers work closely together to continually improve a product’s functionality, usability, compatibility with other products, stability, and compliance with company policies, standards, and guidelines. Sometimes the testers’ work in one area can benefit work in another area. For example, by making our products accessible, we promote interoperability with assistive technologies while enhancing our ability to automate testing.

**Test Plans and Documentation**

Testers maintain a hierarchy of test plans and documentation. The overall testing strategy for the release is outlined in a Master Test Plan. The R&D testing community collaborates on a division-wide due diligence checklist to ensure consistency at testing sign-off. This checklist serves as a source document for formal test plans at the department, project, or feature level.

Group test plans document the testing strategy for an entire group or department. Testers might develop individual test plans for specific projects, products, solutions, or features. In addition to test plans, test teams might also create test inventories, matrices, or design specifications.

Part of the planning and documentation process is early exploratory testing. This technique allows the tester to get acquainted with the software and to understand changes in the current release. Little or no formal documentation is created for this type of testing, although defects can be entered if anomalies are uncovered. As the software matures, testers generate more robust test documentation. Test documentation covers areas such as the functionality of the product being tested, error-handling capabilities, and stress or performance testing.
Test Cases

Product groups maintain baseline suites of legacy tests to verify and regression test functionality delivered in previous releases. Product development groups—developers and testers alike—design and write tests to validate new functionality. Dedicated testers support test suites that contain both automated tests and manual test scripts. Tests are kept in the same source management system as the software.

Tests may consist of SAS programs that generate logs and listings for comparison against benchmark results, or they might consist of scripts that outline manual, hands-on testing. Test data is created through a variety of techniques, such as self-generated, within-test programs, or it is accessed from existing data sources in R&D test data libraries.

Test cases are designed to determine whether specific components of the software perform correctly. Correctness of a test result is evaluated against existing benchmarks, knowledge of past performance, expected behavior, expected results, and an understanding of the software's design.

In addition to establishing correctness, the important task of validating statistical results is accomplished in one or more of the following ways:

- Comparison of results to expected results as identified in the requirements documentation
- Comparison of results to known published results
- Hand calculations
- Cross validation by comparing results to those that are produced by other procedures
- Independent coding of algorithms

Programs can be written to test software in several ways. A list of commonly used test development techniques follows:

- Analytical testing includes numerical validation.
- API testing produces tests for the behavior of components of a product to verify their correct behavior before system integration.
- Baseline testing verifies that the software functions in the same way as in previous releases. At times, the functionality changes, based on new features.
- Build verification testing validates the presence of key procedures or modules in image builds. These tests are basic acceptance-level tests. Build verification tests do not test the full functionality of SAS software; rather, they touch critical portions of the software to ensure that it is ready for more rigorous testing.
- Compatibility testing assesses the ability of software or web applications to function across different browsers, operating systems, configurations, or hardware platforms.
- Error testing examines how syntax and run-time error conditions are handled.
- Functional testing validates syntax and determines whether components of the software are operational.
- Migration testing makes sure that customers are able to move to current versions of the software without problems. Migration testing also ensures that there is a migration path from one release to the next. This can include procedures for moving data sets and catalogs from one release to another. Backward compatibility is not guaranteed.
- Performance testing evaluates memory and throughput performance. This might involve using an automated test suite, which allows easy simulation of a variety of normal, peak, and exceptional load conditions.
- Regression testing makes sure that changes to the software do not introduce errors.
- Security testing encompasses authentication testing, authorization testing, and web application penetration testing.
• Stress testing creates an overload situation to determine how the software product, procedure, or module functions under the stressed condition.

• Usability testing and accessibility testing evaluate how easy it is to use a particular feature for all customers, regardless of ability.

• Validation testing evaluates how data is processed and determines whether processing is done correctly.

**Test Execution**

Automated tests are executed using various test automation tools, both internal and external. During testing, files (which can include data, logs, and output) might be compared against benchmarks or evaluated with self-verifying functions. Results are reported to help in diagnosing and correcting problems. Test automation results are available, typically in graphical or dashboard format, and saved to a repository for traceability and diagnostic purposes. Manual testing is performed by following the test script on a customer-like test image. Testers execute manual test scripts to verify both the user interfaces and language-oriented features of SAS offerings. Such testing might be repeated on several host or test configurations. The results of manual testing are documented using a method that is appropriate to the testing group.

Most groups run test libraries and scripts at least once on each production operating environment. After the completion of the initial testing pass and resolution of reported problems, selected automated and manual tests are repeated for areas that are affected by code fixes. Code reviews and fix descriptions might be used to guide the selection of regression tests. The results of this regression testing are evaluated. Any problems found during testing that seriously affect customer use are resolved by code fixes, customer usage notes, or alert notes.

**Performance Testing**

Performance regression testing is done across releases and relative to other versions of SAS. For new releases and redeveloped solutions, the group tests against performance requirements that are provided by product management. Each major hardware platform is also tested for performance characteristics by many of the product groups. Performance testing results are kept for future release comparison.

The testing groups use internal and third-party tools to test compiler effectiveness, Java code performance, C code performance, I/O performance, big data scalability, algorithm effectiveness against third-party databases and SAS internal data sets, and so on. Much of the work is automated, and parameters are set so that performance bottlenecks are flagged for analysis. We also check how computer resources are being used (that is, memory, I/O, and CPU). For deep analysis, monitoring and profiling tools such as HP Diagnostics and Dynatrace are used.

Performance, load, system, and endurance testing are conducted on web-based, Java applications and rich clients. This testing is based on multiuser scenarios driven under load conditions using application load testing tools such as LoadRunner and Performance Center. This ensures software quality by identifying performance bottlenecks, memory leaks, and scalability problems.

Performance testers work with development and product management on code changes, data architecture changes, application architecture changes, and technical architecture or hardware as needed to improve system performance.

**Software Security Testing**

**Testing in the SAS Software Security Framework**

SAS performs a variety of security tests with the goal of providing software with maximum security assurances and minimum risk of security vulnerabilities. Security testing includes security function testing, black-box application vulnerability testing, dynamic scanning of applications, and static source code scanning. SAS performs vulnerability testing before delivering feature releases and maintenance releases. This testing is integral to the development
guidelines that are the basis of the SAS Software Security Framework that we use to implement our secure software
development life cycle. For more information about the SAS Software Security Framework, see the papers and links

In addition to scanning web applications and the web application server environment (using guidance from leading
security organizations), SAS uses a suite of tests that are specific to SAS technology. Depending on the type of software
that is being tested, these tests can include any of the following:

- Industry-recognized security scanning approaches to flag common security issues, such as those identified by the
  Open Web Application Security Project (OWASP), Common Weakness Enumeration (CWE™), Common
  Architectural Weakness Enumeration (CAWE), and Common Attack Pattern Enumeration and Classification
  (CAPEC™).
- Testing with users of different role-based security access to make sure that each user has the appropriate access
  levels.
- Data access, based on row-level permissions, to confirm that data authorization is applied appropriately for each
  user.
- Password and encryption security.
- Correct behavior with Transport Layer Security enabled protocol (HTTPS).
- Validated credential protection when using SAS/ACCESS engines to connect to data sources (for example, user ID
  and password).
- Product-specific security tests for appropriate user authorization and error testing.
- Integration testing of security features and controls.
- Penetration tests for some configured deployments.

Application Vulnerabilities Testing

Software resilience to external threats is important to our customers, and our security testing tools are focused on
eliminating known application vulnerabilities such as those described in OWASP, CWE™, CAWE, and CAPEC™. Issues
that are detected during security testing are entered into the problem reporting system and evaluated promptly for
appropriate fixes and resolutions.

SAS has taken the following steps to deliver secure SAS applications:

- Education and training: SAS provides ongoing developer training in techniques to mitigate development errors
  and vulnerabilities. SAS licenses tools that are designed to generate test cases for security vulnerabilities,
  including those described on OWASP and CWE lists as well as other lists.
- Deliver shared security components across SAS products: SAS develops shared components and coding guidelines
  for common issues and an input sanitation filter to provide strong security protection across SAS products.
- Monitor and analyze industry issues: SAS monitors and analyzes industry issues regularly, and draws on the
  evolving information from OWASP, CWE™, CAWE, and CAPEC™ to help us evaluate and remediate security
  weakness and vulnerabilities that are identified in SAS products. We evaluate which vulnerabilities apply to SAS
  software applications and we address them as appropriate.
- Frequently update security analysis tools and techniques: SAS performs vulnerability testing using the most
  current tools and techniques for feature and maintenance releases.

Results of vulnerability tests and scans that are conducted by SAS are company confidential. By policy, SAS does not
share the tests or the individual results.
SAS provides several forums that customers can use to get information about updates to SAS products, including security fixes. The SAS security bulletins page (http://support.sas.com/security/alerts.html) provides updates about security issues. Security fixes for released products are highlighted through the standard technical support process for hot fixes, including the SAS support community. Customers can subscribe to the community or sign up for support newsletters (or both) in order to receive regular updates about hot fixes and other important news from SAS.

- To subscribe to SAS Technical Support News, go to http://support.sas.com/techsup/.
- To subscribe to the SAS support community, see https://communities.sas.com/t5/Getting-Started/How-to-learn-about-hot-fixes-to-SAS-software/ta-p/283553. Note that you can filter the results using the keyword SECURITY.

Final Regression Testing and Inspection

After completing the initial testing pass and resolving reported problems, selected automated and manual tests are repeated for areas that are affected by code fixes. Code reviews and fix descriptions can be used to guide the selection of regression tests. The results of this regression testing are evaluated. Any problems found during testing are discussed with development for resolution.

Release of Software

R&D Sign-Off

Product sign-off occurs when the following conditions have been satisfied:

- Planned new functionality has been implemented and tested
- Requested fixes have been implemented and tested
- Quality metrics meet release criteria
- Due diligence completed

A team that includes the R&D director, development manager, test manager, documentation writer, and Technical Support consultant conducts reviews and software sign-off according to the due diligence guidelines under the guidance of the Director of Software Quality. A due diligence list signifies what each signature means.

After sign-off is complete, the software and the data that define the software is locked down so that no further changes can be made. The software is then replicated externally to our third-party network provider for customer access, and checksums are verified to ensure that the software still matches the locked-down version. When the product sign-off is complete, the Release Engineering Division provides external access to the software.

Production Media

Production software is available by software download for most releases. If physical media is being produced, it is cut at SAS after internal quality checks. No physical media is available for SAS Viya or other cloud-based solutions.

Software Production for Target Audiences

SAS meets the challenges of delivering high-quality software by following a clearly defined rollout process for our new releases. The phases of the rollout process are linked to internal milestones and are defined by the target audience for each software development release: Development Partners, Early Adopters, and General Availability.

- Development Partners phase—A preproduction software development phase in which software is provided to customers who have contractually agreed to use the software, and to provide feedback to SAS about its features and functionality. The goal of this phase is to validate that the software is being developed according to the
requirements that have been identified by marketing specialists. This phase is optional, but is most frequently applied to newly developed offerings, and for major enhancements to an existing offering.

- Early Adopters phase—A preproduction software development phase that occurs after much of the development has been completed. In this phase, a copy of a software offering is provided to a customer who has contractually agreed to install and use the software, and to provide feedback to SAS. Problems that are reported from customers might be addressed during later phases of this same release, and features or enhancements are collected for consideration in a future release.

- General Availability phase—A software development phase in which the final production release of an offering is made available to all customers.

**Virus Protection**

Compiles and links on Windows nodes are run with minimal network access. The nodes have Symantec Endpoint protection running on them to ensure that the nodes remain virus free. After the files are compiled and linked, the rest of the processing through delivery to the production code repository is done on FreeBSD build bubble nodes, where there is little chance of Windows virus infection. When replicating software onto physical media, we use only blank media (write-once media). The SAS machines that do the replicating are based on Microsoft Windows, with real-time antivirus checking. All SAS product components for all platforms that are ready for customer delivery are stored on file servers that are based on UNIX and that do not allow writing from Windows OS hosts. After a product becomes production, its components are protected so that only a limited number of UNIX hosts can write to them as well.

**Digital Signatures**

Digital signatures ensure the integrity of SAS software. All SAS components that interact with the operating system (or that otherwise require digital signatures to work properly) are signed using a trusted SAS certificate. We sign Windows executables, installation files, Outlook plug-ins and extensions, various Java files, and other pieces as required.

**Changes and Enhancements**

A list of changes and enhancements for each release is available when you select What’s New in SAS at [http://support.sas.com/documentation/whatsnew/index.html](http://support.sas.com/documentation/whatsnew/index.html) or when you access the Help that is provided with the software.

**Software Fixes in the Field**

**Hot Fixes and Maintenance Releases**

This section describes the process for software fixes in the field that is being used for SAS 9.4. Note that there might be changes in this process for SAS Viya. For the most recent information, check the Technical Support web page at [http://support.sas.com/en/technical-support.html](http://support.sas.com/en/technical-support.html).

SAS releases regular updates to software products in the form of hot fixes, maintenance releases, and product releases. Hot fixes are SAS’ timely response to customer-reported problems. They are also a way to deliver occasional security-related updates that can affect any software product.

The SAS Technical Support Division acts as the central point of contact for customer-reported problems regarding production products. When a customer reports a problem that requires a hot fix, Technical Support enters the information about the issue into the problem reporting system (described in the [Problem Reporting and Resolution section](http://support.sas.com/documentation/whatsnew/index.html)) noting that a hot fix is requested. R&D, Testing, and Technical Support work together to review the requested hot fixes and determine which fixes will be made. Technical Support then authorizes the fix, and it enters the hot fix process. Once R&D provides the fix, it is tested to ensure that the issues are resolved. Regression testing that is
appropriate to the scope of the fix is also performed. If the solution is web surfaced and the fix includes UI changes, the R&D groups also evaluate the need to rerun vulnerability testing.

Fixes are cumulative. If a new fix requires a change to an appendage that is included in an existing fix, then the existing fix either is replaced or is updated with a newer fix that contains the original fix plus any new fixes.

For SAS 9.4, fixes for individual defects are available on the web. All customers have access to the download pages and can download the fixes that they need from the SAS Technical Support Hot Fixes web page at http://ftp.sas.com/techsup/download/hotfix/hotfix.html. SAS also uses maintenance releases to update and support SAS 9.4. Maintenance releases include fixes and enhancements, documentation updates, and localizations. Maintenance details are posted to the SAS Customer Support site at http://support.sas.com/en/support-home.html when they are available. Information about the current maintenance release is available on the Maintenance Release Announcement web page at http://support.sas.com/software/maintenance/.

For SAS Viya, updates replace some or all of the existing deployed software with the latest releases of that software. Updates are performed with the same commands that are used to install SAS Viya, using the same software order and the same playbook. More details about updating SAS Viya software are available in the “Managing Your Software” section of the SAS Viya 3.4 deployment guide for your operating system at https://support.sas.com/en/documentation/install-center/viya/deployment-guides.html. Updates are posted on the Technical Support Hot Fixes web page at http://ftp.sas.com/techsup/download/hotfix/hotfix.html.

**Alerting Customers**

To stay informed about new hot fixes and to learn how to receive notifications when they are available, visit the Communities: SAS Hot Fix Announcements page at http://communities.sas.com/t5/SAS-Hot-Fix-Announcements/bg-p/hf.

To sign up for SAS Technical Support News and to request that operational announcements be delivered to your inbox, visit SAS Technical Support at https://support.sas.com/en/technical-support.html and look for the following sign-up area:

You can also obtain the SAS Technical Support News and the operational announcements by following these steps:

1. Log on to your SAS profile.
2. Click **Edit Profile**.
3. In the **Subscriptions** section, click **Technical Support Updates - News and Operational Announcements**.

Be aware that while we strive to provide fixes for all serious problems, there might be cases where it is impractical or impossible to generate a fix because of compatibility issues or the potential for the introduction of unwanted side effects.
SAS documents Alert Priority issues, as well as problems that are not alert status, in the form of SAS Notes. You can search for Alert Priority issues in our Samples & SAS Notes database at https://support.sas.com/en/search.html?q=%3A&qf=siteArea%3A%22Samples%20%26%20SAS%20Notes%22.


Migrating to New Releases

For information about moving from one release of SAS to another (or when you are changing operating systems), see the guidance provided on the following websites:

- Migration: http://support.sas.com/rnd/migration/
- Migration validation: http://support.sas.com/rnd/migration/planning/validation/index.html

To assist with migrating data and catalogs, you can use the MIGRATE procedure, which has validation macros associated with it. Migrating code is a bit more involved, so you will need to develop a migration plan that encompasses a sampling strategy based on the total number of programs that need to be migrated and the acceptance level. You might want to consider using the ANSI/ASQC Z1.4, ISO 2859 standard (Military Standard 105E) to determine your sample size.

Quality in Customer Service

SAS provides quality customer support in many forms, including SAS communities, customer education, technical support, user documentation, and consulting. Nationally and internationally, SAS User Group meetings are held for peer-to-peer support. SAS provides both assistance and speakers to the annual SAS Global Forum conference, as well as to several regional and international conferences.

Quality in SAS Education

For SAS Education, delivering high-quality training support for SAS software technology and solutions is not limited to the classroom. SAS Education consists of several teams, all dedicated to providing the best customer service possible. From instructors who help design our courses to a customer service group who makes sure that all calls are answered by a real person, we are confident that each customer is getting the quality training that will help them make better, fact-based decisions specific to their business—small or large.

For more information about SAS Education, see Appendix 3: Quality in Education.

Quality in SAS Technical Support

SAS Technical Support's mission is to "help our customers make the best use of our software products through effective and responsive support, active advocacy, and a broad and flexible range of self-help resources." (Annette Harris - Senior Vice President, Technical Support)

This document describes some details about how we accomplish that mission. However, for complete, current information about SAS Technical Support services and policies, see https://support.sas.com/en/technical-support/services-policies.html.

SAS makes it easy for our customers to obtain help by including telephone, email, chat, and online support as part of the annual licensing fee. Customers are encouraged to access SAS Technical Support via the channel of their choice to ensure that their requests are dealt with efficiently and effectively.
Through our global resources, we provide 24x7x365 technical support. Customers with questions and problems that are related to SAS software can contact us as follows:

- by phone (9:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m. EST)
- by chat (9:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. EST)
- from the SAS Customer Support site at https://support.sas.com/en/support-home.html (available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year)
- by email (available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year)

Customers who have critical problems should contact SAS Technical Support by phone. For critical problems that occur outside of the business hours that are listed above, customers are directed to one of our worldwide support centers in North America, Europe, or Asia/Pacific. Using this strategy, we can provide SAS customers with 24-hour, follow-the-sun support.

SAS Technical Support offers toll-free, real-time telephone support. The average hold time for customers who call us is less than 30 seconds, and approximately 60% of questions that come in are resolved within 24 hours.

We route problems that cannot be resolved immediately to subject-matter experts, who prioritize those problems based on the severity of the problem. For example, we strive to call back within a two-hour period for severe problems and up to a maximum of 24 hours for less severe problems.

We pride ourselves on fast and accurate responses to questions and problems that are reported by our customers. However, a key goal of SAS Technical Support is to empower customers with the tools that they need to find answers and resolve problems on their own. We do this by including a variety of self-help resources as part of our licensing agreements and by providing a full range of electronic support services on the SAS Customer Support website at http://support.sas.com/.

From the website, customers can do the following:

- Search our knowledge base:
  - SAS Notes
  - sample programs
  - user documentation
  - downloads
  - hot fixes
  - maintenance updates
  - security bulletins
  - system requirements
• Obtain documentation about our technical support services at [https://support.sas.com/en/technical-support.html](https://support.sas.com/en/technical-support.html):
  o Standard Support
  o Premium Support
  o Elite Support
  o Support Services and Policies
• Interact with other SAS customers through our SAS Support Communities at [https://communities.sas.com/](https://communities.sas.com/).
• Find information about SAS Training at [http://support.sas.com/training/](http://support.sas.com/training/):
  o classroom training (on-site, web, and mentor training)
  o free tutorials
  o certification program
  o e-learning
  o the SAS Learning Subscription

We frequently update and add to the content on the SAS Customer Support website, so be sure to view the website to see the most up-to-date services and content!

**Quality in SAS Communities**

Helping SAS customers connect with each other facilitates knowledge and information sharing, so SAS provides the following communication avenues for connecting with the broader user community:

• SAS Communities: collaborate with SAS and other SAS users about programming, data analysis, and deployment issues, tips, and successes at [https://communities.sas.com/t5/community/communitypage?nobounce/](https://communities.sas.com/t5/community/communitypage?nobounce/)
• SAS Users Groups: network, teach, and collaborate with other SAS users. SAS users groups are independent, volunteer organizations run by SAS users. SAS partners with these groups and provides a wide range of services. See [https://www.sas.com/en_us/connect/user-groups.html](https://www.sas.com/en_us/connect/user-groups.html).
• SAS Global Forum is an annual conference planned and sponsored by the SAS Global Users Group, which is open to all SAS software users throughout the world. See [https://www.sas.com/en_us/events/sas-global-forum.html](https://www.sas.com/en_us/events/sas-global-forum.html).
• SAS Social Media Portal: stay connected with SAS and other SAS users through our social channels including: Knowledge Exchanges, sasCommunity.org, Facebook, YouTube, and Twitter. [http://www.sas.com/social/](http://www.sas.com/social/)

**Quality in Customer Documentation**

Documenting SAS software is much like developing the software itself. SAS Documentation Division staff researches new features, plans the library that is needed to document these features, develops the documentation, converts it to the necessary formats, performs extensive testing, and distributes the final documents.

Currently, SAS Documentation produces the following types of documentation:

• Reference and usage documentation, administration guides, and migration guides on the web.
• Online Help that is built into the software.
In addition to documentation, how-to videos are produced and made available on the web. For more information about SAS’ documentation processes, see Appendix 4: Quality in SAS Documentation.

Quality in Consulting

SAS provides consulting services that enable organizations to reap the maximum benefits from their investments in technology. SAS Professional Services and Delivery Division offers the experience of domain and industry thought leaders in the world of business intelligence and predictive analytics, armed with SAS’ commitment and heritage of solving the most complex business challenges facing the industry today.

SAS has been partnering with our customers to solve their business problems for more than three decades. Our consultants take the time to listen and learn about our customers’ business challenges and enterprise goals to establish a foundation for strategic advancement toward those goals. This mutual collaboration enables us to deliver the right SAS technology and customized services to solve our customers’ unique business requirements. We have amassed in-depth industry knowledge and domain expertise while drawing upon industry and technology best practices and proven methodologies. For more information about our quality processes and methodologies, see Appendix 7: Quality in Consulting.

Quality in SAS Global Hosting and US Professional Services

SAS Global Hosting and US Professional Services develops innovative, analytical processes and techniques, using SAS software, to solve our customers’ business problems. Delivery options include managed services (remote and hosted), software as a service (SaaS), and results as a service (RaaS). The SAS Global Hosting and US Professional Services team is an international, customer-focused division that integrates quality processes and controls into all areas of its organization. For more than 15 years, SAS Global Hosting and US Professional Services has established a successful track record of providing organizations with state-of-the-art outsourced applications, as well as the subject-matter experts to manage them. Although policies, processes, and procedures are always evolving, the SAS Global Hosting and US Professional Services commitment to quality is constant. See https://www.sas.com/en/white-papers/quality-sas-global-hosting-us-professional-services-107370.html for more information.
Appendix 1: Regulated Industry Issues

Introduction

SAS is not a publicly traded company. However, many large customers rely on SAS to enable their compliance with regulatory requirements. SAS Legal Services, in conjunction with teams providing solutions for regulated industries, continuously monitor regulatory affairs world-wide. This appendix answers commonly asked questions from regulated customers, including those from the pharmaceutical and other industries.

Note that the FDA does not certify software tool vendors. We consider SAS a tool: our customers need to validate systems that they build with SAS, but they do not need to validate SAS software. SAS is developed using a controlled process that consists of distinct development phases. Quality control activities are performed during various phases to make sure that quality is built into the software. SAS understands FDA requirements for computerized system validation and can identify existing practices and procedures that conform to FDA expectations. SAS also understands the FDA-regulated industry’s motivation to assess technology providers like SAS. Some validation methods for SAS procedures (PROCs) that are used extensively by pharmaceutical companies are covered in the section Validating a Statistical Procedure. The methods described might be useful in designing test cases to validate programs or applications built using SAS components. Companies must develop their own validation process for any tools that they use. For further details, see The SAS Software Development Life Cycle section in this paper, as well as the "Life Sciences" section on the Customer Success website (www.sas.com/customers).

ISO 9001 Certification

The SAS entities with ISO 9001 certification as of this document’s publication date are listed below. The list below has the potential to be incomplete, as new entities may have achieved certification since this paper’s publication. To obtain a complete and updated copy of all valid certificates received by SAS, send email to qualitypaper@sas.com.

- SAS UK (SAS Software Ltd.) A complete and updated list of certificates obtained by SAS UK can be found here: https://www.sas.com/en_gb/company-information/profile.html#compliant
- SAS R&D Scotland (SAS Software Ltd. T/A SAS R&D Scotland)
- SAS Institute Australia Pty Ltd.
- SAS Italy (SAS Institute SRL)
- SAS Poland (SAS Institute Sp. zo.o)
- SAS Spain (SAS Institute, S.A.U.)

ISO 27001 Certification

The SAS entities with ISO 27001 certification as of this document’s publication date are listed below. The list below has the potential to be incomplete, as new entities may have achieved certification since this paper’s publication. To obtain a complete and updated copy of all valid certificates received by SAS, send email to qualitypaper@sas.com.

- SAS UK (SAS Software Ltd.) A complete and updated list of certificates obtained by SAS UK can be found here: https://www.sas.com/en_gb/company-information/profile.html#compliant
- SAS Event Stream Processing R&D
- SAS R&D Scotland (SAS Software Ltd. T/A SAS R&D Scotland)
- SAS Italy (SAS Institute SRL)
Complying with Title 21 CFR Part 11

The United States regulation known as Title 21 CFR Part 11 (http://www.ecfr.gov/cgi-bin/text-idx?SID=ea01d0a91871a45dca2497b337f677c4&mc=true&node=pt21.1.11&rgn=div5), or the “Electronic Records; Electronic Signatures” rule, provides information about what constitutes trustworthy and reliable electronic records and electronic signatures. Many of our customers who are regulated by the United States Food and Drug Administration (FDA) are required to comply with this rule, which sets forth the criteria under which the FDA considers electronic records and electronic signatures to be trustworthy, reliable, and generally equivalent to paper records. CFR Title 21 serves as the predicate rule and has been in force for some time. Although the requirements of CFR Title 21 were originally written for the paper record, CFR Title 21 now explicitly applies to electronic records and signatures as well.

Part 11 does not outline details such as whether a record or signature is required, who signs it, and so on, because this is determined by the underlying predicate rules. Predicate rules are the rules that are set forth by the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic (FD&C) Act, Public Health Service (PHS) Act, and FDA regulations. Part 11 governs the treatment of these records and signatures that fall under predicate rules when they are created and maintained electronically.

The FDA recently issued industry guidance for the use of electronic health record data in clinical investigations (https://www.fda.gov/media/97567/download). In issuing such guidance, the FDA sought to assist sponsors, clinical investigators, and other interested parties in using electronic health records (EHRs) in clinical trials. This guidance clarifies recommendations on applying Part 11 electronic records regulations to electronic data capture (EDC) systems. Among other things, the FDA provides guidance on the use of interoperable or fully integrated electronic health records (EHR) and EDC systems, appropriate validation methods, recordkeeping requirements, and the use of certified and noncertified EHR technology. However, we recognize that this guidance provides nonbinding recommendations and that certain specifications might change. Therefore, we continue to monitor FDA regulations and guidelines that pertain to SAS or to customers using SAS software.

SAS technologies provide the capability to use SAS and implement SAS solutions in a way that is compliant with 21 CFR Part 11. We provide tools to help customers build a Part 11 compliant application. Compliance with this regulation ultimately depends on how your application or the SAS solution is installed and used, how users are trained, and other factors. Customers need to use SAS according to the system requirements, install it according to the installation instructions, and use the DATA step and each procedure or solution according to the user documentation.

Although SAS includes features that enable users to comply with 21 CFR Part 11, simply using SAS software or any of SAS’ solutions will not automatically render a user compliant. All elements must be present in a proper environment to be 21 CFR Part 11 compliant, including adherence to compliant standard operating procedures. Users should refer to the predicate rule or consult the FDA or its guidance documents to determine whether their system is in compliance with regulatory expectations.

SAS customers can use SAS products to build data collection, analysis, and other systems that can be used in compliance with Part 11. They can also use programming languages such as the Java Programming Language, C#, and Visual Basic. We enable these clients to access SAS using the Integration Technologies API. Developers of such systems would need to determine which features are needed for the system that they are designing and then build the appropriate checks into the system. Such features could include audit trails, security checks, and electronic signatures.

Regarding audit trails and integrity constraints, the audit trail feature of Base SAS has the essential elements to address and enable the controls and procedures for a 21 CFR Part 11 audit trail. For more information about audit trails and integrity constraints, see the paper “Integrity Constraints and Audit Trails Working Together” (http://www2.sas.com/proceedings/sugi25/25/aa/25p008.pdf).

Customers need to be able to re-create analyses, and this can be done by archiving SAS programs. Customers can use the editor window while working on the program. When the program is working appropriately, submit the program in
batch mode or as a SAS job. The SAS output has date and time information embedded. A SAS manifest file is created when a SAS job is executed in the solution, and that file captures all details that are needed to reproduce the result. Keep the file with the code and the output in the source control system as read-only. If any changes are needed to the program in the future, use the source control system to check the file out, make the changes, and check it back in. Run the SAS program only from the read-only file in the source control system to create an audit trail of any changes.

The FDA accepts a SAS transport format as a method for accepting and archiving data sets. Information about the transport format is available on the FDA Submission Standards page (http://www.sas.com/industry/government/fdcc-compliance.html).

The SAS transport format is an open format, has a free viewer, is used extensively in the industry, and has long-term support. Other software vendors can write transport format using the specifications described on the FDA and SAS Technology web page.

The FDA now requires all new CDER and CBER study submissions to use industry standard data structures (http://www.fda.gov/ForIndustry/DataStandards/default.htm). The FDA requires the CDISC Study Data Tabulation Model (STDM), Standard for Exchange of Nonclinical Data (SEND), and Analysis Data Model (ADaM) for exchanging electronic data and report-ready tables. See the CDISC section for more information about how SAS supports CDISC.

SAS interfaces well with other revision control software or filing systems (for example, Microsoft products, UNIX, LINUX, MAC, and Documentum), but it is the interface with SAS tools, applications, procedures, and custom application interfaces (APIs or engines) that addresses revision control. For example, custom engines for interfacing with clinical data management systems (ClinTrial is one example) have been developed. SAS/ACCESS can also be used to obtain repetitive versions of data from a Laboratory Information Management System (LIMS) or Clinical Data Management System (CDMS). The COMPARE and CONTENTS procedures can be used to monitor changes or revisions regarding content in data. Functionalities such as data integrity constraints and audit trails can be enabled to assist in this process. All this functionality is supported by the SAS Life Science Analytics Framework that provides a real-time assessment of metadata structure and revisions, or through data management solutions such as SAS Data Preparation.

Alternatively, SAS has developed a 21 CFR Part 11 enabling technology known as SAS Life Science Analytics Framework. (See https://www.sas.com/en_us/software/life-science-analytics-framework.html) SAS Life Science Analytics Framework software was designed and introduced to specifically address the issues associated with 21 CFR Part 11 and the FDA’s Guidance for Industry. The software provides these capabilities while offering an enhanced operating environment for managing clinical data, programs, logs, documents, and reports. Careful consideration was given to the intended performance with respect to data warehousing, analysis and reporting, electronic submissions, and related e-signature requirements. Application of both process and quality management has enabled the software to meet the intended requirements of the system’s 21 CFR Part 11 functionality. The Health and Life Sciences (HLS) R&D organization follows the SAS software development process. To meet the needs of their FDA-regulated customers, they have implemented an additional Quality Management System (QMS) to govern their software development. HLS R&D might use additional tools that are not generally used by SAS R&D but that are validated for use through the HLS QMS.

CDISC

SAS has been an active supporter and platinum member of the Clinical Data Interchange Standards Consortium (CDISC) since 2000 with both resource and administrative support. For details, see http://www.cdisc.org/. SAS views the FDA’s adoption and requirement of the Study Data Tabulation Model (STDM), Standard for Exchange of Nonclinical Data (SEND), Analysis Data Model (ADaM), Define-XML, and other CDISC data standards for the electronic Common Technical Document (eCTD) as very significant events. We recognize the value that data standards give the industry in providing the key elements for improving global public health. Implementing and applying the CDISC standard in commonly used pharmaceutical industry software makes it possible for both product sponsors and regulatory authorities to benefit from the value of standard data structure and elements.
SAS provides standard processes within its production software to facilitate using SDTM, SEND, and ADaM data models, Define-XML, Dataset-XML, Operational Data Modeling (ODM), and laboratory data (LAB). See the SAS statement on CDISC support at [http://www.sas.com/en_us/industry/life-sciences/sas-cdisc.html](http://www.sas.com/en_us/industry/life-sciences/sas-cdisc.html) for more information.

**HIPAA and HITECH**

The health care reforms made by Title II of the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA) and the Health Information Technology for Economic and Clinical Health (HITECH) Act of 2009 provide federal protections for the privacy and security of individually identifiable health information. The United States Department of Health and Human Services has issued regulations governing HIPAA/HITECH that require health care organizations and other covered entities, as well as their business associates, to meet certain minimum standards of privacy and security with respect to health care data and databases. These regulations also direct how such data and databases are to be stored, viewed, accessed, and shared. SAS software includes security and other built-in features that customers can use to implement HIPAA/HITECH-compliant applications though each customer must assess its specific needs in the context of its own computing environment. See “SAS Software Security Framework: Engineering Secure Products” ([http://www.sas.com/content/dam/SAS/en_us/doc/whitepaper1/sas-software-security-framework-107607.pdf](http://www.sas.com/content/dam/SAS/en_us/doc/whitepaper1/sas-software-security-framework-107607.pdf)) for an overview. SAS is available to assist with HIPAA/HITECH compliance issues related to the use of SAS technologies and solutions.

**Sarbanes-Oxley Compliance**

Satisfying the various requirements of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act generally requires management of data, processes, and technologies to ensure appropriate internal controls associated with financial risk. Compliance with SOX often involves a review of multiple systems and application of software tools and technologies that, among other things, must address configuration and change management, business process management, and documents and records management. SAS software can help customers achieve SOX compliance, though each customer must assess its specific needs in the context of its own computing environment.

**U.S. Government Configuration Baseline**

As a vendor of desktop software products to the U.S. Federal Government, SAS validates, through our release management process, that our desktop software products on the Microsoft Windows platform comply with the U.S. Government Configuration Baseline, formerly known as the Federal Desktop Core Configuration (FDCC). R&D validates the software and archives the validation reports as a part of due diligence before releasing the software. For more information, see [http://www.sas.com/en_us/industry/government/accessibility/accessibility-compliance.html](http://www.sas.com/en_us/industry/government/accessibility/accessibility-compliance.html).

**Statement on Auditing Standards No. 70**

Appendix 2: Employee Training

SAS executive leadership places high priority on fostering a workplace culture of life-long learning for all employees.

> There is not one degree that could have taught me everything I needed to know for my job. It takes more than knowledge. You need passion, curiosity, and a hunger for lifelong learning. — Oliver Schabenberger, Executive Vice President, Chief Operating Officer and Chief Technology Officer

Just as SAS actively cultivates continuous improvement in products and processes, SAS employees cultivate continuous improvement in their own skills and abilities through a wide variety of educational offerings and learning opportunities. Providing the right training at the right time in the most effective format is critical to developing a quality workforce. By helping employees meet their professional and personal development goals, they are empowered in their never-ending quest to deliver the highest quality software and services to customers.

Education for New Employees

New SAS employees receive a day-long orientation. This session includes high-level company information about SAS history, culture, compliance training, mandatory company policies, and employee programs and services. Afterward, direct managers collaborate with their new employees to develop a personalized training plan that balances departmental skill needs with the employee’s strengths. A customized program might include classroom courses, virtual learning, self-guided study, or one-on-one training sessions. Functional subject-matter experts and groups across the organization, including Human Resources and Education, also work with managers and employees to create development paths.

Although learning occurs primarily through experience, exposure to thought leaders and relevant educational opportunities are also important parts of professional development. SAS’ Global Career Mentoring Program fosters employee connections within the SAS global workforce. The program’s mission is to accelerate talent development and expand functional expertise and innovation across the company.

Lifelong Learning

Leadership and Management Development

The Leadership Development program increases organizational effectiveness at SAS by providing all managers and their teams with leadership and management development opportunities. The program includes a core curriculum of 10 to 12 classes that individuals might participate in alone or with their teams. The mission is to increase their competence in leadership and interpersonal communication skills, as well as their commitment to developing the overall performance of their individual staff members and teams. Both the transfer of training and the consistent use of new skills are fostered through action plans, skills coaching, and varied follow-up opportunities to embed learning in day-to-day behaviors. In addition, Leadership Development offers coaching and consultation in leadership, conflict management, team development, energy management, meeting planning, and facilitation.

Managers are given the opportunity to participate in the Manager Essentials program. The two-day program educates new managers on their roles and responsibilities and trains them in areas such as communication, conflict, coaching, and other topics. Participants also learn about energy management and taking care of their physical selves as they continue their management duties. SAS also partners with local universities for development and delivery of manager content.
Classroom Training

There are several avenues that employees can use to enhance their knowledge, job performance, and technical or managerial skills. Formal classroom training encompasses technical skill development in areas such as artificial intelligence, data integration, business intelligence, and analytics as well as topics in installation, configuration, architecture, security, and other advanced SAS administration topics.

Interpersonal development assists employees in enhancing how they communicate with one another to build understanding and effective relationships. SAS provides workshops that help employees develop effective communication and conflict resolution techniques, as well as demonstrate coaching conversations, to ensure that these skills are transferred to the job.

SAS employees are also encouraged to attend any SAS training class that are offered by SAS Education. Employees are welcome in courses that are offered publicly to our customers in the traditional classroom, via the Live Web classroom, and they are also welcome to learn on their own with SAS’ e-Learning options. When demand warrants, groups can request employee-only courses to cover a SAS tool that benefits their current business needs.

On-demand Training

In addition to formal classroom training, SAS employees can access on-demand training from the Learning Management System (LMS). This web-based environment provides many self-directed offerings, including self-study materials, live web training, and archived and downloadable video webcasts. By providing the earliest available training, often before a product is released, the LMS empowers those in the field with the hands-on experience needed to successfully deploy SAS technology. In addition, dedicated training specialists engage with internal subject-matter experts to coordinate and record workshops on technical topics.

The LMS also enables employees to see course descriptions and schedules, register online, receive reminders before class, sign up for interest and waiting lists, and maintain training records. The company periodically mandates web-based training for all employees. Topics include SAS Code of Business Ethics, Respect in the Workplace, SAS Confidential and Proprietary Information Policy, and Protecting Our Information (cybersecurity).

Other online training materials—including a growing selection of on-demand and user-paced e-learning modules—are readily available through the LMS as well as the SAS Library.

The SAS Library

SAS’ corporate library offers more than 10,000 books, thousands of online periodicals, and access to premier subscription databases and online learning platforms. The mission of SAS Library and Information Services is to provide the information that our employees need to do their work in software research and development, customer service, and support. In addition to online journals, magazines, and books, the SAS Library provides a research service that assists employees across all divisions with requests of varying complexity. Employees can also access online books and training videos through external services 24 hours a day, allowing for immediate information access whenever questions arise. The library has agreements with local universities and document delivery vendors for a widened information base.

Collaborative Education and Knowledge Sharing

Within SAS, employees continually exchange subject-matter expertise to optimize the development, delivery, and support of SAS products and solutions. SAS employees are driven to excel, and frequently share their knowledge by either plugging into one of the existing channels for collaborative education, or by creating their own. Below is just a
small sampling of the many collaboration and knowledge sharing channels that SAS employees use to share information and innovations:

- **BetaLabs** – high-energy and extremely popular classroom sessions that allow employees from any area of the company to test drive pre-production software.
- **Big Ideas** – formal employee presentations designed to enlighten and inspire.
- **Blogs** – SAS has a blogging culture, and employees frequently use blogging as a way to disseminate information.
- **Lightning Talks** – a group of short (5 minute) talks focused on a specific topic such as cybersecurity.
- **Lunch & Learns** – lunchtime presentations typically on R&D technical topics.
- **Quality Week** – a week of articles, blogs, presentations, seminars, activities, and formal sessions that are coordinated around the topic of whole company quality.
- **Specialized Forums** – employee-driven forums on technical topics such as DevOps, Product Security, and software testing, that are open to all. Employees with shared interests and skill sets gather together to share information and best practices based on their working experience.
- **Unconferences** – gatherings of subject-matter experts around a particular topic, with no set agenda.
Appendix 3: Quality in SAS Education

SAS Education offers technical training and professional development in a variety of training methods that allow all learning styles, budgets, and curriculum needs to be met.

Our web-based learning options continue to grow in order to serve all industries.

- Our Live Web classrooms allow interaction between instructors and other students while working together in a virtual lab, giving customers access to the latest SAS software without leaving the work environment.
- SAS Education offers connected classroom environments in Austin, Arlington, Cary, New York, and San Francisco that bring full-day training content to Live Web students from those sites.
- SAS e-Learning courses are self-paced, on-demand educational products that offer customers a way to learn at their own pace. Choose from full courses or short, one-subject tutorials.
- We have recently partnered with third-party learning platforms Coursera and LinkedIn to offer beginning and intermediate SAS training.
- In addition to fee-based training, we offer nearly 400 free SAS tutorials and several free e-Learning courses. Free course topics include Programming, Statistics, Administration, Open Source Integration, and SAS Viya.

SAS Education supports the professional development needs of its users by offering industry-specific seminars and conferences throughout the year.

- Business Knowledge Series courses provide knowledge and experience from a global network of industry experts through focused, in-depth seminars.
- Conferences and events provide group settings for knowledge transfer, training, certification, and networking.

The SAS Certified Professional Program enables users to earn globally recognized credentials that confirm their expertise in using the software. These credentials, in turn, provide companies with a very valuable resource: highly skilled personnel.

Education is involved in rollout and enablement of major new software initiatives to support sales and adoption. The recent rollout of SAS Viya continues to be supported by SAS Education in the following ways:

- A free SAS Viya Enablement e-Learning course, found at https://support.sas.com/edu/schedules.html?crs=EVIYAEN.
- Instructor-led courses for administration, data management, programming, advanced analytics, SAS Visual Analytics and Solutions, found at http://support.sas.com/training/us/paths/viya.html. Additional courses will be available to support the most recent release of SAS Viya and the related products.
- Tutorials, Hands-on Workshops, and courses for SAS Global Forum.
- Video tutorial libraries for Early Adopter releases and trials as needed.

Quality in SAS Training Courses

To ensure that SAS training courses are useful for our customers and that they meet the ever-changing needs of their business, SAS Education employees design and develop training courses at both the individual course level and the curriculum level. Our process is based on established instructional systems design theory and practice and incorporates the process areas of the Capability Maturity Model (a software development methodology). Further, it provides a
framework for continuous quality improvement. The analysis, design, and development phases of this process are of particular importance.

The analysis phase begins with significant input from a variety of internal and external sources specific to the industry and to the proposed training objectives. The development team collects pertinent data from related courses, students, customers, and resources across SAS and works with the course Project Sponsorship Team to develop training programs that will be helpful to our users.

In the design phase, SAS instructional designers use the results of the analysis phase to plan the instructional sequence of individual courses. During this phase, the work plan is written, course structure and flow are considered, and a detailed course outline is developed. Most important to quality in this phase is course design and content review. Subject-matter experts review course design plans and provide feedback to the Project Sponsorship Team about topics such as instructional flow, course data, delivery methods, and technical issues. The feedback received helps course developers finalize the training content while exposing potential weaknesses in the instructional flow and examples. This constructive feedback allows for additional quality improvement as the project moves forward.

In the development phase, the input that is received during the course design and content review sessions is used to create the training content. At numerous points during the process, the project development team consults with the technical reviewers, who look for accuracy and instructional flow while testing the demonstrations and programs on appropriate platforms. Typically, technical reviewers include at least two instructors and several subject-matter experts from a variety of sources.

The test teach is an opportunity to validate the course content, flow, and style in a real-world setting delivering the new course to students. The audience of each test teach consists of a combination of students whose main objective is to learn the material and of subject-matter experts who critique the training content.

A final quality check is performed when a lead editor (or multiple editors) conducts a comprehensive review of the course. Then, the production lead who is assigned to the course development project performs quality checks on the final materials.

The Education Project Office tracks each course development project to see that documented processes are followed and offers project quality assurance, project status reporting, and project management support.

**Quality in Instructor Training and Certification**

SAS instructors are not only recognized for their outstanding teaching skills, but often are considered to be thought leaders in their areas of instruction. To make sure that our instructors have the necessary expertise in the subjects that they teach, SAS holds each instructor to very high standards. Every instructor is encouraged to become SAS certified. Before teaching a new course, they team teach with experienced instructors gaining feedback on a chapter-by-chapter basis before teaching on their own.

SAS Global Certification follows a rigorous, industry-standard development process ensuring that all exams are valid and reliable in measuring important SAS skills. As a global program, the knowledge measured in each exam is relevant to employers and practitioners around the world. SAS is a leader in IT certification, with innovations in performance-based testing and sharing of best practices with other organizations in the industry.

**Quality in Customer Service**

Serving more than 30,000 customers a year, SAS Education has remained dedicated to the users of SAS products and services. Our commitment to quality extends beyond the technical aspects of the division’s work. Because SAS Education regards the relationship that it develops with each training student as its greatest resource, the same high
standards for quality that are built into course development, instructor training, and certification are part of its customer care.

SAS Education’s Customer Service Department is in communication with students multiple times during the student life cycle. Before the start of a class, each student could receive a number of communications based on when they register: a confirmation email with information about what to expect during the course, reminders closer to the date of the course, verification that the particular course will run and, in addition, a customer service representative might contact a student to learn about any special requests or needs. During a course, students enjoy an educational environment with the latest technology staffed by experienced training-center professionals who engage in open communication with each student.

Perhaps the most important communication, however, is the post-class contact. SAS Education instructors provide contact information to their students so that a student can contact the instructor after class to ask questions or to receive consultation about the material covered during a course. After attending a class, each student receives a thank you email that provides access to extended learning where applicable and a link to collect all feedback. By accessing the Extended Learning Pages for the course, students can download the course data, access extra practice examples, papers and FAQs, and find additional resources to help them develop the skills that they learned in class.

At SAS Education our commitment to quality, coupled with a desire to develop lasting relationships with our students, has enabled us to become a model for other industry training providers.

Appendix 4: Quality in SAS Documentation

Researhing New Features

Project managers and writers in the SAS Documentation Division are in constant contact with product developers to keep abreast of new features as they are being developed. Writers attend development meetings and subscribe to and participate in newsgroups and blogs that are related to the products that they are documenting. They work with new product features as the features are being developed and work with the appropriate developers to ensure that the documentation is clear, complete, and accurate.

Planning the Documentation Library

If a product is new, the writer analyzes the audience and its task workflow to determine what types of documentation are needed (for example, a user’s guide, an administrator’s guide, product Help, or a video or slideshow).

If an existing product is being updated, the writer reviews the documentation set and determines whether new types of documentation are needed, or existing documentation is obsolete. Writers consult with SAS Technical Support for input on how to improve the documentation. SAS regularly surveys customers regarding their satisfaction with the documentation and provides a feedback link from the documentation on the web.

As products are updated, the changes are compiled into a single What’s New topic that is delivered with the product documentation. A What's New summary document (called What's New in SAS) provides a high-level overview of all the changes and new products in a SAS release. For example, the most recent version for SAS 9.4 contains information from the initial release in July 2013 and any subsequent SAS 9.4 releases, such as SAS 9.4M6. This summary document is available (as HTML, PDF, and EPUB) from the web. Also, documentation that is available on the web is updated as needed and is labeled with the date of the update.

Developing Content

Writers and software developers work closely together to produce new documentation. The writer studies the software specifications and works with the software that is in development. The writer also develops and tests examples.

Most documentation is authored in an Extensible Markup Language (XML) authoring environment, although some documentation is authored in LaTeX, in Adobe FrameMaker, in Microsoft Word, or directly in HTML. When a first draft of the documentation is ready, project managers and writers send it out for technical review.

Employees in the SAS R&D, Technical Support, Worldwide Marketing, and Education Divisions are asked to review the documentation. These reviewers check the documentation for technical accuracy, completeness, and clarity, and send comments back to the writers.

Editing

All documentation is edited. There are three types of edits:

- Substantive edits occur early in the development of the documentation. These edits address the overall structure, organization, and writing style of the document.
- Copy edits concentrate on spelling, grammar, punctuation, consistency, and style.
- Policy edits check for trademark issues and glaring errors in text such as misspellings.

Most of our documentation receives a copy edit. All our documentation receives at least a policy edit. As project schedules permit, a substantive edit occurs at the same time as the technical review.
Searching

For online documents, we provide search functionality. Search functionality is tested for accuracy.

Testing and Publishing Documentation

After documentation is written and edited, it is transformed to several output types (HTML, PDF, and EPUB) and published to an internal documentation delivery site where it can be accessed for testing.

For all output types, editors and testers use both manual processes and automated tools to test the integrity of links within each document, and to test links to other documents. If the testers find errors, these errors are sent to the writers for resolution. If the conversion tools have generated the error, a problem report is submitted to the Publications Technology Development Department. After all errors have been fixed, the testers verify that errors have been resolved correctly. This process is repeated as needed. When documentation is complete and accurate, it is published to our external documentation delivery site on the date that coincides with the release of the software.

For documentation that is part of the SAS Help, various R&D product groups also test the documentation for their specific products. If R&D testers find an error, the tester records the problem in the problem reporting system, and the problem is routed to the writer. The writer fixes the error, and the transformation, testing, and publishing cycle is repeated as needed.

Preparing Documentation for Printing

In addition to online delivery, some documentation is also printed in hard copy. To produce a hard-copy book from XML source files, the XIS system generates a PDF that has been optimized for print. Similar processes are used for books that are authored in Word, LaTeX, and FrameMaker. Editors review the PDF output for errors and make corrections before book files are sent to the printer. All print deliverables are checked for quality by both the Technical Editing and User Publishing Support Departments.

Controlling Changes to the Documentation

Our source files are under a revision control system that is like the source management system used for SAS source code. The revision control system maintains a revision history for all files, and previous versions can be restored if needed.

Distributing Documentation to Customers

When we ship new or updated software, our documentation is updated to reflect the enhancements to the software. New and revised documentation is posted to the web in HTML, PDF, and EPUB formats. Selected titles are available for purchase in e-book formats from the SAS Bookstore. Documentation is also available in print and e-book formats from bookstores and online booksellers.

Tracking Problems after Software Updates

All substantive changes to documentation are tracked in a problem reporting system, including changes to existing information and information about new features. When we republish a document, technical errors are corrected, and revisions are reviewed and tested as appropriate. The SAS Documentation Division encourages feedback from users by email or through the SAS website.

Developing Software Used to Author and Deliver Documentation

The Publications Technology Development Department develops and supports both the SAS documentation delivery system and the software that is used by the SAS Documentation Division to create Help content for online delivery and
printed books. The R&D developers and testers use the same tools, processes, and protocols for software development that are described in the main body of this document so that our documentation delivery system software meets the same quality standards for a worldwide audience.

Managing Terminology

Quality documentation depends on “quality at the source.” This means that we establish and follow guidelines for correct, consistent, and clear words and phrases as we describe and explain how to use SAS software. The SAS Documentation Division leads a corporate-wide initiative in terminology management to help us provide quality communication and documentation for our customers. This initiative includes managing a central repository for SAS terminology, as well as managing processes to establish terminology quality checks throughout product development and delivery.

Terminologists in the SAS Documentation Division have the primary responsibility for researching, creating, and updating entries to the terminology database, which serves as a resource for the entire company. Technical writers and technical editors use a customized application that checks documents for clarity and correct terminology. SAS Documentation also works closely with R&D to develop quality terminology in software error messages and in user interface text.

In addition, SAS Documentation collaborates with our European and Asia-Pacific localization offices. By focusing on quality at the source, SAS software and documentation can be translated more accurately and efficiently.

Terminology management is recognized as critical to quality offerings in a global market. SAS Documentation is committed to continuing its leadership role in establishing quality terminology across SAS products.
Appendix 5: Validating a Statistical Procedure

Numerical Accuracy

We use a variety of methods to verify the accuracy and precision of the results generated by our software. Libraries of regression tests using automated tools are run periodically throughout the testing cycle to test functionality and data integrity. These reusable libraries of tests cover syntax, options, functionality, valid and invalid data, errors, stress, and results for the procedure/function/solution. These tests are run, and differences are resolved, before the release is declared production.

Validating a Statistical Procedure

Our development staff has the education, training, and experience to perform their assigned tasks. They use a variety of methods to verify, to the extent possible, that the software produces accurate, reliable, and numerically precise results. A combination of methods is used to validate a single SAS procedure. These methods are listed below.

Writing Independent SAS/IML (Interactive Matrix Language) or DATA Step Code

Except when similar results are available within an existing and previously tested SAS procedure or application, independent verification of numerical results via SAS/IML, DATA step code, or hand calculations is performed. SAS/IML is a powerful matrix programming language that is used to re-create the numerical output, or pieces of the output, produced by the procedure being validated. Sometimes the same algorithm used by the procedure is coded into SAS/IML, but occasionally a different algorithm is used if the two algorithms are expected to produce the same results. Replication of results via SAS/IML or DATA step code is the best method for validation because it’s an independent and verified confirmation of the numerical output.

Comparing to Similar Results in Other SAS Procedures, Applications, or Macros

Many procedures produce the same types of parameter estimates, covariances, and other statistics. Similar output produced by new procedures is validated by comparing it to these previously validated results. Similarly, when a macro program exists that produces some of the same results as the new procedure, it can be used for validation.

Running Simulation Studies

Simulation studies are performed in instances where closed-form solutions do not exist or used as checks when computations are extremely time and memory intensive.

Verifying against Published Results

Comparison against other software vendors’ applications is sometimes made, especially in those cases where the vendor’s application is highly regarded as producing quality results. Note that matching another vendor’s results is not considered sufficient validation.

Completing Consistency Checks within the Procedure or Application

Certain consistency checks are performed to help validate results. Here are some examples:

- Checking that results with a WEIGHT variable that has all weight values equal to 1 are identical to results obtained without using the WEIGHT variable.
- Verifying that results with a FREQ variable match results when not using the FREQ variable but instead repeating each observation by the value of the FREQ variable.
- Verifying that results with a BY statement match those obtained for each value of the BY variable analyzed individually.
An example of our validation techniques for the REG procedure is included below.

**Example of Validation Techniques**

While many analyses and results require fairly complex code to validate, the following simple example is used to provide a basic illustration of validation testing performed at SAS. The test case verifies the results from the REG procedure by comparing them to a classic textbook analysis. The data comes from Neter, Wasserman, and Kutner, (1990), and the test case verifies the ANOVA table, the Fit Statistics, and the Parameter Estimates table that PROC REG produces.

The data consists of sales information from 15 marketing districts, and PROC REG fits a multiple regression model. Besides comparing the results to the textbook results, this example also illustrates validation using the IML procedure and cross validation using the GLM procedure. Finally, the example concludes by illustrating some basic consistency checks.

```sas
data Zarthan_Company;
  input sales target_population discretionary_income @@;
datalines;
  162 274 2450  120 180 3254  223 375 3802  131 205 2838
  67  86 2347  169 265 3782  81  98 3008  192 330 4250
  116 195 2137  55  53 2347  252 430 4020  232 372 4427
  144 236 2660  103 157 2088  212 370 2605
;
ods listing close;
ods rtf file='Zarthan.rtf';
ods select ANOVA FitStatistics ParameterEstimates;
proc reg data=Zarthan_Company;
  ods output ANOVA=reg_ANOVA
    FitStatistics=reg_FitStatistics
    ParameterEstimates=reg_ParameterEstimates;
  model sales = target_population discretionary_income;
run;
ods rtf close;
```

### PROC REG Results

<table>
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<th>Mean Square</th>
<th>F Value</th>
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<tr>
<td>Error</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>56.88357</td>
<td>4.74030</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Corrected Total</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>53902</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Root MSE       | 2.17722 | R-Square | 0.9989 |
| Dependent Mean | 150.60000 | Adj R-Sq | 0.9988 |
| Coef Var       | 1.44570 |         |        |
### Parameter Estimates

| Variable       | DF | Parameter Estimate | Standard Error | t Value | Pr > |t| |
|----------------|----|--------------------|----------------|---------|------|---|
| Intercept      | 1  | 3.45261            | 2.43065        | 1.42    | 0.1809 |
| target_population | 1  | 0.49600            | 0.00605        | 81.92   | <.0001 |
| discretionary_income | 1  | 0.00920            | 0.00096811     | 9.50    | <.0001 |

### Comparison to Textbook

The results from PROC REG can be compared to those given in the textbook to verify that there are no discrepancies. For this example, the following quantities are reported in the textbook:

#### ANOVA Results

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Statistic</th>
<th>Result</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SS Model</td>
<td>53,844.716</td>
<td>256</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SS Error</td>
<td>56.884</td>
<td>256</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SS Total</td>
<td>53,901.600</td>
<td>256</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>df Model</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>256</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>df Error</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>256</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>df Total</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>256</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MS Model</td>
<td>26,922.358</td>
<td>256</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MS Error</td>
<td>4.740</td>
<td>256</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F*</td>
<td>5,680</td>
<td>257</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>p-value</td>
<td>&lt; .001</td>
<td>257</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Note that PROC REG reports as 5,679.47. The discrepancy is due to the textbook example rounding the quantities involved in the ratio before the ratio is computed.

#### Fit Statistics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Statistic</th>
<th>Result</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>R-Squared</td>
<td>0.9989</td>
<td>257</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Parameter Estimates

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Statistic</th>
<th>Result</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Beta: Intercept</td>
<td>3.4526127900</td>
<td>252</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beta: target population</td>
<td>0.4960049761</td>
<td>252</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beta: disc. Income</td>
<td>0.009199080867</td>
<td>252</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Std. Error: target pop.</td>
<td>0.006054</td>
<td>258</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Std. Error: disc. Income</td>
<td>0.0009681</td>
<td>257</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Direct Validation**

SAS/IML can be used to compute the corresponding quantities from the PROC REG output:

```sas
proc iml;
use Zarthan_Company;
read all var _all_ into data;

y=data[,1];                          * dependent variable;
n=nrow(y);                           * sample size;
x=j(n,1,1)||data[,2:3];              * x matrix, augmented for intercept;
p=ncol(x);                           * number of parameters;
beta=inv(x`*x)*x`*y;                 * parameter estimates;
resid=y-yhat;                        * residuals;
sse=ssq(resid);                      * Sum of Squares for Error;
dfe=nrow(x)-ncol(x);                 * error degrees of freedom;
me=sse/dfe;                         * Mean Square Error;
cssy=ssq(y-y[+]/n);                  * Corrected Total Sum of Squares;
rsquare=(cssy-sse)/cssy;             * R-Square;
stdbeta=sqrt(vecdiag(inv(x`*x))*mse);* Std error of estimates;
t=beta/stdbeta;                      * parameter t-tests;
df=j(nrow(t),1,1);                   * parameter degrees of freedom;
t_prob=1-cdf('F',t##2,df,dfe);       * p-values for t-tests;
dft=n-1;                             * corrected total df;
dfm=dfm-dfe;                         * Model degrees of freedom;
msm=ssm/dfm;                         * Mean Square Model;
F=msm/mse;                           * F statistic;
F_prob=1-cdf('F',F,dfm,dfe);         * p-value for F statistic;
root_mse=sqrt(mse);                  * Root MSE;
mean_y=y[+]/n;                       * Dependent Mean;
coeff_var=(root_mse/mean_y)*100;     * Coefficient of Variation;
adj_r=1-((n-1)#(1-rsquare))/(n-p);   * Adjusted R-Square;

create matrices of the corresponding REG tables;
anova_table=(dfm//dfe//dft)||(ssm//sse//cssy)||(msm//mse//{._})
        ||({F//{._ .}'}||(F_prob//{._ .}'));
fit_statistics=(root_mse/mean_y/coeff_var)||(rsquare/adj_r//{0});
parameter_estimates=df||beta||stdbeta||t||t_prob;

* create data sets of these matrices to be used with the COMPARE procedure;
create iml_anova(label='Analysis of Variance' )
    from anova_table[colname={df ss ms fvalue probf}];
append from anova_table;
create iml_fitstatistics(label='Fit Statistics' )
    from fit_statistics[colname={nvalue1 nvalue2}];
append from fit_statistics;
create iml_parameterestimates(label='Parameter Estimates' )
    from parameter_estimates[colname={df estimate stderr tvalue probt}];
append from parameter_estimates;
quit;

* print the SAS/IML validation results for a visual scan;
proc print data=iml_anova noobs; run;
proc print data=iml_fitstatistics noobs; run;
proc print data=iml_parameterestimates noobs; run;
```
SAS/IML Validation Results

ANOVA Table

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DF</th>
<th>SS</th>
<th>MS</th>
<th>FVALUE</th>
<th>PROBF</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>53844.72</td>
<td>26922.36</td>
<td>5679.47</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>56.88</td>
<td>4.74</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>53901.60</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Fit Statistics Table

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NVALUE1</th>
<th>NVALUE2</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2.177</td>
<td>0.99894</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>150.600</td>
<td>0.99877</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.446</td>
<td>0.00000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Parameter Estimates Table

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DF</th>
<th>ESTIMATE</th>
<th>STDERR</th>
<th>TVALUE</th>
<th>PROBT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>3.45261</td>
<td>2.43065</td>
<td>1.4204</td>
<td>0.18094</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>0.49600</td>
<td>0.00605</td>
<td>81.9242</td>
<td>0.00000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>0.00920</td>
<td>0.00097</td>
<td>9.5021</td>
<td>0.00000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
* compare via PROC COMPARE the PROC REG results to the SAS/IML validation results
proc compare data=reg_anova compare=iml_anova
   error briefsummary note method=relative(1) criterion=1e-6;
   attrib _all_ format = label = '';
   var df ss ms fvalue probf;
run;

proc compare data=reg_fitstatistics compare=iml_fitstatistics
   error briefsummary note method=relative(1) criterion=1e-6;
   attrib _all_ format = label = '';
   var nvalue1 nvalue2;
run;

proc compare data=reg_parameterestimates compare=iml_parameterestimates
   error briefsummary note method=relative(1) criterion=1e-6;
   attrib _all_ format = label = '';
   var df estimate stderr tvalue probt;
run;

PROC COMPARE Results

   The COMPARE Procedure
   Comparison of WORK.REG_ANOVA with WORK.IML_ANOVA
      (Method=RELATIVE(1), Criterion=0.000001)

   NOTE: All values compared are within the equality criterion used.

   NOTE: One or both of the data sets WORK.REG_ANOVA and WORK.IML_ANOVA contain
        variables not in the other. However, all comparisons are equal for the
        variables specified.

   The COMPARE Procedure
   Comparison of WORK.REG_FITSTATISTICS with WORK.IML_FITSTATISTICS
      (Method=RELATIVE(1), Criterion=0.000001)

   NOTE: All values compared are within the equality criterion used.

   NOTE: One or both of the data sets WORK.REG_FITSTATISTICS and
        WORK.IML_FITSTATISTICS contain variables not in the other. However, all
        comparisons are equal for the variables specified.

   The COMPARE Procedure
   Comparison of WORK.REG_PARAMETERESTIMATES with WORK.IML_PARAMETERESTIMATES
      (Method=RELATIVE(1), Criterion=0.000001)

   NOTE: All values compared are within the equality criterion used.

   NOTE: One or both of the data sets WORK.REG_PARAMETERESTIMATES and
        WORK.IML_PARAMETERESTIMATES contain variables not in the other.
        However, all comparisons are equal for the variables specified.
Comparison to Other SAS Procedures

The PROC REG results can be compared to PROC GLM output:

* run the corresponding model with PROC GLM;

```sas
proc glm data=Zarthan_Company;
  ods output OverallANOVA=glm_ANOVA(label='Analysis of Variance')
    FitStatistics=glm_FitStatistics
    ParameterEstimates=glm_ParameterEstimates(label='Parameter Estimates');
  model sales = target_population discretionary_income/solution;
run;
```

* compare the REG results to the GLM results;

```sas
proc compare data=reg_anova compare=glm_anova
  error briefsummary note method=relative(1) criterion=1e-6;
  attrib _all_ format = label = '';
  var df ss ms fvalue probf;
run;
proc compare data=reg_parameterestimates
  compare=glm_parameterestimates
  error briefsummary note method=relative(1) criterion=1e-6;
  attrib _all_ format = label = '';
  var estimate stderr tvalue probt;
run;
```

* visually compare the statistics that correspond in Fit Statistics because the two tables have a different structure:

```sas
proc print data=reg_FitStatistics; run;
proc print data=glm_FitStatistics; run;
```

### PROC REG Results

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Obs</th>
<th>Model</th>
<th>Dependent</th>
<th>Label1</th>
<th>cValue1</th>
<th>nValue1</th>
<th>Label2</th>
<th>cValue2</th>
<th>nValue2</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>MODEL1</td>
<td>sales</td>
<td>Root MSE</td>
<td>2.177222</td>
<td>2.177222</td>
<td>R-Square</td>
<td>0.9989</td>
<td>0.998945</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>MODEL1</td>
<td>sales</td>
<td>Dependent Mean</td>
<td>150.60000</td>
<td>150.60000</td>
<td>Adj R-Sq</td>
<td>0.9988</td>
<td>0.998769</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>MODEL1</td>
<td>sales</td>
<td>Coeff Var</td>
<td>1.44570</td>
<td>1.445699</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### PROC GLM Results

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Obs</th>
<th>Dependent</th>
<th>RSquare</th>
<th>CV</th>
<th>RootMSE</th>
<th>DepMean</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>sales</td>
<td>0.998945</td>
<td>1.445699</td>
<td>2.177222</td>
<td>150.6000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Consistency Checking**

A simple check of the WEIGHT statement can be performed. Note that complete testing for WEIGHT would include tests where the weight values are not all equal to 1, with SAS/IML validation performed.

* add a weight variable to the data set, with values all equal to 1;
  
  ```
  data check_weight; set Zarthan_Company;
  weight=1;
  run;
  *
  run PROC REG with the weight variable;
  
  proc reg data=check_weight;
  ods output ANOVA=reg_ANOVA_weight
  FitStatistics=reg_FitStatistics_weight
  ParameterEstimates=reg_ParameterEstimates_weight;
  model sales = target_population discretionary_income;
  weight weight;
  run;
  *
  compare the results from the REG run without a weight to the REG run with weights all equal to 1;
  
  proc compare data=reg_anova compare=reg_anova_weight
  error briefsummary note method=relative(1) criterion=1e-6;
  attrib _all_ format = label = '';
  run;
  
  proc compare data=reg_fitstatistics
  compare=reg_fitstatistics_weight
  error briefsummary note method=relative(1) criterion=1e-6;
  attrib _all_ format = label = '';
  run;
  
  proc compare data=reg_parameterestimates
  compare=reg_parameterestimates_weight
  error briefsummary note method=relative(1) criterion=1e-6;
  attrib _all_ format = label = '';
  run;
  
  PROC COMPARE Results:

  The COMPARE Procedure
  Comparison of WORK.REG_ANOVA with WORK.REG_ANOVA_WEIGHT
  (Method=RELATIVE(1), Criterion=0.000001)

  NOTE: All values compared are within the equality criterion used.

  NOTE: The data sets WORK.REG_ANOVA and WORK.REG_ANOVA_WEIGHT compare equal.

  The COMPARE Procedure
  Comparison of WORK.REG_FITSTATISTICS with WORK.REG_FITSTATISTICS_WEIGHT
  (Method=RELATIVE(1), Criterion=0.000001)

  NOTE: All values compared are within the equality criterion used.

  NOTE: The data sets WORK.REG_FITSTATISTICS and WORK.REG_FITSTATISTICS_WEIGHT compare equal.
The COMPARE Procedure
Comparison of WORK.REG_PARAMETERESTIMATES with
WORK.REG_PARAMETERESTIMATES_WEIGHT
(Method=RELATIVE(1), Criterion=0.000001)

NOTE: All values compared are within the equality criterion used.

NOTE: The data sets WORK.REG_PARAMETERESTIMATES and
WORK.REG_PARAMETERESTIMATES_WEIGHT compare equal.

References

Appendix 6: Installation and Operation Qualification for SAS 9.4

SAS 9.4 includes three qualification tools, the SAS Installation Qualification Tool (SAS IQ), the SAS Operational Qualification Tool (SAS OQ), and the SAS Deployment Tester, to help customers verify installation and test the operation of SAS at their sites. These tools provide a consistent, repeatable process for verifying the initial installation and future updates to SAS while also providing a framework for running customer-written tests. Output of SAS IQ and SAS OQ includes a data file that contains the test results and output formatting options. SAS Deployment Tester generates an online report of the success of each test run.

Background

Originally, these tools were conceived as testing tools to assist with the internal testing of the installation processes. However, the feature set has been broadened to allow distribution to customers. The SAS Qualification Tools (SAS IQ and SAS OQ) that are delivered to customers are the same tools that are used in the testing and qualification of the SAS®9 installation software. SAS Deployment Tester was designed to test the complex configuration of the SAS 9.4 Intelligence Platform, although any of the SAS OQ tests or customer-written tests can be run using this tool.

Customer Considerations

The SAS Installation Qualification tool (SAS IQ) assists regulated customers in demonstrating compliance and qualifying the installation. SAS IQ can be used as part of the installation process, as an interim check on the state of the SAS System, and as an automated tool to maintain an audit history. The SAS Operational Qualification tool (SAS OQ) also assists in demonstrating compliance and includes tests that are designed to be included in operational qualification. SAS OQ can be used as part of the initial qualification process and as an automated tool to maintain a history when changes are made to the SAS installation. SAS Deployment Tester runs SAS OQ tests and also tests for SAS 9.4 Intelligence Platform.

SAS customers need to install SAS on appropriate hardware and software according to the installation instructions. When running SAS®9 or later, customers should run the SAS IQ and SAS OQ tests after installation. Customers should then write procedures that document how SAS is used at their site. Any systems that they have built using SAS might need to be validated with each new SAS release. Many companies do this by running the programs at the earlier release, and then running the tests at the new release and comparing results.

SAS Professional Services and Delivery can provide support to customers, including drug sponsors and contract research organizations, on validation efforts. Consultants take steps such as these:

- Gather user and functional requirements and prepare validation documentation inclusive of validation plans, test protocols, and test scripts.
- Install and configure SAS software according to the instructions and alert notes that are delivered by SAS as part of the software shipment.
- Execute IQ, OQ, and Performance Qualification (PQ) according to approved plans and test scripts.
- Provide knowledge transfer to IT staff and end users on the above, recommending formal SAS training where needed.
- Provide project management for all of the above activities.
Operation

The testing process for the installation of SAS 9.4 has three phases. The first phase is the initial installation process on the target platforms. The second phase is the execution of the SAS Installation Qualification Tool (SAS IQ). The third phase is the execution of the SAS Operational Qualification Tool (SAS OQ) or SAS Deployment Tester.

Phase 1

During this phase, SAS is installed at the customer site. Customers should follow the installation instructions provided in their packages—or see the online instructions provided on the SAS Install Center (http://support.sas.com/documentation/installcenter/).

Phase 2

SAS IQ assists you in demonstrating that the SAS System has been installed and maintained to the manufacturer’s specifications. SAS IQ verifies the integrity of each file in SAS®9 and provides the customer a set of reports detailing the results. To execute SAS IQ, follow the instructions in http://support.sas.com/documentation/installcenter/en/ikinstqualtoolug/66614/PDF/default/qualification_tools_guide.pdf.

Phase 3

SAS OQ assists you in demonstrating that the SAS System is operational. SAS OQ uses SAS programs provided by the component development groups and will execute, process, and report the program results. To execute SAS OQ, follow the instructions in http://support.sas.com/documentation/installcenter/en/ikinstqualtoolug/66614/PDF/default/qualification_tools_guide.pdf.

SAS Deployment Tester is a diagnostic tool used for assessing a SAS 9.4 Intelligence Platform deployment. After an installation or upgrade, you can use SAS Deployment Tester to ensure that your SAS software and critical server components have been installed and configured correctly. To learn more about the SAS Deployment Tester, including prerequisites for use, how to add tests, and how to use the Deployment Tester, see http://support.sas.com/documentation/cdl/en/bisag/68240/HTML/default/viewer.htm#n1cm1j9i99dvyqn1nu3wam8slw3.htm.

Content

The content of the testing tools is generated within the R&D community. During the weekly build process, a data file is created that contains the md5sum values for each file that is used by SAS IQ for each target platform. These values are validated over the course of weekly testing by several testing groups in R&D. The test cases and test tables used by SAS OQ and SAS Deployment Tester are developed by the testing groups that are responsible for the SAS®9 component. The tables and tests are executed and validated on all target platforms during weekly testing by several testing groups in R&D.

Verification of Test Results

Customers can create new tests that fit their unique needs. A test can be constructed in several ways. There are general approaches to determining the result of a test:

- Human verification
- Programmatic verification
- Self-verification
Human verification of a test is the least efficient of the approaches. This method requires that a person visually inspect the results of a test including the SAS log, the SAS output, and the return code from the SAS application. It is time-consuming and very repetitive work to go over the same text files again and again. This can lead to incorrect results interpretation after just a few iterations.

Programmatic verification means that a test program, such as a SAS program, cannot reliably determine its own result status, so it needs additional programs that run after it is completed to help determine the result.

Filtering and comparing with a benchmark is a classic and common example of programmatic verification. When this method is used, the output file is filtered to remove non-deterministic data, of which the current date and time are good examples. Then the filtered version of the output file is compared against a benchmark file in a byte-by-byte manner. If the filtered output file matches the benchmark, then the test is deemed to have passed. Otherwise, the test has failed. Benchmarks are problematic in that they require frequent maintenance, host-specific versions, and filtering, which could result in test failures that are not real. These failures require that resources be allocated to analyze the differences and make a determination whether there is a problem with the program being tested, whether a new benchmark needs to be created, or whether some addition or change to the filter needs to be made. However, programmatic verification is very reliable and requires no special programming skills other than filtering to create the filtered output file.

The self-verification approach means writing a test program that can reliably determine whether the feature being tested worked and then reporting that through a simple return code. Self-verification avoids all the problems of benchmarking and produces very reliable, durable, low-maintenance test ware, but it does require additional, up-front investment and programming skills. Tests must be carefully written to make sure that passing results are accurate.

SAS has put a lot of effort into writing as many as possible of the supplied SAS OQ tests in a self-verify format. We suggest that users follow our example and try to do the same. Here are some suggestions, tips, and best practices.

Every SAS DATA step, procedure, and global statement should set the value of at least one of the automatic SAS macro variables from this list: SYSERR, SYSRC, SYSLIBRC, SYSFILRC, SYSLCKRC, and SYSINFO. Users should check these macro variables in their test programs at every opportunity.

PROC COMPARE can be used effectively to validate many procedures. Any procedure that is capable of producing a SAS data set as output can be reliably validated by directly constructing a SAS data set with the variables and values that are expected to be generated. Users can execute a simple DATA step with DATALINES input to accomplish this or any number of straightforward DATA step techniques. Then they can use PROC COMPARE to verify that the procedure-generated data set matches the one that they’ve created by hand. The result can be quickly checked by looking at the SYSINFO macro variable.

Other Notes

Customers often need to establish a baseline for their tests in a prior SAS release and then verify the results in a new SAS release. The SAS OQ provides a clear migration path for customers who are concerned about moving to a new release of SAS.

Both SAS IQ and SAS OQ are supported for the Windows and UNIX operating environments in SAS®9. SAS IQ and SAS OQ can be used only with files that are provided through the normal R&D delivery process for SAS®9 and later. For example, hot fixes applied by using the normal R&D install process are verified regardless of the delivery mechanism. Files that use post-processing methods, such as ZIP or TAR archives, cannot be verified.
Appendix 7: Quality in Consulting

The SAS Professional Services and Delivery Division helps SAS users implement business intelligence solutions on premise and in the cloud. Engaging SAS consultants can help you tap the full power of SAS technology and reap maximum returns on your investment.

To help you gain that return, we deliver services of exceptional quality—across the full range of SAS solutions—in parallel with our expert guidance. We are committed to your satisfaction with our software and services and have a vested interest in making sure that you get the most out of your SAS investment. To do that, we use project methodologies that include quality management (quality assurance and quality control), industry standard project governance practices, and highly qualified consultants. In addition, we have experts in business transformation advisory services to help our customers navigate any organizational changes needed to best use the power of analytics.

Our goal is to become your trusted technology and business partner.

Our Experience, Our Consultants

SAS Professional Services and Delivery Division offers experienced domain and industry thought leaders in the world of business intelligence and predictive analytics. SAS consultants have bachelors, masters, and doctoral degrees, as well as certifications, in such areas as computer science, statistics, operations research, project management, and business administration. SAS consultants are also experienced in performance management, detailed consulting operations, applications development, and system analysis and design.

When we utilize personnel from our alliance partners, we know that our clients will see them as part of the SAS team. We work hard to make sure that partner personnel have the same qualifications and expertise that any other member of the SAS project team would have based on the needs of the implementation. Our alliance partners represent a select group of vendors who share the same commitment to implementation excellence that we do.

What makes SAS Professional Services and Delivery Division exceptional?

- SAS Professional Services and Delivery Division has the experience and know-how to manage the continual life cycle of SAS implementations.
- SAS Professional Services and Delivery Division knows “one size does not fit all.” We bring the experience of working with thousands of our clients, addressing each as a new environment with unique needs.
- SAS Professional Services and Delivery Division enables our customers to innovate and drive value from tactical installations to strategic business transformation with a proven methodology that adapts to each client’s capabilities, business conditions, and environment.
- Through the experience of thousands of SAS implementations, SAS Professional Services and Delivery Division brings proven SAS implementation methodologies and roadmaps that have been developed through our collective experiences in successful projects. Available only from SAS, these methodologies and roadmaps are the basis for the customization and implementation for your company that brings proven success and increased business value.
- With industry experience as users and business leaders, SAS Professional Services and Delivery Division employees bring the contextual experience needed to drive value and solve complex business challenges.

SAS consultants take the time to listen and learn about customers’ business challenges and enterprise goals to establish a foundation for a strategic and successful implementation. This enables us to deliver the right SAS technology and customized services to solve customers’ unique business requirements. By combining a staff of SAS experts, a product methodology, quality management, and project governance, we provide an excellent consulting choice for our customers.
SAS Professional Services and Delivery Division information is available at [www.sas.com/consulting](http://www.sas.com/consulting).

**SAS Project Methodologies**

SAS project and delivery methodologies are the basis for all SAS Professional Services and Delivery engagements; these methodologies ensure that business requirements are aligned with SAS technology and support.

All SAS methodologies feature the following key components, with their respective benefits for project planning and execution:

- Detailed work breakdown structure enables the project team to create project schedules faster, and ensures that they have a common approach.
- Roles and responsibilities matrix enables determination of resources for each task, and for the establishment and management of teams that work faster and better.
- Questionnaires and templates shorten time for project planning, assessment, and documentation.
- Estimation, communications, and risk assessment tools help to increase mutual understanding and satisfaction.
- Where appropriate, agile techniques, processes, and principles such as iterative development and prototyping help optimize the work effort and communicate status.

All of the methodologies’ key components enable SAS to quickly deliver superior projects. Here are the key SAS project methodologies:

- SAS Project Management Methodology, focusing on project management processes
- SAS Intelligence Platform Implementation Methodology, focusing on technical implementation
- SAS Agile Plug-in, focusing on the use of agile practices within implementation

**SAS Project Management Methodology**

The SAS Project Management Methodology is based on best industry standards including the Project Management Institute’s Body of Knowledge, PRINCE2, and iterative development practices.

The SAS Project Management Methodology supplies the basis on which all SAS projects are executed. Based on industry standard project management principles, it takes into consideration the specific requirements of a SAS project. In short, the SAS Project Management Methodology accomplishes the following:

- Supports the delivery of the project within the agreed time frame, budget, and required features (project scope)
- Helps set and maintain the right expectations with all project stakeholders
- Provides the necessary techniques and tools to monitor and control the project and project risks

**SAS Intelligence Platform Implementation Methodology**

The SAS Intelligence Platform Implementation Methodology is the most versatile of SAS’ implementation methodologies. It is applicable to projects that contain any combination or all of the following:

- Data quality evaluation and resolution of issues
- Data integration, or creating a data mart or warehouse
- Data mining, forecasting, and other analytics
- Business intelligence (BI) delivery such as query and reporting solutions
Covering a complete implementation of the SAS Business Analytics Framework, the methodology contains the quintessential knowledge and best practices of SAS’ more than 40 years of experience.

Comprehensive by design, the SAS Intelligence Platform Implementation Methodology is customizable to be adapted to projects with a narrow focus, such as data integration, data quality, data mining, or pure-play business intelligence projects. In such projects, only a subset of phases, activities, and tasks applies, thus avoiding unnecessary overhead.

SAS methodologies contain best practices and recommendations for areas such as these:

- Project planning, estimation, and execution
- Project phases, activities, tasks, and subtasks
- Work breakdown structures
- Assignment of roles and responsibilities
- Questionnaires and templates
- Project deliverables
- Key objectives

**SAS Agile Plug-in**

In today’s fast-paced business environment it is often necessary to use agile practices to better address business challenges. These proven practices can address unique business situations where requirements for technology may not be well defined or the approach that the client wants to take is entirely new. In such cases, the final deliverables or implementation results may need to be “discovered” rather than prescribed in advance.

SAS has developed an approach heavily based on the Scrum framework that enables SAS consultants to work with our clients using agile practices. SAS will work with interested clients to make sure that there is alignment between the business and technology needs of the implementation and the agile approach used on the project. Our approach leverages our deep experience with our existing methodologies by borrowing tools, templates, and practices where appropriate and using them in an agile context. SAS has made a large investment in training our consultants and managers in the successful use of Scrum and our agile practices.

This commitment, along with our many successful experiences using this approach, can benefit clients who have a need for innovation within our software or solution implementations.

**SAS Business Advisory**

It is critical to the success of our clients that implementations deliver the value that our clients expect when they engage us to do an installation and development of SAS applications. SAS has a built-in incentive to make sure that these implementations succeed in delivering the business value that motivates our clients to invest in SAS software and services. As a demonstration of our commitment to our clients, SAS can provide business advisory services to help make sure a client achieves their business objectives inherent in the implementation. These services can be delivered as part of the implementation or after the implementation. These services can include:

- Business process transformation
- System optimization
- Analytical model development or optimization
- Data governance or management
- Strategic planning
We recommend that our clients consider these and similar services and ask their SAS representative about how such services can help them get the most out of their SAS investment.

Quality Management in SAS Project Management Methodology

One important knowledge area within the SAS Project Management Methodology is quality management. The purpose of quality management activities is to ensure that the development process is carried out in accordance with written approved technical standards and guidelines conforming to corporate policies and SAS methodologies.

Quality management supports the delivery of high-quality products and services by providing the project staff, all levels of managers, as well as SAS with appropriate visibility into, and feedback on, the processes and associated work products throughout the development life cycle. One of the purposes of quality management is to motivate action.

Quality management is a process made of two main components:

- Quality assurance
- Quality control

The first ensures that planned processes are implemented while the latter ensures that the specified requirements are satisfied and that each of the components of the final product performs predictably.

Quality assurance and quality control might occasionally look at the same product but from different perspectives. Product quality is, thus, a key measure of the software process.

Quality Assurance and Procedures

Quality Assurance

Quality assurance (QA) focuses on the processes used to generate software solutions, and its objective is to prevent defects by continually improving those processes. It is a matter of establishing performance standards, measuring and evaluating performance to those standards, and reporting performance. QA also requires taking action such as the following when performance deviates from standards:

- Ensuring that all projects follow current policies, standards, and guidelines
- Monitoring the results of those projects
- Reporting the results to the management team for evaluation

A quality assurance plan is developed at the beginning of the project depending on the needs of the project. It ensures that appropriate quality activities are built into the development and support process. The QA plan also gives the project team a guideline to use to better meet the quality objectives of the project. The QA plan document defines which activities should be included to meet the quality objectives of the project. This information might be incorporated into other project documents or created as a separate document.

The document should meet these requirements:

- Accessible to all stakeholders
- Refined on an ongoing basis
- Specific to each project
- An approved and controlled document

Quality audits are conducted at specific points in the project to ensure that the appropriate standards, policies, and methodologies are being followed. In addition, these audits also inspect the work products produced to determine
whether required internal and external work products have been produced. Quality audits do not test the work products for accuracy; they determine only whether the work products have been produced and whether they contain the appropriate authorization signatures.

Quality Assurance Procedures

Create a Quality Assurance Plan for Each Project

A Quality Assurance Plan might include items such as the following:

- Purpose
- Definition and acronyms
- Policies, standards, practices, and guidelines, including identification of the specific SAS development methodology to be used
- Reviews and audits
- Testing
- Tools, techniques, and methods
- System and user manuals
- Configuration management
- Supplier control (if necessary)
- Education
- Security
- Existing systems
- Operating procedures
- Performance and revalidation
- Specific components covered

Conduct Quality Reviews

Quality Reviews can include steps such as these:

- Requirements specification review conducted with the customer.
- Design specification review conducted with the customer for the user interface portion of the design.
- Code inspections performed at peer-review sessions.
- Configuration audits performed periodically throughout the project.
- User documentation review conducted with the customer.
- Test plan review performed at peer-review sessions unless they involve acceptance testing. In that case, they are conducted with the customer.

SAS projects’ overall performance is reviewed on a regular basis to provide confidence that the project satisfies the established quality objectives. SAS uses a project review process that combines the in-depth knowledge of the proposal and project delivery teams with the experience of senior project managers to provide an objective appraisal of the project’s viability and performance throughout its life cycle.
The project reviews support the following objectives:

- Improve customer satisfaction
- Maintain SAS standards for quality
- Use resources effectively
- Manage and monitor delivery performance
- Reduce project loss
- Enhance project team satisfaction and capabilities
- Support reuse of intellectual capital
- Ensure compliance with SAS Project Management Methodology (PMM) and business best practices

**Quality Control**

Quality control (QC), on the other hand, is focused on the product that is being created by the implementation project, on testing that product and attempting to find and correct defects before the product is delivered to the customer. It includes aspects of QA related to monitoring, inspecting, and most especially testing. QC focuses on ensuring that stakeholder needs are satisfied and on providing a high degree of assurance that the components and system operate according to preapproved requirements and specifications.

The challenge of QC is to ensure that all business requirements have been addressed and that the product functions up to defined success criteria before it is delivered to the customer. A QC test plan is created well before coding is begun. As are all plans, test plans are strategic directions for the testing process. The test plan includes items such as these:

- Which types of testing will be performed
- Which items will be tested and when
- Which resources will be needed
- What prerequisites are needed to prepare for testing
- How responsibilities will be assigned
- What the expected results are
- What mitigation action will be taken when tests fail

**Quality Control Procedures**

The testing process has three parts:

- Test planning
- Test case development
- Testing

Therefore, before testing can begin, we meet these prerequisites:

- An approved test plan
- Complete test cases for use in the testing
- A signed-off and managed set of requirements to test for
- A documented set of the customer’s success criteria
Quality Control Tests

- Unit testing: Testing at the lowest level sufficient to ensure that every source statement has been executed at least once under test.
- Integration testing: Testing the interfaces between otherwise correct components to ensure that they are compatible.
- System testing: Testing an entire software system end to end to discover common system bugs, such as resource loss, synchronization, and timing problems, and shared file conflicts.
- Testing to requirements: Testing from the users’ perspective, typically end to end, to verify the operability of every feature.
- Stress testing: Subjecting a software system to an unreasonable load while denying it the resources needed to process that load.
- Regression testing: More specifically, this is equivalency testing—that is, rerunning a suite of tests to ensure that the current version behaves identically to the previous version except in those areas known to have been changed.
- Beta testing or acceptance testing: Testing that is usually done by representative users typically in the final stage of testing before official release.

Quality Management

To sum up, SAS quality management is a quality assurance approach that involves the following:

- Objectively evaluating performed process, and work products, against the applicable project management methodology and the applicable development methodology process descriptions, standards, and procedures.
- Identifying and documenting noncompliance issues.
- Providing feedback to project staff and managers, as well as SAS Professional Services Management on the results of the quality assurance activities.
- A description of the quality assurance reporting chain and how it ensures objectivity of the process and product quality assurance function needs to be defined to ensure objectivity.
- Ensuring that noncompliance issues are addressed.

When local resolution of noncompliance issues cannot be obtained, SAS uses established escalation mechanisms to ensure that the appropriate level of management can resolve the issue.

When noncompliance issues are identified, they are first addressed within the project and resolved there, if possible, with a clear set of action plans. Any noncompliance issues that cannot be resolved within the project are escalated to the appropriate level of management at SAS Professional Services for resolution.

Project Governance

In order to facilitate effective communication and a quality implementation, we use an agreed upon project governance process throughout the full project life cycle. The recommended approach to governance is outlined below and is integral to the SAS Project Management Methodology.

Outstanding services governance accomplishes these goals:

- Provides a framework to define, refine, and guarantee project success
- Actively engages the project sponsor on an executive steering committee
- Drives the accuracy of schedule estimation
- Increases the likelihood of services engagements on budget
- Improves project execution
- Proactively mitigates or reduces project risks
- Facilitates continuous communication with all project stakeholders

Effective project governance ensures predictability and avoids any unpleasant surprises. Key to this is to secure clarity of roles through a formal project organization and shared project expectations. Formal commitment to the project charter among all stakeholders facilitates effective project governance.

**Clarity of Roles: Project Organization**

A formal project organization that clarifies each role should be established for the project. The figure below shows an example:

![Figure 2: Example of Formal Project Organization](image)

**Project Governance: Roles**

**Steering Committee**

The steering committee represents the interests of the business (from both a user and a supplier perspective) and is responsible for setting the overall direction of the project. The steering committee signs off on a key project governance document or a project charter at the end of the project planning phase.

With its sign-off to the project charter, the steering committee sets the shared expectations for the scope and timelines that the project team will be working to meet. After setting the expectation, the steering committee can control the project by exception—requiring further action to be taken only when events occur or changes are requested that deviate from the agreed project charter.

**Project Management**

The project managers are responsible for planning the project and presenting a draft project charter to the steering committee for its review and sign-off. SAS recommends that the project charter be developed by both SAS and client project managers in partnership, which is done in close liaison with the various experts on the project team. This ensures that the estimated timelines are realistic and take into account the complexity of tasks.
After the project charter has been signed off by the steering committee, the project managers run the project on a day-to-day basis, according to agreed reporting routines. Typically, steering committee meetings are organized at the end of each project phase to facilitate status reporting and to verify the continued validity of the plan for the next phase.

Project Team

The project team plays a crucial role during the planning cycle. It provides expert advice regarding the complexity and duration of tasks. During the project execution phase, the project team is responsible for delivering the various expected work products according to the project’s agreed specifications.

Communications are always customized to meet the jointly agreed upon information needs of the project and of the stakeholders.
Appendix 8: Other SAS Product Areas

This appendix contains quality statements for other SAS product areas where the processes differ from those defined by the Quality Imperative.

SAS Intelligent Advertising for Publishers

SAS Intelligent Advertising for Publishers software (SAS IA) is built for deployment into Amazon Web Services (AWS). SAS IA uses open-source technologies such as C++, Ruby, JavaScript, and Rails, to deliver a set of services. These services support common functionality such as login and authorization, identity management, preferences, auditing, and additional product-specific services. SAS IA supports the SAML 2 open standard for authentication, enabling SAS IA to integrate with third-party identity providers. SAS IA also provides public REST APIs and uses TLS to secure communications. SAS IA deploys on open-source Linux operating systems and uses standard deployment technologies such as Ansible and RPMs.

SAS IA was purchased in 2012, and has been integrated into SAS R&D in Cary, NC. Most of the processes described in the Quality Imperative apply to SAS IA. Below is a list of differences between SAS IA processes and processes defined by the Quality Imperative.

- This solution deploys without the SAS Platform, because it was developed originally outside of SAS and has no dependencies on the SAS Platform at this time.
- The solution’s web interface for administrative functions may not meet all accessibility requirements expressed in the standards referenced by the Quality Imperative.
- Nearly all testing is completely automated. Therefore, test automation source remains the definitive word for the software test plan.
- The release of the software occurs frequently, but only after testing and fixing all critical issues. The SAS sign-off matrix as defined by the Quality Imperative is not applicable. Test automation includes unit, functional, integration, deployment, and performance tests. Releases to production are made in stages to lessen the chance of material impact to customers.
- SAS IA release engineering and operations is part of responsibilities of most SAS IA R&D staff.
- SAS IA virus scans customer uploaded files intended for eventual distribution through SAS IA.
- SAS IA operations staff apply hot fixes when needed; the customer is not responsible for downloading or applying hot fixes.
- SAS IA releases occur more frequently than SAS updates product documentation available through support.sas.com. Announcements of changes are made through the product user interface or through the product’s community site.
Appendix 9: SAS Products

The SAS Platform is an integrated system of software products that provide complete control over data access, management, analysis, and presentation. SAS solutions are compatible with the SAS Platform. There are other products distributed by SAS but not integrated into the product. See [http://www.sas.com/en_us/software/all-products.html](http://www.sas.com/en_us/software/all-products.html) for the most recent product list.

The SAS products, solutions, and other products that are distributed by SAS and subject to this document’s publish date include the following (this list is subject to change over time):

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<th>Base SAS®</th>
<th>SAS/STAT®</th>
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<tr>
<td>JMP®</td>
<td>SAS/TOOLKIT®</td>
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<td>SAS® 360 Discover</td>
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<tr>
<td>JMP® Pro</td>
<td>SAS® Adaptive Learning and Intelligent Agent System</td>
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<td>JMP® Student Edition</td>
<td>SAS® Add-In for Microsoft Office</td>
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<tr>
<td>SAS/ACCESS®</td>
<td>SAS® Analytics for IoT</td>
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<tr>
<td>SAS/AF®</td>
<td>SAS® Anti-Money Laundering</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SAS/ASSIST®</td>
<td>SAS® AppDev Studio™</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SAS/CONNECT®</td>
<td>SAS® Asset and Liability Management for Banking</td>
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<tr>
<td>SAS/EIS®</td>
<td>SAS® Asset Performance Analytics</td>
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<td>SAS/FSP®</td>
<td>SAS® Banking Analytics Architecture</td>
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<td>SAS/Genetics™</td>
<td>SAS® Bridge for Esri</td>
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<td>SAS/GIS®</td>
<td>SAS® Business Intelligence Dashboard</td>
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<td>SAS/GRAF®</td>
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<td>SAS® Capital Requirements for Market Risk</td>
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<td>SAS/QC®</td>
<td>SAS® Clinical Standards Toolkit</td>
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<td>SAS® Clinical Trial Data Transparency</td>
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<td>SAS/session®</td>
<td>SAS® Commodity Risk Analytics</td>
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<td>SAS/share®</td>
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SAS® In-Memory Statistics for Hadoop
SAS® Insurance Analytics Architecture
SAS® Integration Technologies
SAS® Intelligence and Investigation Management
SAS® Intelligent Decisioning
SAS® Inventory Optimization Workbench
SAS® IT Resource Management
SAS® IT Resource Management Adapter for SAP Server
SAS® LASR Analytic Server
SAS® Life Science Analytics Framework
SAS® Machine Learning
SAS® Markdown Optimization
SAS® Market Risk Management for Insurance
SAS® Marketing Automation
SAS® Marketing Optimization
SAS® Merchandise Allocation
SAS® Merchandise Planning
SAS® Metadata Bridges
SAS® Metadata Server
SAS® Mobile Investigator
SAS® Model Implementation Platform
SAS® Model Manager
SAS® Model Risk Management
SAS® Network Algorithms
SAS® Office Analytics
SAS® OLAP Cube Studio
SAS® OLAP Monitor
SAS® OLAP Server
SAS® Optimization
SAS® Pack Optimization
SAS® Personal Login Manager
SAS® Production Quality Analytics
SAS® Promotion Optimization
SAS® Qualitative Assessment Manager
SAS® Quality Analytic Suite Foundation
SAS® Quality Knowledge Base for Customer Information
SAS® Quality Knowledge Base for Product Data
SAS® Real-Time Decision Manager
SAS® Regular Price Optimization
SAS® Regulatory Content
SAS® Regulatory Risk Management
SAS® Risk Analytics Builder
SAS® Risk and Finance Workbench
SAS® Risk Dimensions®
SAS® Risk Management for Banking
SAS® Risk Modeling Workbench
SAS® Risk Reporting Repository
SAS® Scalable Performance Data Engine
SAS® Scalable Performance Data Server
SAS® Scoring Accelerators
SAS® Simulation Studio
SAS® Size Optimization
SAS® Size Profiling
SAS® Social Network Analysis
SAS® Studio
SAS® Text Analytics
SAS® Text Miner
SAS® Text Miner for Desktop
SAS® Underwriting Risk Management for P&C Insurance
SAS® Visual Analytics
SAS® Visual Data Mining and Machine Learning
SAS® Visual Forecasting
SAS® Visual Investigator
SAS® Visual Scenario Designer
SAS® Visual Statistics
SAS® Visual Text Analytics
SAS® Viya®
SAS® Web Report Studio
SAS® Web Report Viewer
SAS® Workflow Manager