

Boston Area SAS® Users Group BASUG Quarterly Meeting Announcement

After the meeting, we will provide an informal light buffet lunch for all attendees. We hope you can stay for this opportunity to network and socialize with your fellow SAS users.

Topic	Winter Stew ... a few gems plucked from our local community
When	Tuesday, March 18, 2014 8:15AM - Noon
Where	Microsoft New England Research and Development Center (NERD) ¹ One Memorial Drive Conference Center, First Floor Cambridge MA 02142 857-453-6000
Directions	Please visit the meeting site directions page
How to Register	Individual, on-line registration required Please visit the event registration page NO WALK-INS!
Payment	\$10 – if paid on-line by March 7, 2014 \$15 – if paid on-line (by Noon on March 17, 2014) \$20 – at the door (checks only)
Contact	If you have questions about the meeting, please contact the meeting organizers: Joan Yu , Lisa Kang , or Nancy McGarry .

Agenda *

- 8:15 -** Sign-in and Refreshments
- 8:45 -** Announcements
- 9:00 -** *"Advanced Macro Tips"*,
by David Izrael, Abt Associates Inc.
- 10:15 -** Break
- 10:35 -** *"Creating User-defined Functions Using PROC FCMP"*,
by Robert Rosofsky, Health Info. Systems Consulting
LLC
- 10:55 -** Stretch Break
- 11:00 -** *"SAS Community Questions"*,
by Bob Virgile, Independent Consultant
- Noon -** Networking Lunch

* Note: Times (and sequence) are approximate and subject to change. Please re-visit [the BASUG website](#) for updated information.

Speaker biographies and abstracts

"Advanced Macro Tips"

by David Izrael

The SAS macro facility is a tremendously powerful tool that enables a user to reduce manual coding, avoid repetitive code, and facilitate creating “subroutines” or “functions” in the spirit of earlier high end languages like Fortran or Cobol. The advanced SAS macro technique enables programmers to solve much more intricate programming tasks even not using SAS language per se.

David Izrael is a Lead Programmer Analyst in US Health department of Abt Associates Inc. in Cambridge. He has been with Abt for 16 years leading programming efforts in a number of projects in various areas of research. Mr. Izrael has been a frequent presenter at Northeast SAS User Group (NESUG) and SAS Global Forum. See David's recent NESUG paper on [SAS Macro vs. SUDAAN's PROC HOTDECK](#).

"Creating User-defined Functions Using PROC FCMP"

by Robert Rosofsky

Did you ever search for a function within Base SAS documentation, only to find that it didn't exist? So do you then dutifully wait to complete a SAS Software Ballot with hopes that your desired function appears in some SAS release before the decade is out?

Why not write your own function? PROC FCMP (**F**unction **Co**Mpiler **P**rocedure), released in 9.2, enables you to write and store your own functions and call routines, using Data-step like code. These functions can then be used in the DATA step, PROC SQL and a number of other procedures.

This Coder's Corner will give you an initial taste of PROC FCMP with enough information so that you can then go off and design your own buffet.

To improve patient care and public health through the effective use of information systems, **Robert Rosofsky** has been developing and implementing health information systems for over three decades in both the public sector and recently as an independent consultant. He offers services in project management, systems analysis, SAS data management/ statistical programming, and SAS training. Additional information is available at www.HealthInfoSys.net

"SAS Community Questions"

by Bob Virgile

Tucked away in a tiny corner of the SAS Institute web site is a question and answer forum. Participants can ask questions online, and responders can answer online. The wide range of skill on both sides of the questions makes for some interesting SAS problems. Bob will present some of his favorite questions and answers based on this social media site.

Bob Virgile is an independent SAS trainer and consultant, with over 30 years of developing and teaching SAS classes. He has written three books for SAS Institute, and formerly composed problem-solving contests for regional and international SAS conferences. He is the only person to be barred from participating in the NESUG SAS Bowl due to his extensive SAS knowledge.

BASUG Contacts

Mailing Address:

BASUG
PO Box 170253
Boston MA 02117

Email [Our Webmaster](#)

¹ *The Microsoft New England Research & Development Center (NERD) is a research and software innovation campus located in the heart of Cambridge, Massachusetts. The NERD vertical campus spans two buildings with its primary presence and conference center located at One Memorial Drive and a recently renovated and expanded space located at One Cambridge Center. NERD is home to some of Microsoft's most strategic teams including Microsoft Research New England, Microsoft Application Virtualization (App-V), SharePoint Workspace, Microsoft Technical Computing, Microsoft Advertising, Microsoft Lync, Microsoft Office 365 and more. NERD has become a hub of activity for the local tech community and has hosted more than 500 events and welcomed more than 40,000 visitors during the past two years.*