



Past Meeting

BASUG - Past Meeting

WHAT:

Quarterly BASUG Meeting
Boston Area SAS Users Group

WHEN:

8:30 AM - 1:00 PM, Tuesday, February 4, 1997

WHERE:



SAS Institute Inc - Boston Regional Office

Prudential Tower / 15th Floor / 800 Boylston St / Boston

AGENDA:

Our February meeting features talks by three of SAS Institute's leading industry analysts. The meeting will begin with a panel discussion explaining the most important new technologies in information processing. Each analyst will also give a presentation on his area of specialization. This is also a great opportunity to meet the staff of SAS Institute's Boston office and to learn about the services they offer. Door prizes will be given away at the end of the meeting.

This meeting is open to BASUG members and those who would like to learn more about the group. During the meeting, there will be ample opportunity for both new and former members to enroll for 1997. Our dues are only \$16 per year per person, or \$60 for all users at one site.

Please register for the meeting ** by January 28 ** by contacting:

- o Karin Collier
- o SAS Institute/Boston
- o Tel 617-262-4201 x241
- o Fax 617-262-4253
- o E-mail: saskmc@unx.sas.com

SCHEDULE:

- o 8:30 Continental breakfast compliments of SAS Institute
- o 9:00 "Trends in Technology" - panel discussion
- o 10:00 "Formats: An Advanced Tutorial" - Rick Langston, SAS Institute
- o 11:00 "Web Publishing Tools from SAS Institute" - Chip Kelly, SAS Institute
- o 12:00 "Improving the Efficiency of Data Warehouse Management and Organization:

The SAS Data Warehouse Administrator" - John McIntyre, SAS Institute

"Trends in Technology" Panel Discussion

What is data warehousing? Data mining? The World Wide Web? How is an intranet different from the internet? How do important new technologies like these fit into the information needs of your organization?

To answer these questions, BASUG chairperson, Paul Grant will moderate a discussion with three industry analysts from SAS Institute: John McIntyre, Rick Langston and Chip Kelly. Together they will identify and describe the major technological trends in information technology today, and explain their importance to your organization. They will also talk briefly on how you can learn about these technologies in more detail at SUGI 22.

Paul Grant is a Senior Programmer/Analyst at Private Healthcare Systems in Waltham, MA. He chaired the SUGI 21 (Chicago, 1996) and NESUG '94 (Philadelphia, 1994) SAS user group conferences. He is currently chairperson of the Boston Area SAS Users Group. Paul has been using SAS software in a variety of industries since 1981.

"Formats: An Advanced Tutorial"

Rick Langston, SAS Institute

This tutorial discusses several advanced features of format processing that can be of interest even to knowledgeable users of the SAS System. Items covered include: using formats as labels, cntlout and cntlin data sets, gaining efficiency with the NOTSORTED option, using a format as an alternative to sorting large data sets, and comparing V5 and V6 formats.

Rick Langston is a Senior Systems Developer at SAS Institute Inc. He is the product manager for SAS/TOOLKIT Software, and is also responsible for a variety of base and core software within the SAS System, including PROC FORMAT. Rick has been a SAS user for 20 years, of which 17 have been at SAS Institute.

"Web Publishing Tools from SAS Institute"

Chip Kelly, SAS Institute

Riding the wave of interest in web applications, SAS Institute's recent announcement of the availability on their web site of downloadable Web Publishing tools ushers in a new era of open functionality for the SAS System. In this presentation Chip Kelly will describe the web publishing process, and how these new tools from SAS Institute simplify the process of turning SAS-generated reports into SAS Powered web pages.

Chip Kelly is Program Manager for Web Enablement at SAS Institute Inc. Chip's been using SAS software since 1972, and has been at SAS Institute since 1984.

"Improving the Efficiency of Data Warehouse Management and Organization: The SAS Data Warehouse Administrator"

John McIntyre, SAS Institute

SAS Software has been used by thousands of enterprises to successfully implement Data Warehouses, from the data extraction steps all the way to enablement of easy access to information consumers. The tasks in the Management and Organization phases of Warehouse 'construction' have been, to date, accomplished by combining the capabilities found in the SAS/ACCESS family of engines with the transformation functionality found in the 4th generation language of SAS. A new product, the SAS Data Warehouse Administrator helps automate these processes. Features in the Data Warehouse Administrator include mapping routines to key legacy and relational data sources, code generation, visual organization of the warehouse structures and creation and maintenance of a metadata directory. This presentation will review these features, and demonstrate how they work.

John McIntyre is Marketing Strategy Manager for the Business Solution Division of SAS Institute Inc. In this position he is responsible for marketing directions for decision support applications exploiting popular client/server packaged solutions. John has been at SAS Institute since 1987.



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Past Meeting

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WHAT:

Quarterly BASUG Meeting
Boston Area SAS Users Group

WHEN:

8:30 AM - Noon, Wednesday, April 9, 1997

WHERE:



Quintiles, Inc.
ROPA Conference Center
Kendall Square, Cambridge MA
Hosted by: [John Hotaling](#) (617) 225-0010 x288

AGENDA:

8:30 - Continental breakfast

9:00 - "Comparing Clinical Trials Data Using Population Trees"

Lisa M. Hlina, Quintiles, Inc., Research Triangle Park, NC

Population Trees generated using the SAS/GRAPH(r) GCHART Procedure are a great way to interpret data from two different populations. In this paper, Population Trees are used to compare the psychological symptoms obtained from clinical trials data for two different treatment groups over a 28 day cycle. This paper will also discuss the use of how color and/or shading, as well as, annotated labels help to communicate information quickly and easily. The target audience is for both beginner and intermediate audiences and can be adapted to any platform.

10:00 - "Graphical Solutions for Market Intelligence"

Frederick Pratter, Abt Associates Inc., Cambridge, MA

Data visualization techniques like Multidimensional Preference Analysis are useful for answering questions such as: Who are my customers? What do they think about my product? How is my product perceived compared to those of my competitors?

In many cases, these tools provide more intuitively satisfying and accessible answers than traditional numerical techniques. This paper explores several methods for data reduction (using principal component analysis) to permit perceptual mapping in two and three dimensions.

11:00 - "Variable Clustering Techniques with Macros and Graphs"

Joe Massaro, PhD, Quintiles, Inc., Cambridge, MA

Often a researcher is in the position where he/she has n variables $X_1 \dots, X_n$ and desires to reduce the number for later analyses. The techniques of principal components, variable clustering, and battery reduction are statistical techniques appropriate for this reduction. Here, we will briefly review the concepts of these techniques, as well as present SAS(r) macros which perform battery reduction and graphical variable clustering. SAS(r) currently does not have canned procedures to handle these two techniques.

DIRECTIONS:

Parking: Quintiles will reimburse anyone using the parking lot behind the building if they mention the BASUG meeting. However, it may fill up quickly. The closer people get here to 8:30, the better. Receipts will be collected during the meeting.

Directions via MBTA:

- Take "Red Line" to Kendall Square stop.
- When leaving train, follow signs marked "Escalator to Main Street".
- At street level, walk through Cambridge Marriott Hotel lobby to Broadway entrance.
- Turn right and walk down Main Street for approximately one and a half blocks.
- Pass the entrances for the 101 Main Street and One Main Street buildings and pass the BayBank terminal to the ROPA conference center.

Directions from I-93/Central Artery:

- Proceed to exit 26 "Storrow Drive/Cambridge".
- Following Storrow Drive, stay in left lane and take 1st exit on left "Government Center/Kendall Square".
- At end of ramp is a red light - take a right onto the Longfellow Bridge.
- Continue straight across bridge and onto Main Street, Cambridge. The first building you will see on the right immediately crossing the bridge is One Main Street - the ROPA conference center is at the near end of it. Drive past One Main Street and past the connected building, 101 Main Street, and take right at the traffic light. Then, take the second right into the parking lot.
- From the parking lot, go back to Main Street and take a left.
- Pass the entrances for the 101 Main Street and One Main Street buildings and pass the BayBank terminal to the ROPA conference center.



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BASUG - Next Meeting

 **WHAT:** Quarterly Meeting of the Boston Area SAS Users Group

 **WHEN:** Wednesday, July 23 - 8:30 AM to 11:30 AM

 **WHERE:**

Private HealthCare Systems
1100 Winter Street, Waltham MA

 **AGENDA:**

8:30 AM: Continental Breakfast

9:00 AM: **PROC SUMMARY and PROC FORMAT: A Winning Combination**

Alan Dickson, Independent Consultant

Many people overlook PROC SUMMARY, possibly because their data does not seem to conform well to the procedure's CLASS statement. However, a simple pre-processing DATA step can be used to classify observations based on ranges or values specified in a user-written format. This not only allows the user to group observations, but can give more control over the subsequent reporting structure. This paper demonstrates this technique, outlining what the user needs to do, what to expect as a result, and some situations to watch out for. It is suitable for anyone with a general familiarity with the DATA step who has at least tried out these procedures, since the syntax will be assumed. *Alan has been programming in SAS and other languages for over 15 years. He has been an invited speaker at many SUGI and NESUG conferences. Alan was chairman of the NorthEast SAS Users Group Conference in Boston in 1990.*

10:00 AM: **So You're Still Not Using PROC REPORT. Why Not?**

Ray Pass, ASG, Inc.

Daphne Ewing, IBAH, Inc.

Everyone who can spell SAS knows how to use PROC PRINT. Its primary use may be as a development tool to help in debugging a long multi-step program, or as a simple report generator when all that is really needed is a quick look at the data, or even a basic low-level finished report. However, if a report generation/information delivery tool with powerful formatting, summarizing and analysis features is called for, then PROC REPORT is the solution. PROC REPORT can provide the standard PROC PRINT functionality, but in addition, can easily perform many of the tasks that you would otherwise have to use the SORT, MEANS, FREQ and TABULATE procedures to accomplish. PROC REPORT is part of the Base SAS product, can run in both an interactive screen-painting mode or a batch mode, and should be the basic tool of choice when there is a need to produce powerful and productive reports from SAS data sets. This paper will present the basics of PROC REPORT (non-interactive mode) through a series of progressively more sophisticated examples of code and output.

Ray Pass is a SAS consultant with ASG, Inc. and has been using the SAS System for too many years. He is the co-author, with Ron Cody, of Programming SAS by Example (1995) and has delivered many invited papers at national, regional and local SAS user groups. Ray's primary areas of expertise in the SAS System are report generation and data manipulation. In addition to teaching SAS courses, Ray has also been quite active in organizing and participating in SAS user group activities on various levels. Ray was one of the founders of both the New York Area SAS Users Group (NYASUG) and the NorthEast SAS Users Group (NESUG.) Ray co-chaired the first two NESUG annual conventions ('88, '89) and has been a Section Chair at many SAS User Group International (SUGI) annual conventions.

11:00 AM: Generating a Table of Contents for a Format Library*Craig Dickstein, ASG Inc.*

A feature lacking in PROC FORMAT is the ability to produce a listing of just the members available and some metadata about them. The FMTLIB option will generate reams of output when all you may be after is a listing of the available formats to remind you of their presence, type, or spelling. A simple but elegant routine is presented to produce just this kind of listing. By extension, the technique presented here can be used in a variety of similar situations.

11:15 AM: Iterative Code Development: Two Testing Techniques*Craig Dickstein, ASG Inc.*

In the iterative development method there needs to be frequent testing and data visualization. Once the routine is ready, the code should run without the laborious step of stripping out all the testing and data visualization modules. This paper addresses these issues via two independent techniques. First, a simple macro will be shown that aids in the quick visualization of data. Second, a simple but elegant use of macro variables is shown to increase programmer productivity when developing and executing code. These techniques are sure to help the reader conceptualize additional testing techniques.

Craig has been using the SAS System for 18 years in a variety of environments. Most recently he has plied his trade in a large national consultancy specializing in SAS solutions. His primary expertise is in data mining and information reporting.

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BASUG - Past Meeting

 **WHAT:** Quarterly BASUG Meeting - Boston Area SAS Users Group

 **WHEN:** Wednesday, December 3, 1997 - 8:30 AM to 12:30 PM

 **WHERE:** [Abt Associates Inc.](#), 55 Wheeler St, Cambridge ([map and directions](#))

 **AGENDA:**

- 8:30 - Coffee, pastry
- 9:00 - "SCL for the Rest of Us: Non-Visual Uses of Screen Control Language"
- 10:00 - "Harnessing the Power of SCL Lists"
- 11:00 - "Having Fun with Strings: An Introduction to Character Functions"
- 12:00 - FREEBIE GIVEAWAY TIME!!!

Abstracts and Bios Follow:

[9:00 - SCL for the Rest of Us: Non-Visual Uses of Screen Control Language](#)

Michael Davis, Bassett Consulting Services, Inc.

Abstract:

Because of the increasing popularity of the SAS(r) System to create Graphical User Interfaces (GUIs), many have come to believe that the language used with SAS/AF(r) and SAS/FSP(r), Screen Control Language (SCL) is only used with visual objects.

The truth is that SCL can be used in conjunction with or in place of the SAS macro language to automate SAS batch programs and to better interface them to the computing environment. Specifically, SCL programs may be submitted from within batch programs run on MVS and UNIX host computers. This includes even those host computers on which SAS/AF is not installed!

This presentation will be an introduction to the subset of SCL that may be used for non-visual programming applications. Topics covered include:

- why SCL code is often easier and better to use than the other SAS languages (DATA steps and macros)
- when to use SCL entries instead of DATA steps or macros
- interfacing SCL entries to SAS code executed in batch
- how to use the SCL on-line reference materials
- using SCL to get the properties of the operating environment
- controlling the execution of SCL code

No previous background knowledge of SAS/AF or SCL is presumed. Part of the presentation will be devoted to using the SCL debugger to learn how SCL programs work and debug those which do not. [Michael Davis](#) is Vice President of Bassett Consulting Services, Inc. Previously, he worked for Blue Cross & Blue Shield of Connecticut and the Connecticut Hospital Association. A SAS user for over 12 years, Michael specializes in creating SAS/AF FRAME applications. He is a recent past chairman of the Hartford Area SAS User Group and is a frequent presenter and section chair at NESUG and SUGI.

10:00 - Harnessing the Power of SCL Lists

Lisa Horwitz, SAS Institute Inc.

Abstract:

SCL lists are ordered collections of data stored in memory, and are a powerful tool for applications developers. The sources of this data can include hard coded values, SAS data sets, information retrieved from interaction with the application user or the current SAS session, or the FRAME entry's objects themselves. This paper explores how to create and populate SCL lists, how to retrieve and utilize information from lists, how to manipulate lists, and how to access some of the lists associated with FRAME entry objects. An assortment of ideas for using SCL lists will be suggested, as well.

[Lisa Horwitz](#) is Regional Training Center Manager of the New York office of SAS Institute. During her 12 years in the Professional Services Division, she has taught courses and worked closely with SAS users on technical projects. Her areas of specialty include applications development and the macro language. Lisa is a frequent speaker at local and regional Users Group meetings and at SUGI.

11:00 - Having Fun with Strings: An Introduction to Character Functions

Ron Cody, Robert Wood Johnson Medical School

Abstract:

SAS software contains many powerful functions for manipulating character data. This talk will demonstrate some of the more useful functions using simple examples. Some of the functions we will explore are: VERIFY, TRANSLATE, COMPRESS, LENGTH, SUBSTR, INPUT, SCAN, UPCASE, LOWCASE, INDEX and INDEXC, as well as some new functions such as TRANWRD and SPEDIS. We will also take a quick look at how the length of character variables is determined.

[Dr. Ron Cody](#) is an Associate Professor in the department of Environmental and Community Medicine at the Robert Wood Johnson Medical School, Piscataway, New Jersey. He has been a SAS user for more than 18 years and is the author of *Applied Statistics and the SAS Programming Language*, fourth edition, published by Prentice Hall. Along with Ray Pass, he has written a book called *SAS Programming by Example*, a book of annotated SAS examples, published by the SAS Institute as part of their *Books by Users* series. Recent books, also published by the SAS Institute, are *The SAS Workbook*, and the *SAS Workbook: Solutions*. Ron has presented invited papers for numerous local, regional, and national SAS conferences.

12:00 - FREEBIE GIVEAWAY TIME!!!

BASUG has arranged several special giveaways for our members who attend this meeting. There will be handouts and raffles for many gifts donated by SAS Institute and the NorthEast SAS Users Group (NESUG):

- "Books by Users" titles
- NESUG '97 Proceedings
- Coupons for 15% off SI publications
- NESUG '97 tote bags, clip boards, coffee mugs, t-shirts

Hope to see you at Abt Associates this Wednesday. Bring along an empty tote bag. It will not be empty when you leave.



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