

Reminder!!

We have our first Quarterly BASUG meeting coming up on Tuesday. Have you paid your 2004 dues yet? If not, please come prepared with your check! You can find membership details on our BASUG website (www.basug.org). We'll have plenty of membership forms at the meeting, but it will save time if you print the form, complete it, and bring it with you (along with your check!) to the meeting.

Also, please note the change in the agenda, below.

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The Boston Area SAS(r) Users Group Quarterly Meeting March 23, 2004

TOPIC: Programming techniques related to data mining.

Many programming techniques that programmers use week in and week out come in handy for data mining. These presentations delve into some of those familiar programming techniques, and how they might be used for mining data.

WHEN: Tuesday, March 23, 2004, 8:30AM to 12:00PM

WHERE: Holiday Inn - Newton (Directions are included below)
399 Grove Street
Newton, MA 02462
617-969-5300

INDIVIDUAL, ON-LINE REGISTRATION REQUIRED. NO EMAIL!

To register, visit: <http://www.basug.org/register.php3>

CONTACT: If you have questions about the meeting contact:
Brian Saper: briansaper@earthlink.net

Please Note the following:

This meeting is appropriate for all levels of SAS.
Experience with statistics or data mining is not required.

AGENDA:

8:30 - 8:45 - Sign in and Coffee Break

8:45 - 9:00 - Meeting Announcements and Introductions

9:00 - 9:50 - "SAS/Access to External Databases: Wisdom for the

Warehouse User", by Judy Loren

9:50 - 10:05 - Break and Refreshments

10:05 - 10:50 - *** The paper originally scheduled for this slot has been cancelled. New paper TBD.

10:50 - 11:05 - Break and Refreshments

11:05 - 11:25 - "Using the Power of SAS Macro Language to Manage Variables", by Judy Loren

11:25 - 11:50 - "After a Hard Day at the Data Mines", by Bob Virgile

ABSTRACTS AND BIOGRAPHIES:

"SAS Access to External Databases: Wisdom for the Warehouse User",
by Judy Loren, Health Dialog Data Service

With SAS/Access, SAS users can read from and write to almost any database product: DB2, Oracle, Informix, Sybase, MS SQL Server, or Teradata just to name a few. ODBC opens up even more warehouse doors.

SAS/Access offers several ways to connect: procs, such as Import and Export; the libname statement option that treats database tables like SAS datasets; and pass-through, which passes user-written SQL directly to the external product to execute and return the results to SAS. The fun starts when the warehouse tables are too large or too complex to allow the easy approach. This tutorial reviews all the techniques briefly, then focuses on the situations that call for advanced expertise. Examples demonstrate using SAS with DB2, Oracle, and Microsoft Access. Important details like how to refer to missing values in various databases, and how to use macros in pass-through SQL, make the tutorial concrete and useful. Ever had to select a small number of records from a huge external table based on a set of key values in a SAS dataset? In case you missed it, here's some shortcut code.

This tutorial is for SAS users who need access to a non-SAS data warehouse, particularly if that warehouse is really large or complex.

Knowledge of SQL is not necessary, but it will help you follow the examples.

Biography:

Judy is a Senior Analyst at Health Dialog Data Service, the analytical arm of Health Dialog, which partners with insurance companies to coach members with chronic conditions or impending health care decisions. She uses SAS to warehouse claims information and evaluate the effectiveness of interventions. An avowed SAS bigot, Judy is proud to follow in her grandmother's footsteps--the one who converted the State of Maine payroll to a computer-based system back when programming meant hard-wiring

boards.

"Using the Power of SAS Macro Language to Manage Variables",
by Judy Loren

When you set out to mine data for gems of information, you never know what data you may encounter. How well you prepare data for your mining techniques can set you up for success. This short presentation will walk through some code that solves a problem that can occur when converting data from an external database to a SAS dataset: the lengths and/or formats and informats of text variables come across as 255. This code can be generalized to handle other kinds of dataset management.

"After a Hard Day at the Data Mines", by Bob Virgile

After the data mining is completed, the final stage is often an optimization problem. How can you apply the knowledge derived from mining to a real world situation? (In fact, some definitions of data mining include this optimization stage as part of the process.) This presentation examines one approach to such an application. Note that it focuses on the issues and approaches that can be taken, not the SAS code itself.

Biography:

Bob Virgile is an independent trainer and consultant with over 20 years of experience designing and teaching SAS classes. He formerly composed the problem-solving contests for SUGI and NESUG, and has written two books for SAS Institute. Currently, he is barred from participating in the NESUG SAS Bowl due to superior SAS knowledge.

DIRECTIONS

DRIVING:

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PLEASE NOTE:

This announcement contains information on TWO separate events happening on the same day. In the morning we will have a BASUG Quarterly Meeting. In the afternoon, we are holding a half-day training session (additional fee required). Come to just one, or both. **Separate registration is required for the 2 events.**

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OVERVIEW

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WHAT: Quarterly BASUG Meeting
AND
Cleaning Clinical Data Training Session

THEME: Statistics and Clinical Data

WHEN: Tuesday, June 29, 2004
Quarterly Meeting: 8:00AM - 12:00PM
Training Session: 1:15PM - 5:00PM

WHERE: Holiday Inn Newton (Directions are included below.)
399 Grove Street
Newton, MA 02462
(617-969-5300)

INDIVIDUAL, ON-LINE REGISTRATION REQUIRED for both events. NO EMAIL. Please do not reply to this message.

To register for the morning meeting, visit
<http://www.basug.org/register.php3>

CONTACT for the morning meeting:
Peter Gaccione: gaccione@hcp.med.harvard.edu

To register for the afternoon training session, visit
<http://www.basug.org/register.php3>

CONTACTS for the afternoon training:
Bridget Neville: bridget_neville@dfci.harvard.edu or
Karen Olson: karen.olson@childrens.harvard.edu

An email will be sent to confirm all online registrations. If you are also registering for the afternoon Training Session, the confirmation will include additional information about how to pay.

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BASUG QUARTERLY MEETING (MORNING EVENT)

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LEVEL: This meeting is appropriate for beginning to advanced programmers. A basic to intermediate statistical background would be helpful but is not required.

Note that there is a focus on power and sample size calculations. There is no fee for this meeting but you are encouraged to have your membership dues paid. Check the BASUG webpage, www.basug.org, for details.

AGENDA:

8:00 - 8:30 Sign in and Coffee Break

8:30 - 8:45 Meeting Announcements and Introductions

8:45 - 12:00 Speakers

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8:45 to 9:15

"SAMPLE SIZE RE-ESTIMATION WITHOUT UNBLINDING THE STUDY"

Fanny O'Brien, PhD

Abstract:

Sometimes an interim analyses is planned for a clinical trial in order to re-estimate the sample size using information gathered at the beginning of the study. In particular, a more accurate idea of the standard deviation of the outcome variable would be available. This talk discusses re-estimation of the sample size without unblinding the study. It is an adaptation of an EM algorithm method based on a paper by Gould and Shih (1992). Gould's and Shih's methodology for normally distributed outcomes with unknown variance is based on two treatment groups. This talk is a modification of their original paper to revise the algorithm for three treatment groups and its subsequent application to a recently completed clinical trial.

Bio:

Fanny O'Brien is Associate Director of Biometrics for Serono, Inc., in Rockland, MA.

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9:15 to 9:45

"ESTIMATION OF INCIDENCE RATE"

Peter Chang, PhD

Abstract:

Exact and approximation method for estimation of one population will be presented. In addition, the point and interval estimate of the ratio of the two populations will be presented. The corresponding SAS procedure will be demonstrated.

Bio:

Peter Chang is Associate Director of Biometrics for Serono, Inc., in Rockland, MA.

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10:00 to 12:00

3. "Power and Sample Size Computations Using SAS Software"
Instructor: John Castelloe, SAS Institute

Power determination and sample size computations are an important aspect of study planning and help produce studies with useful results for minimum resources. This statistical seminar reviews basic methodology for power and sample size computations for a number of analyses including proportion tests, t tests, confidence intervals, equivalence tests, survival analyses, correlation, regression, ANOVA, and more complex linear models. The seminar illustrates these methods with numerous examples using new SAS software: the POWER and GLMPower procedures and the PSS web interface. The seminar details how to use the software to compute power and sample size, perform sensitivity analyses for other factors such as variability and type I error rate, and produce customized tables, graphs, and narratives.

This tutorial was given at SUGI 29 in Montreal. Some basic understanding of power and sample size computations is assumed.

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CLEANING CLINICAL DATA TRAINING SESSION (AFTERNOON EVENT)

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COURSE: Cleaning Clinical Data

INSTRUCTOR: Bob Virgile

PRICE: \$ 75 early registration by June 15th
 \$100 late/on-site registration
 (available to BASUG members with paid dues for 2004)

PRE-REQUISITES: This is an intermediate level SAS course. It begins with simpler concepts (what is an edit check, how do edit checks relate to the larger process of submitting a new drug application), and progresses to cover the programming techniques needed to clean clinical data. To fully comprehend a couple of more advanced topics, it would be helpful to be familiar with proc format (including cntlin= and cntlout= data sets), the basics of macro language, and the out= option of proc contents.

INTENDED AUDIENCE: SAS programmers who work with clinical data.

COURSE OUTLINE: Cleaning clinical data goes a lot further than running
of
proper
perform

Proc Freq. For example, programs can check ranges of valid values, consistency over time, and proper sequencing of dates. Programs can compare one data set to another to verify such items as completeness
the data and assignment of medical events to the
patient. This course examines various types of data checks and the programming techniques needed to
those checks on clinical data.

BIO:

Bob Virgile is a SAS veteran, with over 20 years of experience developing and teaching SAS classes, including 6 years in the pharmaceutical industry. He is a regular presenter at SUGI, BASUG, and regional conferences, and formerly composed the problem-solving contests for SUGI and NESUG. He has written two books for SAS Institute, and is currently barred from participating in the NESUG SAS Bowl due to superior SAS knowledge.

DIRECTIONS FOR BOTH EVENTS

Holiday Inn Newton
399 Grove Street
Newton, MA 02462
(617-969-5300)

DRIVING:**FROM BOSTON:**

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<http://www.mbta.com/schedmaps/bus/index.cfm>

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BASUG INFORMATION

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<http://www.basug.org/MemForm2004.doc>

(If you are registering for the training AND need to pay dues, the payments can be combined. Please register for the training, then see your confirmation letter for payment mailing instructions.)

If you are unsure if you are a member or you do not know if your company has paid its 2004 calendar year corporate dues, please contact

Vanessa Hayden: vchayden@yahoo.com

-- or --

Robert Rosofsky: robert.rosofsky@verizon.net

SUBSCRIBE TO OUR EMAIL LIST:

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BASUG QUARTERLY MEETING

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WHAT: BASUG QUARTERLY MEETING

THEME: Reporting

WHEN: Tuesday, October 5, 2004
Quarterly Meeting: 8:30AM - 12:00PM

WHERE: Holiday Inn Newton (Directions are included below.)
399 Grove Street
Newton, MA 02462
(617-969-5300)

INDIVIDUAL, ON-LINE REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED. NO EMAIL.
Please do not reply to this message.

To register for the meeting, visit
<http://www.basug.org/register.php3>

CONTACT for the quarterly meeting:
Lori Goldman: lgoldman@ihcis.com

An email will be sent to confirm all online registrations.

Please Note the following:

This meeting is appropriate for all levels of SAS.

/*****/

AGENDA:

8:30 - 8:45 Sign in and Coffee Break
8:45 - 9:00 Meeting Announcements and Introductions
9:00 - 12:00 Speakers

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PROCs PRINT, TABULATE and REPORT: A Functional Comparison
Paul Grant, SAS Institute

PROCs PRINT, TABULATE and REPORT are the three main reporting procedures in SAS. Each was created with a specific purpose in mind. Accordingly, each has its strengths and limitations. A certain type of report may be very easy to produce with one procedure but difficult or impossible to produce with another.

This presentation will look at the capabilities and limitations of each of these three procedures in terms of their ability to produce reports with specific requirements such as nested column labels,

cross-tabs, multiple lines per observation, and customized data values on the report.

Intended audience: Programmers who have a basic understanding of the syntax of each of these procedures who want to know which procedure is best to use for certain kinds of reports.

Bio:

Paul Grant is a Systems Engineer at the SAS Boston regional office. He chaired SUGI 21 in Chicago in 1996 and co-chaired NESUG '94 in Philadelphia. He has been active in the Boston Area SAS Users Group for many years. He originated Coders' Corner and the Sunday Workshops at SUGI and NESUG.

Paul has been using SAS software in a variety of industries since 1981.

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Let SAS® Build Your Dynamic Web Site from the Data!
Jennifer Sinodis, Bank One, Phoenix, AZ

In today's environment, the web has become the best channel to view meaningful information. Let SAS do the work and produce your web output straight from the data! It can do most of the work involved in

creating great looking, maintenance-free, dynamic web pages for your

users. This paper will show how to use Version 8 SAS/Base to build static HTML output to your web site with HTML formatting macros and ODS (Output Delivery System) and how to use SAS/IntrNet™ to create output dynamically from your web site. It will also introduce

JavaScript code and show how SAS/Base can produce JavaScript to generate drop-down menu options built directly from your data to access static HTML output, or create dynamic HTML.

For the purpose of this paper most of the SAS programs shown are simplified. The paper illustrates SAS/Base macro code, HTML, ODS, JavaScript and SAS/IntrNet code. This paper assumes an experienced/advanced knowledge of SAS/Base Version 8 and some knowledge of HTML.

Bio:

Jennifer Sinodis has a Bachelor of Science degree in Information Systems and has worked with SAS for over six years. She was trained and mentored by Vanessa Hayden - "SAS Queen" when they worked together at Bank One. Jennifer has presented several times at the Western Users of SAS Software and SAS User Group International conferences and also coordinates the Valley of the Sun SAS User Group. She currently works as a Senior Business Analyst at Metris Companies. She has used SAS on PC, mainframe and Unix.

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Skinning the Cat This Way and That: Using ODS to Create Word Documents that Work for You

Elizabeth Axelrod, Abt Associates Inc.
David Shamlin, SAS Institute

By supporting formats like Rich Text Format (RTF) and HyperText Markup Language (HTML), the SAS Output Delivery System (ODS) makes turning SAS output into Word documents easy. Tabular output from SAS procedures can be sent directly to a file that Word can read. However, the resulting Word document might fall short of your expected results.

For example, we needed to create a Word document that would serve as a user guide (or codebook), describing over 400 variables in a survey study. The body of the document needed to include detailed information for each variable. The Table of Contents needed to list the page numbers for the sections including the detailed information for each variable.

As a result, we experienced several formatting challenges. Long values in section titles did not wrap correctly, and there was too much white space between sections, to name a few.

In the course of creating a solution, we discovered a number of useful ODS tricks when creating a Word document using SAS output. We researched ways to automate the creation of the document and to minimize the amount of manual formatting in Word.

Bio:

Elizabeth Axelrod is a Lead Programmer Analyst at Abt Associates Inc.. She has been using SAS for over 20 years, and she's been a SAS fan(atic) for almost that long! She is currently the Chairwoman for BASUG - the Boston Area SAS Users Group.

David Shamlin joined SAS Institute in 1987 as a member of the VMS Host group, where he helped develop low-level file systems. He also did a tour of duty with the SAS IO development team, becoming a pioneer in industry-standard data access interfaces to SAS data stores. David brings these experiences to his current role as R&D Director for Base Table Services where he leads the development of fundamental SAS technology related to the data step, Base PROCs, the LIBNAME supervisor, data set and catalog IO, SAS/SHARE and other client/server components related to SAS data access. David has a bachelor's degree in computer science from North Carolina State University.

/*****
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Robert Rosofsky: robert.rosofsky@verizon.net

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4/5/2010

SAS/Graph tips
ODS tips
Internet tips

Prerequisites: Some of the material presented in this class is basic and requires only minimal previous SAS knowledge. A good intermediate SAS programmer will gain most from the course.

Bio: Phil Mason, an independent SAS consultant with extensive international experience, has a broad background working with mainframe and PC environments and a detailed knowledge of numerous operating systems and local area networks. A sample of Mason's many projects includes: application analysis and design, data warehouse design, data modeling, computer measurement, writing training materials, and conducting training classes.

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Registration process for the Training Session

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To register for Tips & Techniques, please follow these steps:

1. Go online to pre-register by clicking the following link:

<http://www.basug.org/register.php3>

INDIVIDUAL, ON-LINE PRE-REGISTRATION REQUIRED FOR TRAINING.
NO EMAIL! All registrants will receive an immediate email to confirm their pre-registration. Within 72 hours you will receive another e-mail, with a customized invoice for the training based on your membership status. If you need to join BASUG, we'll include the appropriate forms with your invoice.

Seats are limited, so register early!

2. Complete the invoice form and mail it with your check by October 29, 2004 to:

BASUG
PO Box 253
Boston, MA 02117

Note that this class is open to BASUG members only, meaning your 2004 dues must be paid up in order to attend! Seating is limited, and your space is reserved only upon receipt of your check.

3. Your check must be post-marked by Friday, October 29th. Mailing your check by this date guarantees you a seat in the class, and entitles you to the reduced fee of \$125.
4. Do NOT mail any checks after October 29th.

If you miss the mail-in deadline, bring your completed invoice form and a check made payable to BASUG to cover the at-the-door tuition rate of \$150 plus any membership fees due as specified in your invoice form.

***If your 2004 BASUG dues need to be paid as well, the check should include an additional amount for either \$25 (individual dues) or \$125 (corporate dues). The BASUG Federal tax id is 04-2964625. If you wish,

you can write one check to pay for both your BASUG dues and course tuition.

5. If you have any questions about your BASUG membership status, please contact either of our Training Coordinators.

6. Full payment is due by the day of the class. There will be NO EXCEPTIONS to this. No credit cards, no cash.

7. REFUND POLICY:

If you need to cancel, you will receive a full refund if you notify Bridget Neville (bridget_neville@dfci.harvard.edu) by Thursday, November 4th. No refunds will be provided after November 4th.

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DIRECTIONS

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399 Grove Street
Newton, MA 02462
617-969-5300 (phone)

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BASUG QUARTERLY MEETING

*=====

WHAT: BASUG QUARTERLY MEETING

THEME: Big Stuff; Large Datasets and Systems

WHEN: Tuesday, November 30, 2004
Quarterly Meeting: 8:00AM - 12:00PM

WHERE: Holiday Inn Newton (Directions are included below.)
399 Grove Street
Newton, MA 02462
(617-969-5300)

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CONTACT for the quarterly meeting:
Victor Pontes: victor.pontes@channing.harvard.edu

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Creating and Exploiting SAS® Indexes

Michael A Raithel, WESTAT

If there were a SAS performance tool that could drastically reduce your program's I/O's and response time, and lower its CPU time, would you use it? Well, this type of performance tool exists; it is called "SAS Indexes." SAS Indexes can dramatically improve the performance of programs that access small subsets of observations from large SAS data sets. However, many SAS programmers never bother to learn about them or to use them. This is your opportunity to add this performance tool to your SAS programming repertoire.

This paper discusses how to create simple and composite SAS indexes, how to determine which variables make good index key variables, when creating and using indexes is appropriate, what centiles are, and how to generate index usage messages. It illustrates how indexes can improve processing when subsetting and/or updating a large SAS data set and when an index can optimize a BY statement. After reading this paper, you will have the basic information that you need to create and use SAS Indexes to improve the performance of your SAS applications.

Data Driven Systems - Strategies for Effective Data Access

Craig Dickstein, Tamarack Professional Services, LLC

'Data driven' is not just a buzzword, but also an application design concept that serves to resolve a number of challenges facing SAS® developers. In this presentation, effective strategies and tactics are discussed that will provide guidelines for developers of large data access, analytic, and reporting systems. SQL and non-SQL programming techniques are compared as tactics for implementing the proposed strategy. RDBMS and SAS Data Libraries are also discussed vis-à-vis the underlying data structures that form a basis for choosing one technique over another. A healthcare reporting application is presented as representative of the types of issues faced - large data volumes, extensive business rules, and complicated application management.

Transferring Your Mainframe SAS® Programs To Your PC in Three Easy Steps (Coder's Corner)

Michael A Raithel, WESTAT

You have built up quite a collection of useful SAS programs in your many years of using the SAS System on mainframe computers under MVS. Now that you find yourself doing more and more work in PC SAS, it seems a shame to write new programs entirely from scratch. Wouldn't it be more helpful to port your mainframe Partitioned Data Set (PDS) of SAS programs to a file on your PC? Then, you could reuse your mature SAS code on the desktop by making simple modifications to suit it to its new environment and to the particular task at hand.

This paper illustrates an easy way to transfer a PDS of SAS programs from the mainframe to the PC in three easy steps.

Measuring SAS® Software Usage On Shared Servers With the RTRACE Facility

Michael A Raithel, WESTAT

How often is SAS software being used in your organization, who is using it, and which SAS products are being used? These questions are not always easy to answer, particularly for organizations that run SAS on multiple platforms. However, an innovative technique for exploiting SAS RTRACE files can provide you with a way to record and report information about SAS usage in your organization. This paper presents a methodology for exploiting SAS's native RTRACE facility to track all SAS batch and interactive sessions in the Windows, Unix, and Linux environments. It provides an overview of the RTRACE facility and how to set it up to run behind-the-scenes in shared server environments. The paper contains example programs that process RTRACE files and store the information in SAS data sets. It includes a sample program that reports SAS usage based on the captured RTRACE information. After reading this paper, you will have all of the tools that you need to exploit RTRACE, and determine the "who", "what", "when" and "where" of SAS software usage in your own organization.

Bios:

Michael A. Raithel has worked with Information Systems in the commercial and government sectors since 1980. An internationally recognized expert in the use of SAS software in mainframe environments, he is the author of over a dozen SAS technical papers and is a popular lecturer at SUGI and at regional SAS conferences. Michael has been a section chair at SUGI, SESUG, and NESUG, and he co-chaired NESUG in 1995. He has been a mainframe computer performance analyst for Marriott International and for the U.S. Customs Service, as well as an independent consultant specializing in mainframe and Unix performance issues. He now works as a Senior Systems Analyst for Westat. A copy of the first edition of this book, entitled ***Tuning SAS Applications in the MVS Environment***, resides in the Smithsonian Institution of American History's Permanent Research Collection of Information Technology.

Craig Dickstein, an independent Consultant, works with clients and select project teams to implement customized business solutions for the health care industry. He has significant past experience managing and developing SAS applications and has been a SAS user since 1978. With a Masters Degree in Statistics and meaningful work experience in medical research and health insurance, he adds value in the resolution of specific client business needs.

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