

DCSUG Newsletter

Washington, DC SAS Users Group

Third Quarter Meeting

When: Tuesday, September 27, 2005
Time: 8:30a.m. to Noon
Place: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Conference Center
Postal Square Building
Room G440
2 Massachusetts Ave., N.E.
(use the First Street entrance)
Washington DC



Agenda:	8:30 - 9:00	Registration and refreshments
	9:00 - 9:15	Announcements
	9:15 - 10:15	Ronald Fehd, Centers for Disease Control, and Prevention A SASautos Companion: Reusing Macros
	10:15 - 10:30	Break
	10:30 - 10:45	User-to User Questions and Answers Moderators - DCSUG officers
	10:45 - 11:15	John Davison, Factotum, Inc. Systematic SAS Development, a Disciplined Approach
	11:15 - 11:45	Paul Gorrell, Social & Scientific Systems, Inc. A Short Introduction to the SAS ExcelXP Tagset
	11:45 - Noon	Wrapup

***Presentation times subject to change**

Visitors must use the visitor's entrance on First Street NE. Directions for those taking Metro: Take the Red Line to Union Station. Exit the station via the Amtrak exit, but do not go up to the train level. Instead, after going up to and out through the farecard gates, turn to the left where there is an exit to the street (First Street NE). Directly across from the exit are the employee and visitor's entrances to the building. After checking in with security, take the main elevators down to the G level. **BRING PICTURE ID!**



If you have special needs and are planning to attend this meeting, please contact any DCSUG officer no later than 09/19/05

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NOTE: If you are not currently a paid member of the DCSUG and are planning to attend the meeting, please email Larry Altmayer at Lawrence.W.Altmayer@census.gov or call him at (301) 763-2569 by September 21st and and leave your name. Security at the Bureau of Labor Statistics is very tight and having your name on a list of possible attendees will make your entrance to the building easier.

President's Message

Peter Knapp

In the next few weeks there will be several opportunities to participate in SAS events, both at the local and at the regional levels. From September 11-14, NESUG will be held in Portland, ME. Closer to home DCSUG will host its quarterly morning meeting on September 27. Ron Fehd, John Davison and Paul Gorrell will be giving presentations that I'm sure will be of interest to many SAS users. From October 23-25, SESUG will hold it's annual meeting in Portsmouth, VA. A week later, DCSUG will hold an evening SIG meeting on November 3. Manolo Figallo-Monge and Michael Sadof will be giving presentations at this evening event.

Details on these meetings can be found in the newsletter. I hope that you can make it to one or more of these informative meetings. They are all good opportunities to meet fellow SAS professionals and hopefully learn something new about SAS.

Speaker Abstracts

A SASautos Companion: Reusing Macros
Ronald Fehd, SAS-L's macro maven, Centers for Disease Control, and Prevention, Atlanta GA USA

Reusable SAS R programs come in two forms: macros or %includes. This paper reviews the standard SAS environment and examines the options used to customize a session or batch program for reuse of macros stored in the project directory. Expected audience is intermediate to advanced programmers and macro users.

Ronald J. Fehd has a B.S. in Computer Science. He has continued his education by attending SUGI since 1998 and reading SAS-L, the on-line SAS User Group, since 1994. He has been a programmer for 20 years, and has worked as a data manager for the Centers for Disease Control for the past 17 years. He is the author of ten SUGI papers on large macros and programming theory. Please check the SUGI30 proceedings for his other papers. He is the author of over 3,000 messages to SAS-L since 1997. In 2001, and again in 2003, he was elected Most Valuable SAS-L contributor. He is a programmer, educator, and rhetor of the SAS macro language, and is currently working on a book about programming rhetoric.

Systematic SAS Development, a Disciplined Approach

John Davison, Factotum, Inc.

This paper suggests a systematic approach to the design of SAS applications, based on nearly thirty years experience in SAS development and maintenance. Without setting forth a rigid framework some broad guidelines are offered with the author's own rules, that have served well and may help others to develop their own. They represent a step toward formulation of a disciplined approach to more rapid development of more robust and maintainable applications and more reusable code.

John Davison has been computing since 1960, SAS since 1976. First site rep and everything else at the Federal Reserve Board. Free lance consultant since retirement in 1986. Adjunct professor of computer science at VPISU Northern Virginia Graduate Center.

A Short Introduction to the SAS ExcelXP Tagset

Paul Gorrell, Social & Scientific Systems, Inc.

Do you often need to send your SAS output to Excel? Do you often have to do some post-processing in Excel to format the spreadsheets the way you'd like? The SAS ExcelXP tagset offers SAS programmers a method to specify in their programs many of the spreadsheet properties they normally need to do as a separate process in Excel: AutoFilter for specified columns, frozen column headers, frozen row headers, specified sheet

names, leading zeros for numeric variables, etc. This presentation gives a brief overview of the functionality of the ExcelXP tagset and points you to SAS references for putting this important part of SAS to work for you.

Paul Gorrell, a Programming Manager at Social & Scientific Systems, Inc., has been programming with SAS since 1982. He is a member of the DCSUG Steering Committee and the NESUG Executive Committee. He will co-chair NESUG 2006 in Philadelphia, PA

Questions and Answers

Moderated by DCSUG Officers



Bring your SAS programming or procedure questions to DCSUG and its members. During this open session, you can ask questions of and get answers from experienced SAS users. All are welcomed to participate.

DCSUG Evening Special Interest Group

Date: November 3, 2005

Time: 5:00pm – 8:00pm

Place: SAS – Rosslyn Office
(walking distance from Metro)

Agenda:

XML for SAS Users – Manolo Figallo-Monge
Basic Efficiencies – Michael Sadof

Check dc-sug.org/ for further information.

DCSUG 2005 Steering Committee

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UPCOMING CONFERENCES



18th Annual Conference
September 11-14, 2005
Portland, ME



13th Annual Conference
October 23-25, 2005
Portsmouth, VA



SUGI 31
March 26-29, 2006
Moscone West Convention
Center
San Francisco, CA

NESUG
2006

Philadelphia, PA –
Wyndham Philadelphia
at Franklin Plaza
September 17-20

Nominations for 2006 DCSUG Officers



It's that time of year again. We need to elect officers for DCSUG for next year and we need your help. Please nominate people to fill the following positions. Give your nominations to any current DCSUG officer or send them to:

DCSUG
P.O. Box 44670
Washington, DC 20026
President Secretary
Treasurer SAS Liaison

Calendar of Meetings and Events

This feature is meant to give users an idea of some of the activities of area users groups and special interest groups, as well as regional and international groups. If your group would like to be regularly included in this feature, please call Mike Rhoads or one of the DCSUG officers. There is a DCSUG directory with phone, fax, and E-mail contact information elsewhere in this newsletter.

September

- 11-14 **NESUG** NorthEast SAS Users Group Conference
 Co-Chairs: Lois Levin, Sue Douglass
 Site: Portland ME
 Further Info: <http://www.nesug.org>
- 27 **DCSUG** DC SAS Users Group, General Meeting
 Time: 8:30 am - 12:00 noon
 Site: Bureau of Labor Statistics
 2 Massachusetts Ave. NE
 Program: See front page announcement
 Contacts:
 Roger Goodwin at (703) 877-8000 ext 120
Roger_Goodwin@nass.usda.gov
 Peter Knapp at (202) 482-1359
peter_knapp@ita.doc.gov

October

- 23-25 **SESUG** SouthEast SAS Users Group Conference
 Co-Chairs: Deb Cassidy, Jenine Eason
 Site: Portsmouth VA
 Further Info: <http://www.sesug.org>

December

- 6 **DCSUG** DC SAS Users Group, General Meeting
 Time: 8:30 am - 12:00 noon
 Site: TBA
 Program: TBA

Other Groups

- CENSUG** Census SAS Users Group
 Contact: Andrea Potter at (301) 763-1687
- MDSUG** Maryland SAS Users Group
 Contact: Jayne May Miller, (410) 455-6849
jmiller@chpdm.umbc.edu
www.umbc.edu/chpdm/mdsug/
- NCHSSUG** National Center for Health Statistics SAS Users Group
 Contacts: Arlene Siller at (301) 458-4498
asiller@cdc.gov
 Linda Tompkins at (301) 458-4533
- NIHSUG** National Institutes of Health SAS Users Group
 Contact: Ray Danner at (301) 496-6037
- NOVASUG** Northern Virginia SAS Users Group
 Contact: Gary McQuown at (703) 628-5681
gmcquown@dasconsultants.com
www.novasug.org
- SIGSTAT** Special Interest Group in Statistics, CPCUG and WINFORMS
 Contact: Charlie Hallahan, 202-694-5051
hallahan@ers.usda.gov
- VASUG** Virginia SAS Users Group (Richmond area)
 Contact: Andrea Wainwright, (804) 284-7681
liaison@vasug.org
www.vasug.org

My Proc Contents

**Steve James
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
Atlanta, Ga.**

If you find that Proc Contents produces a lot of information that you rarely use, there's a simple way to limit the output to just the list of variables. Standard Proc Contents contains Data Set Attributes, Engine Host Information and Variable information. What must we do to have it show only the Variable information?

First, we have to tell SAS not to display the information containing SAS Data Set Attributes and the Engine/Host information. These are contained in ODS output objects created by Proc Contents. But in order to do that we have to determine what the output objects are called so that we can tell SAS to exclude them.

You can get the answer a number of different ways. The simplest is in the windowing environment where you can right-click on the link in the Results window to the output object from PROC CONTENTS and select "Properties." There it gives you the name of the output object that you'll want to edit. Additionally you can use the following code:

```
ODS TRACE ON / LISTING ;
```

```
PROC CONTENTS ....
```

```
ODS TRACE OFF ;
```

Using this technique we determine that the three output objects that PROC CONTENTS is producing are called ATTRIBUTES, ENGINEHOST and VARIABLES. So the first thing we want to do is to suppress the output of the Attributes and the EngineHost output objects. We're not preventing them from being created, but we're going to exclude them from the output. We do that using the following command:

```
ODS EXCLUDE Attributes EngineHost ;
```

SAS default behavior is for this statement to be in effect only until the next procedure it encounters. To tell SAS to continuously exclude these two objects from the output, add the PERSIST option as follows:

```
ODS EXCLUDE ATTRIBUTES (PERSIST) ENGINEHOST (PERSIST) ;
```

This one-line change can be used by most users, regardless of skill level, to easily reduce the amount of output from PROC CONTENTS. It's something that may be useful in an AUTOEXEC file. To return to the default behavior, issue this command:

```
ODS SELECT ALL ;
```

Note: this technique can be applied to most procedures and is not limited to Proc Contents. Just determine the names of the output objects that are being created and add an ODS EXCLUDE or ODS SELECT statement to output just the ones you want.

QUANTITATIVE ANALYST

The Quantitative Analyst position is an entry level in our Analytics and Development group. This group works on developing and designing new quantitative, financial models. Quantitative Analysts are expected to significantly contribute to the success of our research through their participation in that research and analysis of the strategic and operational challenges that affect our production efforts and new product development. We need someone with strong analytic (= mathematical and programming) skills, intellectual curiosity, and a desire to explore.

Position Overview

Quantitative Analysts focus their efforts on intellectual and data-driven research initiatives conducted by the Analytics and Development team. Quantitative Analysts will work on a variety of different projects, including: the design and development of new econometric models, checking and debugging implementation software, defining the desired data for analysis of the problem, and reporting. Collaboration with, and taking direction from, other members of the Analytics and Development group, on a broad range of quantitative/ programming/data base initiatives will be part of the job.

Key Responsibilities of a Quantitative Analyst Include:

- Analyzing and interpreting data using SAS and Excel to represent findings through charts and quality graphics.
- Presenting interview and research findings to the Chief Analytics and Development Officer and other senior managers: verbally and in writing.
- Analyzing our wealth-related business problems using qualitative and quantitative methods.

Required Skills:

- A B.S. degree in mathematics, a hard science, finance, or statistics and a strong quantitative aptitude. A Master's degree is preferred.
- Advanced knowledge of SAS and Microsoft Excel.
- Proficiency with basic statistical concepts (regression analysis, factor analysis, significance testing,) and more sophisticated statistical concepts.
- Excellent oral communication skills and strong writing skills.
- Ability to work either independently or in a team environment, depending on the task at hand.
- Exceptional performance in undergraduate academics or graduate studies
- If without a Masters degree, 1-3 years post-undergraduate experience.

Please send your resume w/reference #QA-08 to careers@ixicorp.com. Visit us at www.ixicorp.com.

IXI Corporation is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

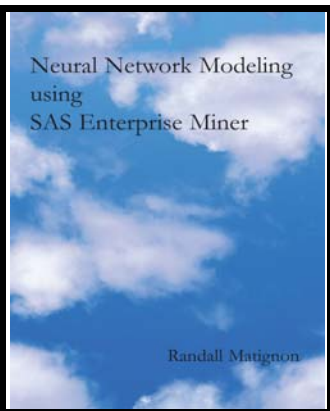
Information Systems Analyst

The Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve Board, the central bank of the United States is seeking an Information Systems Analyst to handle the design, implementation, and support of complex automated data and software systems used in the division for research, analysis, and automation activities. You will be responsible for: (1) maintaining, modifying, and building medium- to large-scale software systems using a range of programming languages. (2) providing training, documentation, problem resolution, and ad-hoc programming services. (3) maintaining and extending as needed windowing configurations for division's x-windows operating environment. The salary range for this position is \$44,790 to \$89,520.

Qualifications:

- Proficiency in one or more network operating systems and one or more high-level programming languages.
- Must have a basic knowledge of technology, concepts, and methodologies and a willingness to learn new languages quickly
- Experience in problem diagnosis and resolution with careful attention to detail
- An understanding of the interrelationships among systems
- Strong oral and written communication skills.
- Desirable skills include familiarity with Linux, Mainframe, SAS, and XML.
- Coursework in or knowledge of economics or finance is a plus.
- Bachelor's degree or equivalent experience

The Federal Reserve Board offers excellent compensation and benefits package, including health and dental insurance as well as savings/investment and retirement plans. We offer an excellent in house technical training center to enhance your technical skills. Interested candidates may apply online at www.federalreserve.gov and click on Career Opportunities, click on All To Apply and apply to requisition 004521. The Board of Governors is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

 <p>Neural Network Modeling using SAS Enterprise Miner</p> <p>Randall Matignon</p>	<p><i>“Neural Network Modeling using SAS Enterprise Miner” introduces the readers to a non-linear modeling design called neural network modeling using SAS Enterprise Miner v4.3. This first of its kind book will reveal the strength and ease of use of the powerful new module in SAS with step-by-step instructions in creating a process flow diagram in preparation to data-mining analysis and neural network predictive and classification modeling.</i></p>
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Highlights to the book are the following:

- An overview to statistical and neural network modeling.
- An overview to the configuration settings and results from the various nodes in Enterprise Miner that are used in statistical modeling and neural network designs.
- Designing a SAS Enterprise Miner process flow diagram with regard to statistical modeling and neural network designs.
- A brief explanation to the more popular statistical modeling designs and corresponding SAS procedures, option statements and procedure output listings.

See <http://www.authorhouse.com> for more information.

2005 Meetings

Remember to Join DCSUG!!!

Plan ahead and mark your calendars now. The DCSUG meetings in 2005 are scheduled for Sept 27, Dec 6. Meeting times and locations to be announced. If at any time you have a question about an upcoming meeting or other DCSUG information, call one of the members of the Steering Committee.

You are invited

To visit the DCSUG home page

The URL for the DCSUG home page on the Web:
<http://dc-sug.org>



Don't forget to renew your DCSUG membership for 2005. Dues are used to defray the costs of producing and mailing the newsletter and provide refreshments at our meetings. You'll make sure that you keep receiving the newsletter and keep DCSUG going. If you have not joined DCSUG, now is a great time to do so. Joining DCSUG is as easy as completing the membership form included in this newsletter. Individual memberships are only \$10; corporate membership is \$50 and corporate sponsorship is \$250

Membership Application/Renewal

Date: _____

Name: _____

Company Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City, _____

State _____ Zip _____

Phone # _____

Fax # _____

E-Mail: _____

Preferred mode of contact (check one):

Fax

e-mail

SAS Version(s) _____

SAS Product(s): _____

Operating System(s) _____

Check one:

- | | |
|---|------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual membership | for 1 year is \$10.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Corporate membership (group) | for 1 year is \$50.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Corporate sponsorship | for 1 year is \$250.00 |

Check one:

New membership

Renewal membership

Mail to:

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Washington, DC 20026-4670