SESUG Speaker Sharing Program

To arrange for a SESUG speaker, please contact Marje Fecht at Marje.Fecht@prowerk.com.

Speaker:

Gary McQuown
Data and Analytic Solutions, Inc.

Bio:

Gary McQuown is a co-owner of Data and Analytic Solutions, a SAS consulting firm and a SAS Alliance Partner in the Washington DC Metropolitan Area. With over 15 years experience, he provides SAS solutions to government agencies Fortune 500 companies, and small firms in any location. He specializes in SAS application development and automation for analysis, modeling and reporting. When not churning out SAS code, Gary cruises the country on his 1992 Harley Fat Boy. For more information, contact him at mcquown@dasconsultants.com or http://www.dasconsultants.com

Presentation Topics:

- Exceptional Exception Reports
- SAS Macros are the Cure for Quality Control Pains
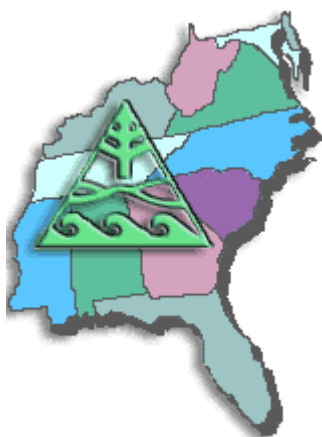- SAS® Consultants: A Sheep in Wolf's Clothing

Abstracts

Exceptional Exception Reports

Exception Reports document how well your data meets your pre-defined business rules. Knowing what you have in terms of data quality is essential to understanding the usability of the data and the validity of any processes performed with that data. Typically an exception report presents statistics describing nonconforming data, lists the non-conforming data or both. This information may then be used to guide to clean the data, manage how the data is used or to explain anomalies in downstream processes. While the simplest exception reports only call attention to anomalies in the data, exceptional exception reports provide detailed documentation and specific information with little additional effort from the user.

This paper presents an overview of exception reports for data quality control and describes how they can be assembled from pieces and parts of fairly common SAS® code. Topics include exceptional exception reports vs. simple exception reports, the reasons to use exception reports as frequently as possible, the application of logic in the reports and issues that may cause problems. An example of the general use exception report can be downloaded and used as is or modified to meet your requirements.

SAS Macros are the Cure for Quality Control Pains

The purpose of this presentation is three fold. The first is to introduce the reader to the concept of Data Quality Control and it's value to any IT project or process. This process is a frequent topic at "high levels" but seldom discussed with those who do the actual programming where it will do the most good.

Secondly it is intended to encourage the use of SAS macros when and where they are most appropriate. Macros lend themselves to tasks that are repetitious and well defined. They are ideal for quality control work because (if designed and run correctly) they greatly reduce the introduction of human error the resources required. As we all know, documentation, error checking, and data cleaning all essential tasks, but they are all to often delayed until the very end or delegated to those with the least understanding of the process.

Lastly it is intended to direct the reader to the wealth of SAS Macro related code available on the web. The quantity and quality of SAS code placed in public domain is quite impressive and continues to grow. When supplemented with the ongoing exchanges on SAS-L, the volume of "free" assistance and material is truly amazing.

SAS® Consultants: A Sheep in Wolf's Clothing

Thinking of hanging out your shingle and going it alone? Look before you leap and make sure you know both the risks as well as the rewards of being a SAS Consultant. Although employees and consultants may write identical code; their behavior, responsibilities, risks and rewards can be very different. This article will explore the fundamental differences between SAS Consultants (independent contractors or 1099's) and SAS Programmers (employees or W2's), and address the most common questions dealing with self employment and the transition process.

Working as a SAS Consultant carries certain risks as well as rewards. Anyone contemplating such a career should carefully and objectively consider all of his or her options.   If he or she is determined to make the transition, it is extremely important that they understand and carefully plan the process.