

Accessing the SAS(r) Usage Notes and Zaps Over Bitnet

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Introduction

Thanks to an agreement between SAS Institute and the University of Illinois at Chicago, SAS users on Bitnet nodes can now access the latest version of the SAS Usage Notes and Zaps. The usage notes and zaps are maintained as files in the SPIRES database management system at UIC and may be accessed by sending electronic mail or interactive messages to the Remote SPIRES server, QSPIRES, at the Bitnet node UICVM or, equivalently, to the Internet host UICVM.CC.UIC.EDU. This handout describes how to access the usage notes and zaps.(1)

Searching the Usage Notes or Zaps

To search the usage notes or zaps send a "FIND" command to the userid QSPIRES on the Bitnet node UICVM or the Internet host UICVM.CC.UIC.EDU (they are the same computer) either as the body of electronic mail or as an interactive message. The search result will be sent to you by electronic mail. The form of a find command is "FIND search-expression (IN subfile)". A "search expression" has the form "index-name relational-operator value". "KEYWORD = GML", "PRODUCT ~= ETS" and "ZAP = Z6061300" are examples of simple search expressions. A complete list of available indexes is included below. You can also use the Boolean operators "AND" and "OR" to compose compound searches such as "ZAPTAPE 11/90 AND SYSTEM CMS AND (PRODUCT BASE OR SAS OR GRAPH)".(2) SPIRES supports some special relational operators, range operators and date operators in addition to these usual ones: =, ~=, >, <, -< and ->. The special operators include "PREFIX", "SUFFIX", "WORD" and "STRING". The range operators

(1) At this time, March 8, 1991, only the CMS Usage Notes and Zaps are available. I expect that we will begin getting the other platforms in the not-too-distant future

(2) Note that you can usually omit the "relational operator" when it is an equal sign and that you don't need to repeat the "index name" when referring to it repeatedly.

include "BETWEEN... AND..." and "FROM... TO...". And the date operators are "BEFORE" and "AFTER". You can specify either "USAGENOTES" or "SASZAP" as the subfile, depending on whether you want to search the usage notes or zaps.

Sample search requests

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FIND ZAPTAPE 11/90 AND SYSTEM CMS AND RELEASE 6.06 (IN USAGENOTES
FIND ZAPTAPE AFTER OCTOBER 1990 (IN USAGENOTES
FIND KEYWORD GLM AND ABEND AND SYSTEM MVS (IN USAGENOTES
FIND SYSTEM CMS AND (PRODUCT SAS OR BASE) (IN USAGENOTES
FIND ZAPTAPE 11/90 AND SYSTEM CMS AND PRODUCT ~= QC (IN USAGENOTES
FIND ZAP Z6061300 (IN SASZAP
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Indexes Available for Searching the Usage Notes

The following indexes may be used when searching the usage notes. Where an index has an alias, this is indicated. Unless the resulting abbreviation is ambiguous, index names may be truncated to three characters in length.

MODULE-ID, MODULEN

Identifies the area where the problem exists. The module name is followed by a unique number of the form rrnnn (where rr is the release number and nnn is a number identifying the usage note). Valid module names are:

procname	any procedure name
FUNCTIONS	for functions
FORMATS	for formats
INFORMATS	for informats
SAMPLIB	for sample library problems
SYS.COMP	for compiler
SYS.DATA	for SAS data sets
DEV.dev	for SAS/GRAPH device driver notes and SAS/FSP hardware interface problems. For problems with multiple types of devices, 'dev' will be DEV. For problems with Tektronix devices, 'dev' will be TEK. for problems with Hewlett Packard devices, 'dev' will be HP, etc.
RTERM	for problems with SAS/RTERM software
SYS.INST	for installation problems or additional information
SYS.MACRO	for the macro facility
SYS.PROC	for system related problems with procedures
SYS.PUT	for INFILE/INPUT and FILE/PUT
SYS.SYS	for general systems
SYS.DMS	for display manager system problems
SYS.EDITOR	for the text editor
SYS.DOC	for misprints in SAS COMMUNICATIONS articles

For example: PRINT-820461 or LIFETEST-V51339.

The notes which have MODULEN in the form INST.xxxx contain important notes about other notes which should be read for that particular SAS component where xxxx may be; NOTE - for

directions on which note to read, ETS, FSP, GRAPH, IMS, MACRO, OR, SAS - for the base product, SRC - for SAS/REPLAY-CICS, or SVC - for SVC information.

TITLE

Gives the title of the usage note.

UPDATE

Indicates whether the information in the current observation is an Outstanding Problem or a Usage Note or Compatibility Note.

PRODUCT

Identifies the product to which the information pertains. Valid product names are:

ACCDB2	SAS/ACCESS DB2 software
ACCSQLDS	SAS/ACCESS SQL/DS software
ADB	SAS/ADABASE software
AF	SAS/AF software
ASSIST	SAS/ASSIST software
BASE	SAS/BASE software
CONNECT	SAS/CONNECT software
DB2	SAS/DB2 software
DDB	SAS/??? software

DMI	SAS/DMI software
ETS	Econometric and Time Series procedures
FSP	Full-Screen Product
GRAPH	color graphics procedures
IDMS	SAS/IDMS software
IML	SAS/IML software
IMS	Interface to IMS through DL/1
OR	Operations Research procedures
QC	SAS/QC software
RTERM	SAS/RTERM software
SAS	The SAS base product
SHARE	SAS/SHARE software
SRC	SAS/REPLAY-CICS software
SQLDS	SAS/SQL-DS software
STAT	SAS/STAT software
SUP	Supplemental procedures

SYSTEM

Specifies the system or systems to which the note pertains. Valid systems names are:

ALL	The note is system independent
IBM	Indicates the problem occurs on IBM systems only
OS	MVS, MVS/ XA, VS1, or MVT
CMS	Conversational Monitoring System (VM/SP)
VSE	Disk Operating System (DOS)
VMS	
MINI	
PC/DOS	
PRIMOS	
AOS	

SYSTEM2

a specific release of the operating system to which the note pertain, if appropriate. For example, if the variable SYSTEM is OS, SYSTEM 2 might be VS1, MVT, or MVS/XA. Valid values for SYSTEM2 are:

if SYSTEM=OS	MVS, VS1, MVT, XA, a specific release, or CMS (running as a guest)
if SYSTEM=CMS	a specific release
if SYSTEM=VSE	SSX, MVT, a specific release, or CMS (running as a guest)

RELEASE

Gives the release for which the problem or note was first reported. If RELEASE=5.08, the problem may have existed on prior releases. If FIXED is blank, the problem still exists on the current release.

ZAPNAME, ZAPID, ZI

Specifies the zaps which are available to fix the problem. Zap names are given as Zrrrrnnnn, where rrr is the release to which the zap applies and nnnn is taken from the last four digits of MODULEN in the Usage Note describing the problem.

ZAPCAT, ZC

for RELEASE=5.16 or greater, indicates the severity of the problem that the zap is intended to fix. Valid values for ZAPCAT are:

REQUIRED

this problem can cause incorrect output that might not be otherwise noticed, or can cause damage to data sets.

HIGHLY RECOMMENDED
this problem could occur at all sites

SUGGESTED
this problem could occur at all sites

SPECIAL CONSIDERATION
this zap is only for specific situations - read the corresponding usage note before deciding whether to apply this zap

REMOVED
this zap was found to cause other, possibly unrelated, problems and should be removed from your system. The ZAPS element will reference the zap that replaced this zap and that zap will contain comments which can be used to reverse the problem zap.

ZAPSTAT, ZS
Specifies the current source of the zap. D implies it is only on DIAL-A-ZAP while U means it is on the current Usage Notes tape. S implies that special considerations are involved which should be discussed with the institute before the zap is applied.

ZAPTAPE, TAPE, ZT
indicates the date of the first usage note tape on which a zap was first available

FIXED
Identifies the first release for which the problem has been fixed. If the field is blank, corrections have not yet been made.

KEYWORD
Contains keys used by the STRING and SEARCH commands in SAS/FSP. Any key is valid, but the following are used as guidelines by SAS Institute for problems in certain areas:

INCORROUT	Incorrect output or incorrect processing, including misplaced messages, title truncation, incorrect parsing, output data sets not created properly, and so on.
INCORREX	incorrect execution - hangs loops, etc.
INCORRSTAT	Incorrect statistical answers.
ERRORxxx	Indicates the SAS error number encountered; for example, ERROR180 or ERROR200.
SYNTAX	Syntax error.
HANG	Problems where the system hangs.
LOOP	Problems where the system loops.
ABEND	A PL/I error message (overflows and so on) or system completion code (S0C1 and so on) occurred. The completion code will also be a keyword.
DOCUMENTATION	Items to be added to the appropriate SAS manual.
USERPROC	Information and problems dealing with user-written procedures and functions.
MEMORY	Memory, region or core problems.
CPUTIME	Problems with CPUtime.
SPACE	Problems with disk space.

NAME, MODNAME, MODULE, MODULE-NAME
The left-hand part of MODULEN.

NUMBER, ID
The right-hand part of MODULEN.

Searching the Zaps

The only index available for searching the SAS zaps is the zap name. Thus, all searches of the zaps database are of the form "FIND ZAP Z6061300 (IN SASZAP". Typically, search the USAGENOTES subfile to determine the zap you must apply, then search the SASZAP subfile for the zap itself.

Other Useful Commands You Can Send to the Remote SPIRES Server

Command	Function
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BROWSE index-name (IN subfile-name	
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Display a sample of the values in the index named. For example, "BROWSE RELEASE (IN USAGENOTES" or "BROWSE ZAP (IN SASZAP".	
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SHOW ELEMENT DESCRIPTION (IN subfile-name	
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Display a list of the elements in the subfile named and a short description of each. (SAS programmers would use the term "variables" rather than "elements".)	
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SHOW SEARCH TERMS (IN subfile-name	
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Display a list of the indexes available for the subfile named.	
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If You Have Comments, Questions or Suggestions

Please send comments, questions or suggestions via electronic mail to <UICSTAT@UICVM> on Bitnet or, equivalently, to <UICSTAT@UICVM.CC.UIC.EDU> on the Internet.

- (3) SAS is a registered trademark of SAS Institute, Cary, NC. SPIRES is a registered trademark of Leland Stanford Junior University, Stanford, CA. Bitnet is a registered trademark of The Corporation for Research and Educational Networking, Princeton, NJ.
- (4) Significant contributions of one sort or another to this project were made by Phil Miller, Washington University of St Louis, June Genis, Stanford University, Paul Setze, University of Illinois at Chicago, Sally Muller, University of North Carolina at chapel Hill, George Crane, SLAC, and SAS Institute staff.