

Power of SAS in the Palm of your hand

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ABSTRACT

Let's take that Palm Pilot® of ours, then some inexpensive third party app's matched with SAS® and watch what they can all do in the palm of our hand! The features these elements can provide us literally right out of the box is really amazing. In this paper I will cover some of the basic ones and then present an interesting way of capturing and collecting data using a PDA, analyzing it with SAS (on the PC) then sharing the results back to the PDA and other individuals.

AUTHOR BIOGRAPHY

Zeke Torres is a consultant working in the Chicago area. He has worked with the SAS System for over 10 years and is a certified Base SAS programmer. Zeke has written and presented papers on SAS to fellow programmers at client sites, user conferences (regional and local). Currently Zeke is involved with various SAS User groups in the region and the leader of the Chicago Area SAS Users Group (WCSUG.ORG). He is also a member of the Board of Directors of MWSUG.

INTRODUCTION

ASSUMPTIONS

REQUIRED EQUIPMENT AND/OR SOFTWARE

This paper assumes the following is available. PC SAS. PDA with Palm OS v5.0 or greater. Pendragon. Microsoft Access. For features such as email between the PDA and your desktop it is assumed that your PDA will have the service available from a communications provider. The PC SAS version will work better if ODBC for MS ACCESS is available.

SAS USER EXPERIENCE OR PROFICIENCY

Users are required to have an intermediate knowledge of the SAS system or better.

SECURITY ASSUMPTIONS

Security issues and concerns over data integrity, security, privacy should be considered on a case by case basis and this paper does not assume that the solution presented is a secure way of dealing with confidential data. Methods of securing data or solving data security issues are not discussed in this paper.

BASIC USES AND APPLICATIONS

The application of this paper can be useful if we think of the ways we might need to have data collected, stored, transmitted, analyzed and then shared again. With the portability of PDA's combined with their growing featured packed operating system and price ranges it's possible to consider a PDA solution for a business need rather than a full laptop or desktop solution. Since cellular phones and service providers are constantly adding PDA features to phones it's also possible to start utilizing some of the newer models for these solutions as well.

I considered this application a practical one for our conference registration system. However I can also find practical ways to apply this for collecting data such for things like clinical trials, remote sales applications.

SOFTWARE INSTALLATION

CONCLUSION

REFERENCES

SOFTWARE AND EQUIPMENT INFORMATION

PENDRAGON

This software can be obtained at:

It is easy to install on the desktop/laptop and equally easy to install on your PDA. The ease with which I was able to develop applications for the PDA and features its comes with make it worth looking at first.

SAS SYSTEM

PC SAS version 8.2 was used. In my case it was with a laptop that had both USB cradle for the PDA and an IRA port (Infared). I used the task scheduler in windows to provide 'automated' batch processing of SAS programs which sent information to my PDA. Configuration of the email features was required. Additional security precautions should be taken and discussed with your site administrator. I used SAS with the MS Access ODBC to provide a connection to the data synchronized via the PDA.

MS ACCESS

I used the MS Office 2000 version of MS Access. Since it is readily available on most corporate systems it was an easy choice to consider for these applications.

PALM OS V5

In order to use the Pendragon software I needed to update my Palm OS. Specifically the HotSync® software that is embedded in the OS is what is required to be up to date.

HANDSPRING TREO

I utilized the Treo in order to demonstrate the functionality of the cellular phone and email features.

HANDSPRING VISOR

I used my older PDA to demonstrate that you do not need to have the latest equipment to find a practical use for this application. I did need to update the software on the PDA but it was simple and straight forward.

CELLULAR PHONE SERVICE PROVIDER

Various service providers now have very competitive prices for data service and phone plans.

AUTHORS CONTACT INFORMATION

Your comments and questions are valued and encouraged.

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