

Editing Output in the Program Editor

Bob Virgile
Robert Virgile Associates, Inc.

Overview

Often, you'll want to edit your output before printing. On a PC, a convenient way to do this is to remain within the SAS® System for the entire process: producing, editing, and printing. By filing the output and bringing it into the Program Editor, however, you lose the page breaks that you might normally enjoy. This tip covers how to bring output into the Program Editor and insert page breaks (and other top of page information) where you would like, without having to leave the SAS System.

Handy Tools

Designate a file to hold the top of page information, and a function key to retrieve it into the Program Editor. For example, define Alt F1 as:

```
INC 'C:\PAGETOP.SAS'
```

Run a quick program to throw a pagebreak character into that file. For example:

```
OPTIONS NONUMBER;  
DATA _NULL_;  
FILE 'C:\PAGETOP.SAS' PRINT;  
PUT;  
RUN;
```

As it stands, this program writes a page break character, the current date, and any titles currently in effect to C:\PAGETOP.SAS. A few variations are possible. For example, consider the NOTITLES option on the FILE statement, or the NODATE global option. You can even add text of your own that would not normally fit in TITLE statements.

Using the Headings

Getting procedure output into the Program Editor is relatively simple. From the Output window, file the contents to an ASCII file. Then in the Program Editor, include that file. Make any editing changes you would like. The Handy Tools above are easily used. With Num on, position the cursor to the line number where you would like your headings. Type an "a" or "b" and press your function key. The

headings get included at that spot in the Program Editor.

A few final notes. First, create the procedure output with the NODATE option in effect. That way, you can edit the top-of-page heading to show how you worked till 10:00 p.m. When you create the top-of-page heading, make sure NONUMBER is in effect. You don't want to insert the same page number at the top of every page.

The page break character is only one of the theoretically possible 256 characters you may wish to use in your report. Your font may include superscript versions of the numbers 1 through 3 (handy for creating footnotes), a gray box (handy for creating your own bar charts), unprintable characters (handy for left-hand justifying a title or footnote), or other unusual characters. While these other characters are beyond the scope of this brief tip, you can write a SAS program to discover all available characters. For a copy of such a program, or if you have any other questions about this tip, feel free to write or call the author:

Bob Virgile
Robert Virgile Associates, Inc.
3 Rock Street
Woburn, MA 01801

(781) 938-0307

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