

Moving SAS Information to Microsoft Word/Excel Using DDE



Prepared by Dana Rafiee

Destiny Corporation • 1321 Silas Deane Highway • Wethersfield, CT 06109-4302

Phone: (860) 721-1684 • 1-800-7TRAINING • Fax: (860) 721-9784

Email: destinycorp@compuserve.com Web Site: www.destinycorp.com

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Dynamic Data Exchange to Excel

Dynamic Data Exchange is a means of transferring data between different Windows applications such as the SAS System and Microsoft Excel or Microsoft Word. The technique uses what is known as a Client / Server type relationship, where the Client application makes the requests and the Server application responds accordingly. When using DDE with the SAS System, SAS is always the Client.

The DDE technique may be used within a Data Step, a Macro or from inside a SAS/AF application.

Using the DDE technique involves specifying the following three components in what is called a DDE Triplet:

1. The path and name of the executable file for the server application. For example, with Microsoft Excel the name of the executable is EXCEL.
2. The full path and file name of the document or spreadsheet with which you wish to share data. This is referred to in SAS documentation as the Topic.
3. The location of data to be read or modified. With a spreadsheet application, this is a range of cells. In applications such as Microsoft Word, the location of data is defined by what are known as bookmarks.

An example of a DDE Triplet for an Excel Spreadsheet is as follows:

EXCEL | C:\COURSES\DATA\CLIN.XLS ! R4C17:R17C8

The DDE Triplet is then incorporated into a Filename statement of the following form:

FILENAME fileref DDE 'DDE-Triplet' | 'CLIPBOARD' <DDE-Options>;

where:

fileref is a valid fileref

DDE is the keyword that primes the SAS System for Dynamic Data Exchange.

'DDE-Triplet' is the three part specification of the DDE external file and takes the following form: 'Executable-file-name|Topic!Data-range'. Note that the triplet is application dependent and may differ between different releases of the same application.

CLIPBOARD' is an alternative to directly specifying the DDE triplet. To use this option, copy the required data from the Server application to the Clipboard and specify the 'CLIPBOARD' option in the Filename statement. SAS will then determine the Triplet for itself. You will be able to see the triplet definition by looking at the Log.

DDE-Options are as follows:

HOTLINK invokes the DDE HOTLINK facility, which causes the DDE link to be activated whenever data in the spreadsheet range is updated.

NOTAB makes the SAS System ignore tab characters between variables.

COMMAND allows remote commands to be sent to DDE server applications.

Example of using DDE to read data from Excel

Consider the following Excel Spreadsheet:

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
1	Clinical Trials Data							
2								
3	Patient	Sex	Age	Drug	Score 1	Score 2	Score 3	Total Score
4	1	M	56	CHG1	87	77	88	252
5	2	F	44	DFR4	45	23	67	135
6	4	F	34	GTR6	44	34	76	154
7	7	M	45	CHG1	68	76	79	223
8	8	M	43	GTR6	54	56	87	197
9	13	M	67	DFR4	78	87	83	248
10	15	F	76	CHG1	57	59	63	179
11	16	F	45	DFR4	68	72	78	218
12	17	M	78	GTR6	47	58	62	167
13	18	F	61	DFR4	65	68	73	206
14	21	F	71	GTR6	68	73	78	219
15	33	M	41	CHG1	73	81	91	245
16	36	F	70	DFR4	55	54	76	185
17	38	M	47	CHG1	65	75	82	222
18								

With Excel running and the above spreadsheet open, a simple Data Step can be written to read the above data into a SAS Data Set.

The DDE Triplet components for the above example are as follows:

Name of Executable File: EXCEL

Full Path and Name of spreadsheet file: C:\COURSES\DATA\CLIN.XLS

Location of data (Row and Column coordinates): R4C1:R17C8

Note how the two sets of coordinates that define the range of data are separated by a colon.

The SAS statements required to read the data into a SAS data set are as follows:

```

SAS
File Edit View Local Global Options Window Help

208 INPUT PATNO SEX $ AGE DRUG $ SCORE1-SCORE3 TOTAL_SC ;
209 RUN;

NOTE: The infile XFILE is:
      FILENAME=excel|c:\courses\data\clin.xls|r4c1:r17c8,
      RECFM=V,LRECL=256

NOTE: 14 records were read from the infile XFILE.
      The minimum record length was 24.
      The maximum record length was 25.
NOTE: The data set WORK.CLIN has 14 observations and 8 variables.
NOTE: The DATA statement used 0.71 seconds.

PROGRAM EDITOR - sams
00001 /* Assign a Fileref to the Excel Spreadsheet and specify that
00002      Dynamic Data Exchange is to be used */
00003
00004 FILENAME xfile DDE 'excel|c:\courses\data\clin.xls|r4c1:r17c8';
00005
00006 /* Create a Data Set called CLIN in the Work Library and read in
00007      data from the Excel Spreadsheet */
00008
00009 DATA WORK.CLIN;
00010     INFILE XFILE;
00011     INPUT PATNO SEX $ AGE DRUG $ SCORE1-SCORE3 TOTAL_SC ;
00012 RUN;
00013
  
```

Running the above code generates the following data set:

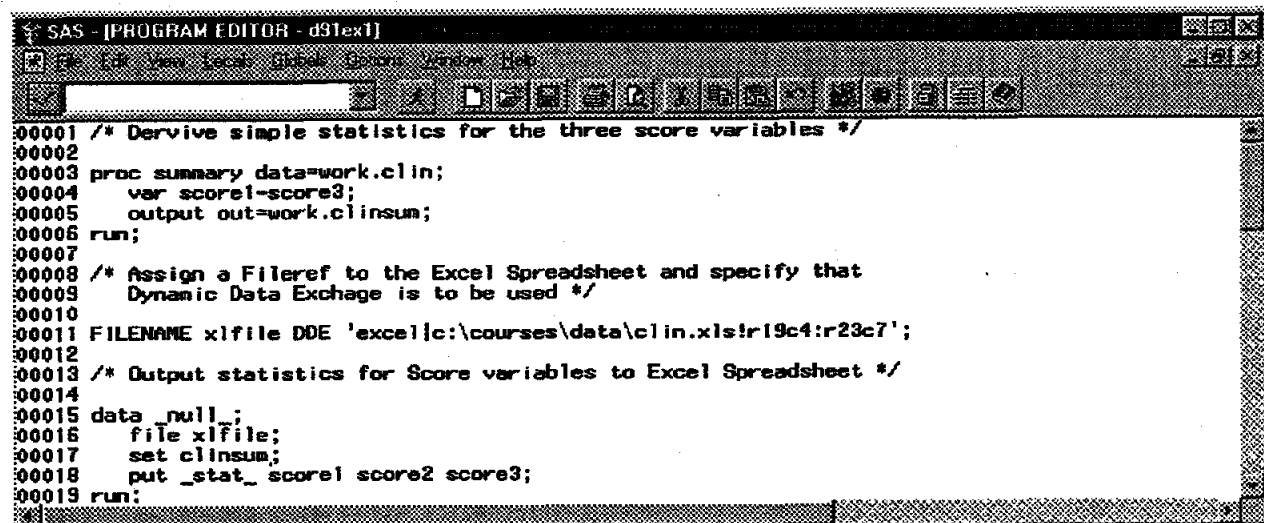
The SAS System							
PATNO	SEX	AGE	DRUG	SCORE1	SCORE2	SCORE3	TOTAL_SC
1	M	56	CHG1	87	77	88	252
2	F	44	DFR4	45	23	67	135
4	F	34	GTR6	44	34	76	154
7	M	45	CHG1	68	76	79	223
8	M	43	GTR6	54	56	87	197
13	M	67	DFR4	78	87	83	248
15	F	76	CHG1	57	59	63	179
16	F	45	DFR4	68	72	78	218
17	M	78	GTR6	47	58	62	167
18	F	61	DFR4	65	68	73	206
21	F	71	GTR6	68	73	78	219
33	M	41	CHG1	73	81	91	245
36	F	70	DFR4	55	54	76	185
38	M	47	CHG1	65	75	82	222

Example of using DDE to write data to Excel

To output data to an Excel spreadsheet, define a DDE Triplet which contains the co-ordinates of the cells to which data is to be written.

Then use a null data step containing 'Put' statements, to write out the values of required variables to the spreadsheet.

For example, the following code uses a Proc Summary to calculate simple statistics on the data that was originally read in from Excel. The statistics are output to a data set, which is used to update the Excel spreadsheet:



```

SAS - [PROGRAM EDITOR - d31ex1]
File Edit View Local Global Run Window Help
00001 /* Derive simple statistics for the three score variables */
00002
00003 proc summary data=work.clin;
00004     var score1-score3;
00005     output out=work.clinsum;
00006 run;
00007
00008 /* Assign a Fileref to the Excel Spreadsheet and specify that
00009     Dynamic Data Exchange is to be used */
00010
00011 FILENAME xfile DDE 'excel|c:\courses\data\clin.xls!r19c4:r23c7';
00012
00013 /* Output statistics for Score variables to Excel Spreadsheet */
00014
00015 data _null_;
00016     file xfile;
00017     set clinsum;
00018     put _stat_ score1 score2 score3;
00019 run;
  
```

Note that the only change to the Filename statement compared with the previous example, is that the DDE Triplet points at a different range of cells in the spreadsheet.

A null data step is used to read the data set containing the statistics and 'Put' statements write out the values of selected variables to the Excel spreadsheet. This is no different to writing out data to a text file.

Note that a null data step is used when you wish to avoid creating another data set.

Running the above code updates the Excel spreadsheet accordingly:

The updated Excel spreadsheet complete with summary statistics:

Microsoft Excel - CLIN.XLS

File Edit View Insert Format Tools Data Window Help

100%

Arial 10

J19

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
1	Clinical Trials Data							
2								
3	Patient	Sex	Age	Drug	Score 1	Score 2	Score 3	Total Score
4	1	M	56	CHG1	87	77	88	252
5	2	F	44	DFR4	45	23	67	135
6	4	F	34	GTR6	44	34	76	154
7	7	M	45	CHG1	68	76	79	223
8	8	M	43	GTR6	54	56	87	197
9	13	M	67	DFR4	78	87	83	248
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12	17	M	78	GTR6	47	58	62	167
13	18	F	61	DFR4	65	68	73	206
14	21	F	71	GTR6	68	73	78	219
15	33	M	41	CHG1	73	81	91	245
16	36	F	70	DFR4	55	54	76	185
17	38	M	47	CHG1	65	75	82	222
18								
19				N	14	14	14	
20				MIN	44	23	62	
21				MAX	87	87	91	
22				MEAN	62.42857	63.78571	77.35714	
23				STD	12.7141	18.01358	8.863123	

Sheet1 Sheet2 Sheet3 Sheet4 Sheet5

Ready NUM

Invoking an application from SAS

In the previous examples, the invocation of Excel and opening of a spreadsheet file has been done by clicking on the required icon and using the pull down menus within Excel.

The application remains running in the background until the user actively closes it down.

Ideally, you only want an application running for the time that it takes to access the data. Otherwise, the idle application ties up valuable memory that can be better used. The solution to this problem is to open and close applications from your SAS program.

An application may be called from SAS by using the following statements:

```
OPTIONS NOXWAIT NOXSYNC;
```

```
X 'C:\EXCEL\EXCEL';
```

```
DATA _NULL_;
```

```
  T=SLEEP(5);
```

```
RUN;
```

NOXWAIT causes control to be returned to SAS as soon as the specified 'X' command has been executed. In the above example, as soon as Excel has been loaded, control will return to SAS.

NOXSYNC causes the application called from SAS to execute asynchronously so that it does not interfere with the SAS session.

Remember to reset the above options to XWAIT and XSYNC when the application is closed. The X statement contains the path and name of the executable file that calls the application. The Sleep statement inside the null data step simply gives the called application time to load. In the above example, 5 seconds has been allowed.

Issuing Commands from SAS

Having invoked an application like Excel using the above statements, you need to issue commands that carry out tasks such as opening the required spreadsheet file and selecting data. This is done through what is called the SYSTEM Topic:

Assign a Fileref that includes the DDE topic SYSTEM to enable Excel or Word commands to be issued from SAS.

```
FILENAME CMDS DDE 'Excel|SYSTEM';
```

Commands may now be sent to Excel by using 'Put' statements inside a null data step. Note that the syntax of the commands issued is application dependent.

```
DATA _NULL_;
```

```
  FILE CMDS;
```

```
  PUT '[FILE-OPEN("C:\COURSES\DATA\CLIN.XLS")]';
```

```
RUN;
```

Example of invoking and issuing commands to Excel

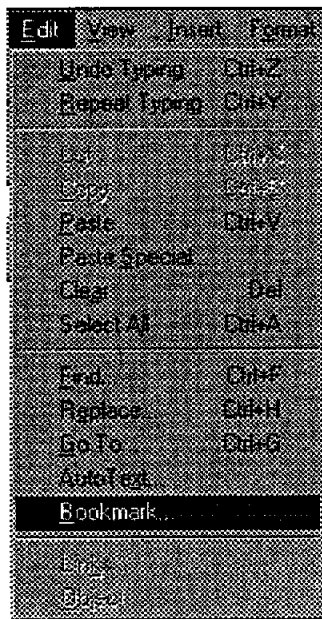
The example program does the following:

1. Invokes Excel.
2. Opens a Spreadsheet.
3. Reads spreadsheet data into a SAS data set.
4. Closes the Spreadsheet.
5. Closes Excel.

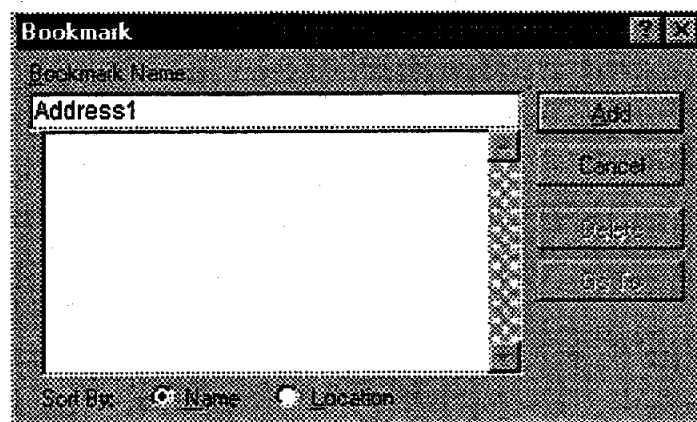
```

SAS - IPROGRAM EDITOR - d91c3]
00001 /* Set system options */
00002 OPTIONS NOXWAIT NOXSYNC;
00003
00004 /* Invoke Excel */
00005 X 'C:\EXCEL\EXCEL\EXCEL';
00006
00007 /* Wait 5 seconds for Excel to load */
00008 DATA _NULL_;
00009   T=SLEEP(5);
00010 RUN;
00011
00012 /* Assign a Fileref for the DDE topic SYSTEM to enable commands to be sent to Excel */
00013 FILENAME CMDS DDE 'EXCEL|SYSTEM';
00014
00015 DATA _NULL_;
00016
00017   FILE CMDS;
00018
00019   /* Open the required data set in Excel */
00020   PUT '[FILE-OPEN("C:\COURSES\DATA\CLIN.XLS")]';
00021
00022   /* Assign a Fileref to the opened Excel Spreadsheet */
00023   FILENAME xfile DDE 'excel|c:\courses\data\clin.xls|r4c1:r17c8';
00024
00025 RUN;
00026
00027
00028 /* Create a Data Set called CLIN in the Work Library and read in
00029    data from the Excel Spreadsheet */
00030
00031 DATA WORK.CLIN;
00032   INFILE XFILE;
00033   INPUT PATNO SEX $ AGE DRUG $ SCORE1-SCORE3 TOTAL_SC ;
00034 RUN;
00035
00036
00037 /* Close the current spreadsheet and Quit Excel */
00038 DATA _NULL_;
00039
00040   FILE CMDS;
00041   PUT '[FILE-CLOSE()]';
00042   PUT '[QUIT()]';
00043
00044 RUN;
00045
00046 /* Reset options */
00047 OPTIONS XWAIT XSYNC;
00048

```

Enter a name for the bookmark and click on Add



The components of the DDE Triplet for the above example are as follows:

Name of Executable File: WINWORD

Full Path and Name of Word document: C:\COURSES\DATA\ENQUIRY.DOC

Location of data (Name of Bookmark): Address1

Invoking Word from SAS

The procedure used to call Word from SAS is the same procedure used to call Excel or any other Windows application from SAS. Set the appropriate options, use an 'X' statement to call Word, and allow Word a few seconds to load.

```
OPTIONS NOXWAIT NOXSYNC;

X 'C:\WINWORD\WINWORD';

DATA _NULL_;
  T=SLEEP(5);
RUN;
```

Remember to reset the above Options to XWAIT and XSYNC when the application is closed.

Issuing Commands to Word from SAS

As with Excel, this is done by assigning a Fileref to the DDE topic SYSTEM:

```
FILENAME CMDS DDE 'WINWORD|SYSTEM';
```

Once the above Fileref is assigned, commands can be sent to Word by using 'Put' statements inside a null data step.

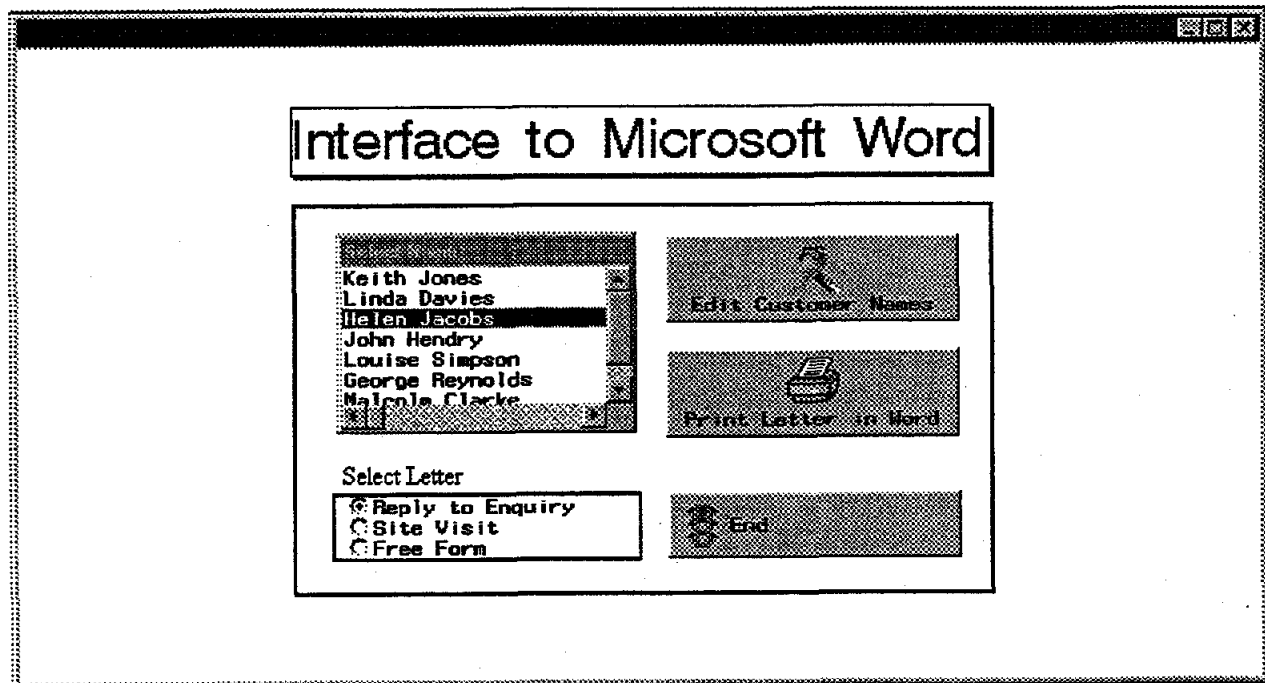
```
DATA _NULL_;

  FILE CMDS;
  PUT '[FILEOPEN("C:\COURSES\DATA\ENQUIRY.DOC")]';

RUN;
```

Example of using DDE to access a Word document

The following SAS/AF Application automatically inserts the name and address of a customer into the selected Word document and prints it:



The name and address information is stored in a SAS data set that may be accessed and updated by clicking on the 'Edit Customer Names' icon.

The name and address information of the selected customer is inserted into the Word document as follows:

[Helen Jacob
[19 Well S]
[Heswa]
[Wirra]

Dear [Mrs Jacob]

Thank you for your enquiry regarding our IT services. Enclosed is a description of the different types of service that we offer. If you would like to discuss your requirements with one of our Managers then this can be arranged.

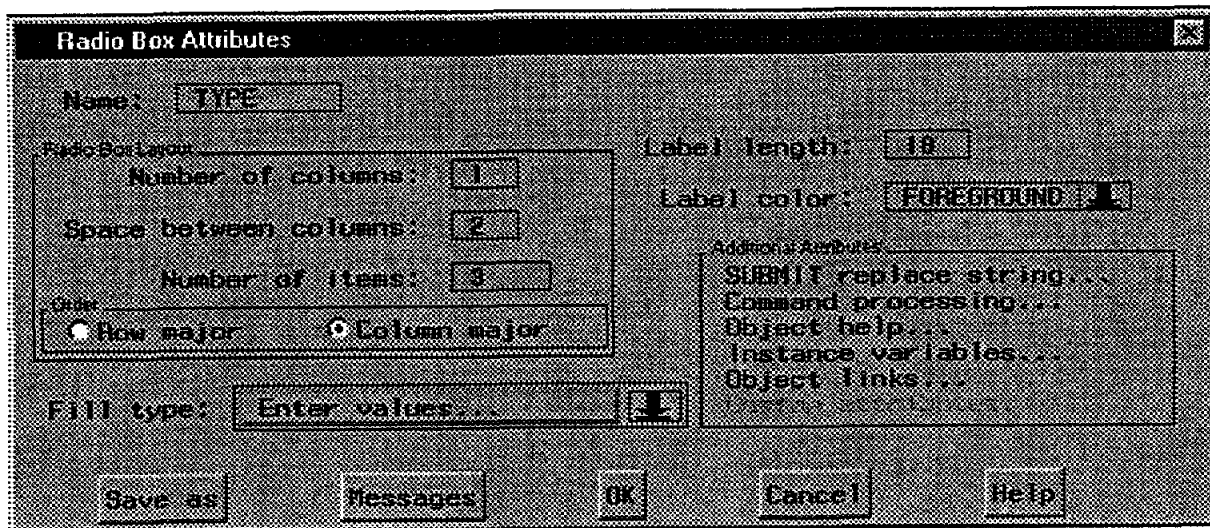
Thank you for your interest

(Senior IT Executive)

Note how the name and address details have been written to their respective bookmarks. The square brackets, which denote the boundary of a bookmark, do not appear in the printed document.

Note the following about the SCL Program that controls the Frame:

1. The physical paths for the Word executable file and Word documents, are assigned to Macro variables in the Autoexec file which runs before the application is called. Call Symget routines are used in the INIT section to assign the values of these Macro variables to SCL variables. This approach avoids having to hard code path names in the application.
2. The name of the Word document to open is derived by concatenating the document path, letter type, and the suffix '.DOC'.
3. The letter type is obtained by sending the `_GET_TEXT_` method to the Radio Box, which returns the Character value assigned to the selected item. Each Radio Box item has a Character return value specified in the attributes window:



Radio Box Attributes

Name:

Radio Button Group

Number of columns:

Space between columns:

Number of items:

Order

☐ Row major ☐ Column major

Label length:

Label color:

Additional Attributes

☐ SUBMIT replace string...

☐ Command processing...

☐ Object help...

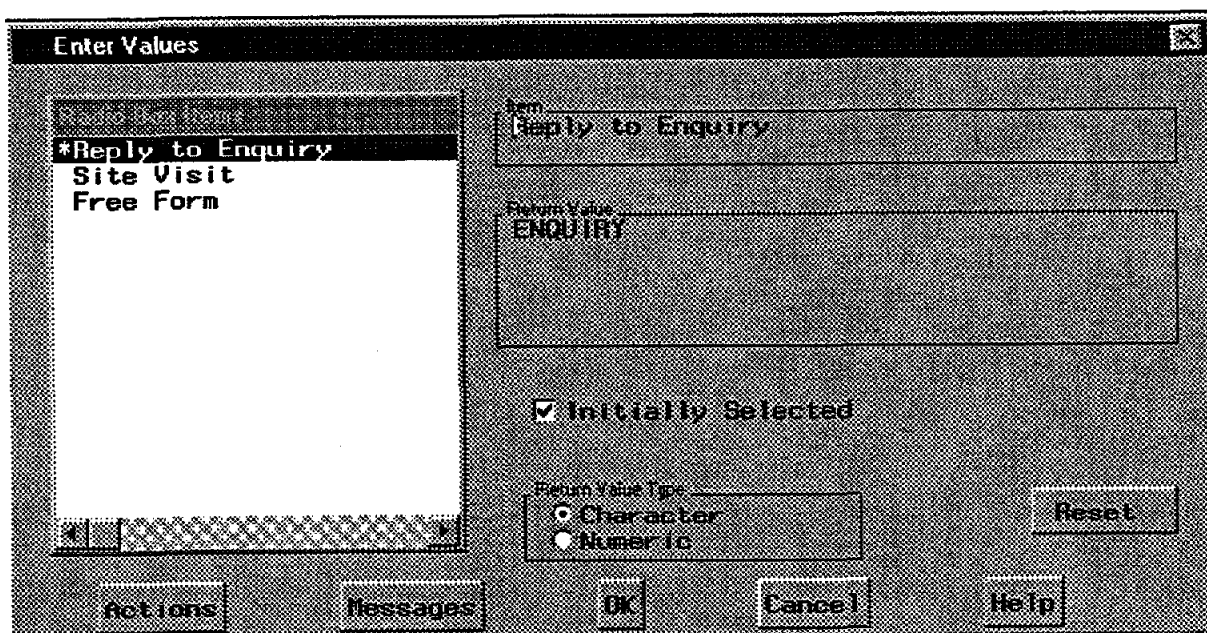
☐ Instance variables...

☐ Object links...

Fill type:

Buttons: Save as, Messages, OK, Cancel, Help

Click on to access Return values for items



Enter Values

Item:

Return Value:

☒ Initially Selected

Return Value Type

☐ Character

☐ Numeric

Buttons: Actions, Messages, OK, Cancel, Help, Reset

Clicking on a Radio Box Item displays its Return value.

4. A Submit Block contains all of the SAS code used to load Word, access the selected document and print it. Recall that an ampersand within a Submit Block references an SCL variable.
5. Five different Filrefs are assigned to point at the various name and address bookmarks in the Word document.

The SCL Program is as follows:

```

BUILD: SOURCE D92EX1.SCL [E]
00001 /* Declare the length of two Character variables */
00002 length selname $50 lettype $8;
00003
00004 INIT:
00005
00006 /* Get the physical paths to the Word Documents and to the Word
00007     executable which are stored as Macro variables */
00008
00009     path=symget('path');
00010     wordpath=symget('wordpath');
00011
00012 return;
00013
00014
00015 NAMES:
00016
00017 /* Get the Name selected from the List Box */
00018     call notify('names','_get_last_sel_',row,issel,selname);
00019
00020 return;
00021
00022
00023 EDIT:
00024
00025 /* Open the FSEDIT window */
00026     call fsedit('ddata.names');
00027
00028 /* Refresh the contents of the List Box */
00029     call notify('lbnames','_repopulate_');
00030
00031 return;
00032
00033
00034 PRINT:
00035
00036 /* If a name has been selected then generate and print the Word document */
00037     if selname ne '' then do;
00038
00039         /* Get the Type of Letter selected from the Radio Box */
00040         call notify('type','_get_text_',lettype);
00041
00042         /* Concatenate the Path and Letter Type to generate the name of the
00043             document to be opened in Word */
00044
00045         wordfile=path||'\'||lettype||'.doc';
00046
00047         SUBMIT CONTINUE;
00048
00049             /* Set system options */
00050             OPTIONS NOXWAIT NOXSYNC;
00051
00052             /* Invoke Word */
00053             X "&wordpath";
00054
00055             /* Wait 5 seconds for Word to load */
00056             DATA _NULL_;
00057             T=8SLEEP(5);
00058             RUN;
00059
00060             /* Assign a Fileref for the DDE topic SYSTEM to enable commands
00061                 to be sent to Word */
00062
00063             FILENAME CMDS DDE 'WINWORD|SYSTEM';
00064
00065             DATA _NULL_;
00066
00067                 FILE CMDS;
00068
00069                 /* Open the required Word Document */
00070                 PUT '[FILEOPEN("&wordfile")]';
00071
00072                 /* Assign Filerefs to the named bookmarks in the Word Document */
00073                 FILENAME vname DDE "winword|&wordfile!name";
00074                 FILENAME vadd1 DDE "winword|&wordfile!address1";
00075                 FILENAME vadd2 DDE "winword|&wordfile!address2";
00076                 FILENAME vadd3 DDE "winword|&wordfile!address3";
00077                 FILENAME vname2 DDE "winword|&wordfile!name2";
00078
00079             RUN;

```

SCL Program continued...

```

00080
00081      /* Open the Data Set called names and read the observation that
00082      corresponds to the selected row in the List Box. Use File and Put
00083      statements to write out the values of variables to the appropriate
00084      position in the Word Document */
00085
00086      DATA _NULL_;
00087          SET DDATA.NAMES (FIRSTOBS=&row OBS=&row);
00088          FILE WNAME;
00089          PUT NAME;
00090          FILE WADD1;
00091          PUT ADD1;
00092          FILE WADD2;
00093          PUT ADD2;
00094          FILE WADD3;
00095          PUT ADD3;
00096          FILE WNAME2;
00097          PUT FNAME;
00098      RUN;
00099
00100      /* Print the Word Document */
00101      DATA _NULL_;
00102          FILE CMDS;
00103          PUT '[FILEPRINT()]';
00104
00105      RUN;
00106
00107      /* Close the current document and Quit Word */
00108      DATA _NULL_;
00109          FILE CMDS;
00110          PUT '[FILECLOSE()]';
00111          PUT '[FILEEXIT()]';
00112
00113      RUN;
00114
00115      /* Reset options */
00116      OPTIONS XWAIT XSYNC;
00117
00118      ENDSUBMIT;
00119
00120      end;
00121
00122      return;
00123
00124      END:
00125      call execcmd('end');
00126
00127      return;
00128
00129
00130
00131
00132
00133
00134
00135

```

Workshop Session

Create an Excel Spreadsheet and enter the text 'Demographic Data' in cell A1. Save the spreadsheet and make a note of the path and file name used.

Write a SAS program to do the following:

1. Invoke Excel.
2. Open the spreadsheet file that you have created for this exercise.
3. Write out values of Demographic Data Set variables to the Excel spreadsheet.
4. Save the spreadsheet.
5. Close the spreadsheet file.
6. Close Excel.

The resulting spreadsheet should appear as follows:

Demographic Data						
Name	Age	Sex	Height	Weight	Income	SES
Dave Derry	22	M	64	80	S	0
Julia Pendlebury	26	F	67	74	M	1
Norman Harvey	100	M	66	62	D	2
Harold Hicks	28	M	84	74	M	3
Mary Molesworth	23	F	84	88	P	1
Bob Bobington	30	M	87	76	S	0
Freda Bamford	34	F	78	72	M	2
Julia Kidd	38	F	69	66	M	2
Helen Cinderford	56	F	52	60	M	3
Mary Chapel	52	F	66	69	M	5
Jennifer Dawson	60	F	88.5	71	M	3
Julio Jennings	66	F	61	61	M	0
Shirley Walters	46	F	63	76	W	3
Diane Dulley	66	F	87	81	M	2
Dawn Duvel	23	F	78	80	S	0

Hints:

Use a separate Fileref to define the range of cells into which people's names are written and include the NOTAB option i.e.:

```
FILENAME XLF1 DDE 'EXCEL|C:\COURSES\DATA\DEMOG.XLS|r3c1:r52c1' NOTAB;
```

The NOTAB option makes SAS ignore Tab Characters between variables. In this example, the space between the first name and surname is taken as a Tab Character, which results in the two parts of the name being put into different columns in Excel unless NOTAB is specified. Use a second Fileref to define the range of cells for the remaining variables but do not include the NOTAB option as non of the variables include space characters:

```
FILENAME XLF2 DDE 'EXCEL|C:\COURSES\DATA\DEMOG.XLS|r3c1:r52c1';
```

Within a null Data Step, use separate File and Put statements of the following form to output the data:

```
DATA _NULL_;
  FILE XLF1;
  PUT NAME;
  FILE XLF2;
  PUT AGE GENDER etc;
RUN;
```

Remember to reset options NOXWAIT and NOXSYNC to XWAIT and XSYNC respectively.