



More _Infile_ Magic

Peter Crawford

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Overview

- Presenting a lesser-understood, an under-appreciated facility of the `_infile_` buffer,
- to show how usefully this has been extended.

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Introduction

- SAS Institute introduced many great new features in the last major release of the SAS System®
- A minor change in the handling of `_infile_` buffers may have been overlooked by many users
 - **But it adds new opportunities**
- this presentation will demonstrate what and how.

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Topics to be Covered

- Overview
- Nutshell
- Background
- Syntax and examples
- Conclusion
- Question & Answers

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Nutshell

- Updating the `_INFILE_` buffer allows INPUT statement facilities to be used for non-external data

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Background

- INPUT statements offer special ways of parsing external data with
 - Named input
 - Input scanning
 - CSV support
- non-external data was parsed with functions
 - or data step I/O (write, then re-read)
- No longer, is INPUT only for external data

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Syntax

- Enhanced INFILE statement buffer is a variable

- example :

```
Infile dumfile _infile_ = my_buffer
      lrecl= 32000 truncover DSD
      col= col dlm= my_dlm /*etc*/;
input @1 @@ ;
my_buffer = my_problem_string ;
```

- INFILE= for multiple concurrent buffers

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Examples

■ Case insensitive scan

- `my_buffer = upcase( my_problem_string );`
- `length found_it $32;`
- `input @1 @'MYPROBLEM' found_it @@;`

Example2

- Use INFILE statement option DSD, to parse a string which has delimiters embedded as data within quotes

```
input @1 @@ ; * control position in buffer;  
my_buffer = problem_string ;  
  
* Establish the data delimiter ;  
my_dlm = '090D'x ; * ask me why !! ;  
  
input var1 - var10 @@ ;
```

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Example3

- Skip first 20 “data columns” then read

```
_infile_ = string_of_many_columns ;  
do i = 1 to 20; input dum $ @@; end;  
input wanted @@;
```

- The data I wanted (in data column21)!

- We can use `_infile_` rather than `INFILE= name`

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Example 4 Unknown

- Read VALIDVARNAME=any headers from string
- For example: "Business date"n, "A|C B|Fwd"n
 - code fragment

```
_infile_ = trouble ;      * load buffer;  
length name1 name2 $32;   *  define and;  
input  name1 name2 @@ ;    *  read names;
```

☺	"Business, date", "A C, B Fwd"	OK
;	"Business, date"n, "A C, B Fwd"n	trouble

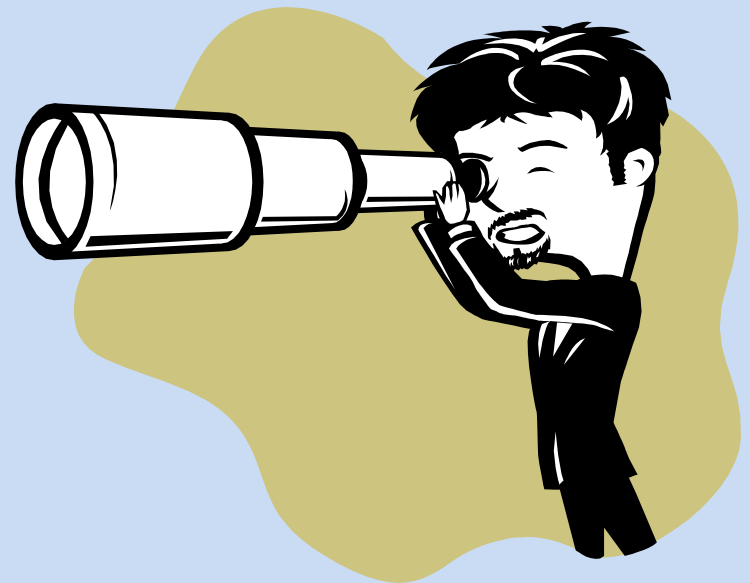
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Demo

- If time permits... ?



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Conclusion

- Updating `_INFILE_` buffers adds many convenient facilities to DATA step processing, even when no input data are being read

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Acknowledgements

- Many encouraging voices on SAS-L
- SAS online Doc

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