

VIEWS

NEWS

Issue 6 Spring 1999

News, Hints, Tips, and information for UK SAS Users

After the 8-page birthday issue, this one seems a trifle slim. However, all of the hints and tips are of top quality and we've managed to include a variety of topics.

Take a good look at the Diary section and make sure you don't miss any of the upcoming VIEWS events that could be of use to you. They're all very good value for money. It's amazing how the size and range of VIEWS activities has grown over the two short years of its existence. This year's major conference in July is likely to be our biggest ever.

Andrew Ratcliffe (Editor)

Did You Know?

If you have a useful hint or tip, send it to the Editor and share it with the VIEWS membership.

Using Hotspots and Cursor Tracking

Using HOTSPOTS and cursor tracking is quite cool. You don't actually need to write any cursor tracking overrides, because you can use the `_SET_CURSOR_SHAPE_` method to change the cursor as you move over the hotspot. The image alongside is of an Amiga PC motherboard and you can see some parts of the picture have a yellow FRAME region outline around them.

The hypothetical application would branch to reports that cover a specific area of the motherboard manufacturer's business. An example is that by clicking on the sound chip, a report could be generated that showed the mean time to failure of the sound chip. For each hotspot, you would code a report that runs upon selection of the hotspot (by the way, a Container Box works just as well). Here is a sample INIT method that permits this

```
init:
  call notify('sound', '_set_cursor_shape_', 6) ;
  return ;
```

The HOTSPOT object is called SOUND. There are 18 cursor shapes you can choose from. Cursor 6 looks like two overlapping report pages (it's actually a cursor intended for a COPY operation!) so it's ideal to indicate that a report can be run by clicking on the object.

When I create the HOTSPOT, I go to the Region Attributes and change the Outline to None. Then the hotspot borders don't interfere with the image.

On its own the above may be fine. When the FRAME runs, the cursor changes to cursor 6 as you move it over the hotspot. But it doesn't tell the user much. Unless the image is really clear (and to someone intimate with Amiga motherboards the above probably would be) you might want to add some extra information so it is clear what clicking on the region will do. To do this a simple way is to code a popup menu that appears on a click. I just code this in a labelled section for the region as follows:

```
sound:
  list_id = makelist() ;
  rc = insertc(list_id, 'Run Sound Chip Report', -1) ;
  rc = insertc(list_id, 'Exit', -1) ;
  if popmenu(list_id) ne 2 then do ;
    /* run the report here */
```

```
end ;
rc = dellist(list_id) ;
return;
```

Now when the user clicks in the hotspot the menu pops up and they can decide whether to run the report or not. Just code one of these for each hotspot region. You can also easily make this pop up on a right mouse click, just go into Object Attributes, select Command Processing, and change Popmenu processing to Run Object Label. Then the labelled section runs on both a left and right mouse click.

You might be interested in the way I call POPMENU above. That function always returns a value, it doesn't need to go into a variable. So the above saves a variable being defined and succinctly accomplishes the task at hand.

Oh, here's a useful tip. Sometimes the default border colour of a region doesn't show up very well in BUILD. The AMIGA picture didn't show the white regions at all well because the picture has a lot of dark and light colours. Since I'm not displaying the border, I really don't care what colour the borders are. So I changed the colour to yellow. Since there is no yellow on the AMIGA picture near my hotspots, the borders stand out really well.

Don Stanley



Extend the Functionality of Your SAS/AF® Applications Using ActiveX Controls

In the Windows environment, ActiveX controls is the way of sharing graphical and non-graphical object between applications developed for the platform. When developing your SAS/AF application in the Windows environment you can also use these controls to extend the functionality and look and feel of your SAS/AF applications.

Most of these ActiveX controls are free to distribute with the applications you develop. As a developer though you often have to license them to be able to have them available when developing your applications.

Down below you have some code showing how to interact with the Web browser control installed with MS Explorer 3.x and 4.x.

In the example that follows we have inserted the following objects to our frame entry, a SAS® Combo Box control with the URLs typed in by the user, buttons for navigating between pages and the web Browser control holding all these features. The code is not complete but will give you an idea of how it works.

```
/*
 * A very simple sample application showing how to use the
 * Microsoft Internet Explorer Control.
 *
 * Copyright (c) 1999 by Niklas Data Group.
 */

length startPage $200
newUrl $200
;

/*
 * Initialize the SAS Combo Box with SAS Institutes home page.
 */
Init:

  control always;

  startPage = 'http://www.sas.com';

  call notify('Url', '_Set_Property_', 'Font', 'MS Sans Serif');

  call notify('Url', '_Do_', 'AddItem', startPage, -1);
  call notify('Url', '_Set_Property_', 'ListIndex', 0);

  /* Tell the Web Browser control to navigate to the home page defined
  above. */
  call notify('Iexplore', '_Do_', 'Navigate', startPage);

  call wname('My Personal Web Browser');
  Return;
```

```
559      put y= ;
560      cards;

Y=123
Y=123
NOTE: The data set WORK.TEST has 2 observations and 1 variables.
NOTE: The DATA statement used 0.27 seconds.

563      run ;
564
565      * Using a format with decimal places specified ;
566      * Data with decimal points comes in as expected, data without may not ;
567      data test ;
568      input y 12.4 ;
569      put y= ;
570      cards;

Y=123
Y=0.0123
NOTE: The data set WORK.TEST has 2 observations and 1 variables.
NOTE: The DATA statement used 0.28 seconds.

573      run ;
```

```
556 * Using a format without decimal places specified ;
557 data test ;
558 input y 12. ;
```

Finally, SAS Institute has a whole area of its web site devoted to Y2K issues. Take a look at <http://www.sas.com/y2k>.

Andrew Ratcliffe

Euro-Sceptic

Q: In issue 5 of VIEWS News you told us about the new formats, informats, and functions for the euro currency. Have SAS Institute offered anything to those of us who remain staunchly British and wish to produce output with pound (Sterling) signs?

A: Perhaps surprisingly, the answer is "yes." You will recall that the EUROW.d and EUROXw.d formats will format a value that is presumed to be an amount in euros. They will format exactly the same way as the DOLLARw.d and DOLLARXw.d formats, except that the Euro symbol will be used instead of the \$ symbol. The euro symbol will prefix the value, and commas will be used with multiples of 1,000. The reverse is also true of informats.

All the euro formats will need to retrieve the euro symbol. This is hardcoded as 'E' in Version 6, but it can also be specified in the DEBUG option as 2 hex characters. The following example illustrates how to use the euro format to produce a pound symbol. A somewhat ironic use of the facility!

```
1 data _null_;
2   call symput('EUROHEX', put('E', $hex2.));
3 run;
```

NOTE: The DATA statement used 0.65 seconds.

```
4 options debug="euro=&eurohex";
5
6 data _null_;
7   x=1002.5;
8   put x euro12.2;
9 run;
```

£1,002.50

NOTE: The DATA statement used 0.06 seconds.

Peter Crawford and Andrew Ratcliffe

Formats, Options, and Functions

The QTRRW. format returns the quarter of the year in Roman numerals. For example, PUTN(10897,'QTRR.') returns IV.

The REGISTER system option adds a command to the SAS AWS File menu. The command can be an executable or an operating system command. No more than eight can be added.

The QUOTE function adds double-quotes to a data value. If double-quotes are found in the argument, they are doubled in the output.

News

Sub-Groups and SIGs

The March Subgroup featured LeRoy Bessler giving a wide variety of tips about graphics and their effective presentation. 25 VIEWS members registered for this event and the evaluations were very positive.

The PharmaSIG meeting scheduled for April 20 has got out of hand - we expected up to 50 registrations and we blew through 75 by the second week in March. This exceeds our capacity to host the event at Marlow and we are sourcing an alternative venue nearby.

A dmSIG (Data mining) questionnaire has also achieved an excellent response of nearly 100 completed papers of 3 pages! Watch this space for a first dmSIG meeting.

Bruce Bovill (March 17th)

In Brief

- What qualifier (suffix) do you use for files created with PROC CPORT? CPO? CPT? XPT? On many platforms, the SAS software installation procedure sets-up an association for the STC qualifier in anticipation of CPORT files. Double-clicking on an STC file will launch SAS software and CIMPORT its contents into the WORK library
- Readers of the OO Drawing article in the last issue will be interested to know that *The Unified Modelling Language User Guide* was ranked number one, best-selling Computer and Internet book on amazon.com in January.
- Also, featured in the last issue, No Magic have released version 3 of their MagicDraw UML product
- Beware, using SAS 6.12 with Windows 98, the SYSSCPL macro variable resolves to WIN_95. When 6.12 shipped, the new release for Windows had not been determined. Windows 95 and 98 are actually determined by the Windows version numbers, which are 4.00.950 and 4.10.1998 respectively. SAS Institute are working towards a comprehensive solution in Version 8 to handle the upcoming new family of names for Windows 2000 (replacing the NT family name)

- Rumour mill: V7 won't ship in Europe and V8 is 6 months ahead of schedule
- VIEWS sub-group subject Mike Raithel has been awarded a place at the Smithsonian Museum for his BBU book Tuning SAS Applications in the MVS Environment. A truly high honour. Congratulations Mikeee!
- In the Program Editor (and other editor windows such as Notepad) you can assign line commands to function keys. Just define the function key by preceding the line command with a colon. For example, you could assign F9 to the Text Split line-command by defining F9 as ':TS'

Stop Press. SUGI, Miami Beach, Florida

- For the fourth time in five years, Tony Payne (SPS UK) won the SAS coding competition. "You're the man!"
- On their debut appearance, the UK team won the SAS quiz bowl competition (despite the aforementioned Mr Payne's inability to open a screw-top beer bottle)
- Bruce Bovill (SAS UK) had a £6,000 projector stolen from under his nose ("can I help you carry that dashed heavy projector?")

Diary

Are you organising an event that would be of interest to the VIEWS readership? Let us know, as we are interested in all non profit making events related to SAS software.

May 1999

1st Sixth edition of *VIEWS News*

11th The VIEWS 'Macro sub-conference,' with Art Carpenter

June 1999

15-18 SEUGI, Den Haag, The Netherlands

July 1999

8th VIEWS 5 conference, Earls Court, London

August 1999

1st Seventh edition of *VIEWS News*

Contacts

Contributors and Contacts

Peter Crawford <i>Crawford Software Consultancy</i>	Tel: 0181-656-1794 Email: peter@crawfordsoftware.demon.co.uk
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OCS Consulting	Tel: 0181-207-5434 Email: enquiries@ocs-consulting.com Web: www.ocs-consulting.com
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Niklas Data	Tel: 0411-836951 Email: enquiries@niklasdata.com Web: www.niklasdata.com
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No Magic Inc.	Email: MagicDrawUML@nomagic.com Web: www.nomagic.com
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SPS	Tel: 01483-730771 Email: enquiries@sps-uk.co.uk Web: www.sps-uk.co.uk
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Don Stanley <i>Sysware Consulting Group</i>	Tel: +64 (21) 479 863 Email: don_stanley@ibm.net Web: www.sysware.co.nz
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David Ward	<i>Innovex DAS</i> Email: DWard@DAS-INTERNATIONAL.net
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VIEWS Web Site	http://www.views-uk.demon.co.uk
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Phil Mason Chairman	Tel: 01491-834615 Fax: 01491-834615 Email: phil_mason@email.com
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16 Wood Street, Wallingford,
Oxfordshire. OX10 0AY

Bruce Bovill SAS Liaison	Tel: 01628-404347 Fax: 01628-404303 Email: sukbnb@suk.sas.com Web: www.assisi.demon.co.uk
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Andrew Ratcliffe Newsletter Editor	Tel: 01322-525672 Fax: 01322-525672 Email: andrew@ratcliffe.demon.co.uk Web: www.ratcliffe.demon.co.uk
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SASASASAS@ASASASASA
SASASASAS@ASASASASA
SASASASAS@ASASASASA
SASASASAS@ASASASASA
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ASA Ltd. First Floor, East Wing, Auckland House, New Zealand Avenue, Walton Upon Thames, Surrey KT12 1PL.
Contact Richard Field at ASA on Tel: 01932 701801 Fax: 01932 701800 Email: sas@asaltd.co.uk

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