

Between the annual SUGI and SeUGI conferences this issue of *VIEWS News* brings you up-to-date news of SAS Version 9 from Orlando, and looks forward to this year's slightly shorter SeUGI conference in Paris that will also, nevertheless, be full of Version 9 news. Here we will not be forgetting SAS Versions 8, or 6.12, with another collection of hints and tips.

If you would like to contribute an article, or discuss the possibility of doing so, please send an email to me at newsletter@views-uk.org.

Philip R Holland (Newsletter Editor)

Membership of VIEWS is **free** and you can register for notification of all future VIEWS events by emailing us at membership@views-uk.org, making certain you include your name, email address and postal address, so that we can email you a free copy of the quarterly *VIEWS News*.

The Consultant

This part of *VIEWS News* is where you can get your technical questions answered. Send your questions to the Editor.

Using Windows Fonts with SAS/GRAPH

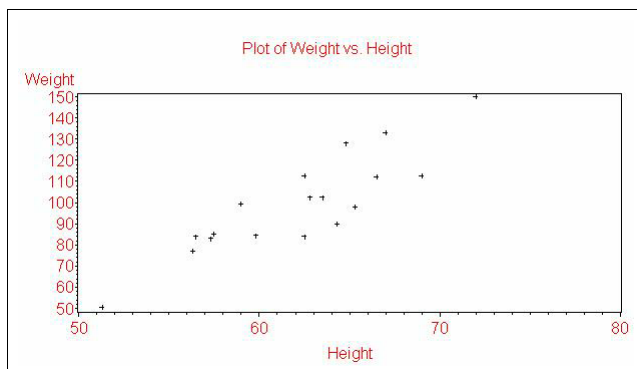
Q: Can you use Windows fonts like Arial, or Times New Roman, in graphs?

A:[SAS 8] It has long been the goal of many people to produce their graphs from SAS using the standard Microsoft Windows fonts such as Arial and Times New Roman. In SAS V8 there is a graphics device driver called **jpeg** which allows exactly that.

To apply this driver use the following **goptions** statement:

```
goptions reset=all device=jpeg ftext="Arial"
      htext=14pt ctext=red;
```

```
title2 "Plot of Weight vs. Height";
proc gplot data=sashelp.class;
  plot weight * height;
run;
quit;
```



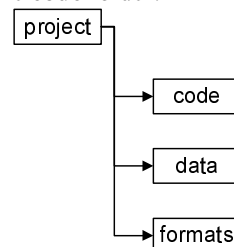
Amadeus Software Consultancy Team.

Creating Portable SAS Applications

Q: Are there any techniques to help me write SAS applications which can be moved to different drives and folders without having to alter any code?

A:[SAS 8 + 6.12] This technique, which I use frequently to simplify the transition of applications from testing to production locations, makes use of the current, or working, directory set up when the SAS system is started. SAS will look for **autoexec.sas** in this folder by default, and all the library and file references can then be allocated relative to that folder.

Let us take a typical well-structured project with the **autoexec.sas** file in the **code** folder:



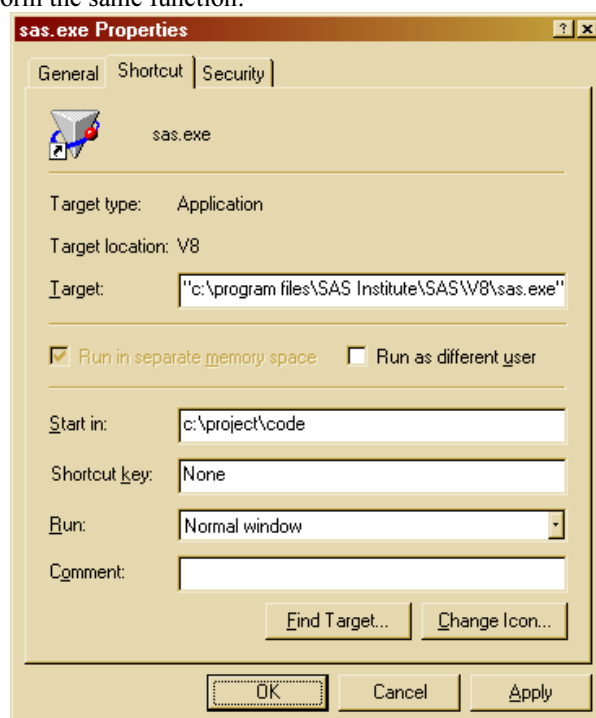
In UNIX we could use the following commands to start SAS:

```
cd /sas/project/code
sas
```

In Windows we could use these commands to start SAS:

```
c:
cd c:\project\code
"c:\program files\SAS Institute\SAS\V8\sas.exe"
```

As an alternative, the following Windows desktop icon would perform the same function:



Note that, in each case, a SAS program located in the **code** folder could be submitted automatically in batch mode by adding

```
-sysin program.sas
```

to the SAS command line.

The following four code sections together make up a typical **autoexec.sas** file, which will build library references for **data** and **formats**, and a file reference for the **code** folder. All the code should be compatible with SAS Versions 6.12 and 8 in both Windows or UNIX.

The first section selects the correct filename separator and stores it in the **&_sep** macro variable, which will be used later to find the path name of the **project** folder.

```
data _null_;
  if "&sysscp" = 'WIN'
    then call symput('_sep', '\\');
    else call symput('_sep', '/');
stop;
run;
```

Allocating a SAS library with a null string will, in fact, allocate it to the current directory. The path name of this folder can be obtained using the SCL function **pathname()**. The path name is then reversed to remove the end character, in case the current directory ends with a separator character. The **code** folder name should, therefore, be at least 2 characters long. The next separator character is found, so that the **code** folder name can be removed. The **&sys** macro variable is then reversed again to leave the path name of the **project** folder, and the temporary library reference deleted.

```
libname currdir '';
%let path = %sysfunc(pathname(currdir));
%let sys = %substr(%sysfunc(reverse(&path)),2);
%let sys = %sysfunc(substr(&sys,
    1+%sysfunc(index(&sys,&_sep))));
%let sys = %sysfunc(reverse(&sys));
libname currdir clear;
```

The **data** and **formats** library references, and the **code** file reference, can be built based on the path name of the **project** folder in **&sys** and the separator character in **&_sep**.

```
libname data "&sys.&_sep.data";
libname formats "&sys.&_sep.formats";
filename code "&sys.&_sep.code";
```

Finally the user-defined SAS formats in the **formats** library can be set as the format search path.

```
options fmtsearch=(formats);
```

To change the location of your project you only need to change the current directory in your starting script or desktop icon.

Philip R Holland, Holland Numerics Ltd

Did You Know?

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

Removing Procedure Titles from ODS Output

[SAS 8] When generating ODS output from a summarising procedure, such as PROC MEANS or PROC FREQ, we always see the procedure title in our output such as "The MEANS Procedure". We can easily turn off this with the following ODS statement:

```
ods noproctitle;
proc procedure...
run;
```

You may also use its alias **ods noprtile**. To turn the titles back on simply use **ods proctitle** or **ods prtile**. Note this also affects the ODS LISTING destination, i.e. your output window, or default LST file.

Amadeus Software Consultancy Team.

Resolving 2+ Macro Variables At Once

[SAS 8] Here's a good little tip from my new advanced macro programming course...

Usually in a data step we might use the following code to get the value of a macro variable:

```
first_name=symget('first_name');
second_name=symget('second_name');
full_name=first_name||'|'||second_name;
```

We can use the **resolve()** function to do this in a much neater way, as follows, by letting us resolve more than one macro variable at once:

```
full_name=resolve('&first_name &second_name');
```

Philip Mason, Woodstreet Consulting

Formats, Options, and Functions

This section is devoted to the description of useful, or unusual, SAS Formats, Options, and Functions.

[SAS 8.1+] The new **DTDATEw.** format produces the same output as **DATEw.**, but accepts a datetime value as input.

[SAS 8.2+] There are also a number of new datetime formats, with equivalent existing date formats, that were introduced with SAS Version 8.2: **DTMONYYw.** is equivalent to **MONYYw.**, **DTYYQCw.** is equivalent to **YYQCw.**, **DTYEARw.** is equivalent to **YEARw.**, and **DTWKDATXw.** is equivalent to **WEEKDATXw.**

[SAS 8.1+] The **OBS=** and **FIRSTOBS=** data set options can now be used with a **WHERE** expression, which is supported for the **WHERE** statement, the **WHERE=** data set option, and the **WHERE** clause in the SQL procedure.

[SAS 8.2+] The new **CALL SYMDEL()** routine deletes the specified macro variable from the macro global symbol table.

[SAS 8.1+] The **CALL SLEEP()** routine, and the **SLEEP()** function, suspend the execution of a SAS DATA step for a specified period of time and return a value.

News

SUGI 27 - News from Orlando

SUGI 27 was held between April 14 and 17 in Orlando this year. In addition to the well attended contributed papers presented by SAS users from all round the globe, the biggest talking point was SAS Version 9, expected to be released this summer in the USA, and Europe thereafter.

We were shown the new SPDE libname engine which addresses the I/O bottle necks caused by reading and writing large data sets, in addition to the new multi-threading, multi-processing capabilities. New tools such as the SAS

Management Console (SMC) for controlling servers, libnames, users groups, third party add-ins and more. Enterprise Guide (EG) will be bundled with Base SAS in V9 as the SAS Institute moves towards EG as the user interface for the SAS System. Other highlights included the announcement of SAS Learning Edition (see www.sas.com/le), a learning edition of SAS Software, available at \$125, lasting until December 2006, but only processing 1000 observations. There has been no confirmation so far that this will be available in the UK.

David Shannon,
Amadeus Software Consultancy Team.

FAQ's, Hints & Tips WebRing

The web is full of information about SAS software, but it is not always easy to find. To make your searching simpler there is a group of web sites dedicated to supplying SAS-related hints and tips, and they are all linked together by a WebRing, which is a managed circle of similar sites, called the **SAS FAQ's, Hints and Tips WebRing**. If you want to see what is available in the WebRing, then one of the members of the ring is the home page of the FAQ pages of Phil Holland, which can be found at www.hollandnumerics.co.uk/sasfaq.

In Brief

- Back issues of *VIEWS News* are available from the VIEWS web site.
- The VIEWS Committee would like to thank ASA for their generous sponsorship of the first 16 issues of VIEWS News. The success of VIEWS News could not have been achieved without their help.
- Amadeus Software are running a series of free seminars throughout 2002 on popular topics at their offices near Witney in Oxfordshire (see **Diary** below). There are only a maximum of 16 places at each seminar, so early booking is recommended. The seminars, with all the handouts and refreshments, including lunch, are free of charge! For more details, and a complete and up-to-date series list, go to **Technical_Seminars.html** at www.amadeus.co.uk/Events. Note that this web address is case-sensitive.

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.

May 2002

28 Data Warehousing Explained, Amadeus Software
 This is a free seminar! See **In Brief** for contact details.

June 2002

5 Changes and Enhancements to SAS Version 9 and Ireland vs Germany Big Screen Live, Amadeus Software
 This is a free seminar! See **In Brief** for contact details.
7 Changes and Enhancements to SAS Version 9 and England vs Argentina Big Screen Live, Amadeus Software
 This is a free seminar! See **In Brief** for contact details.
11-13 SeUGI, Paris, France

The European SAS User Group International (SeUGI) Conference is held each year and focuses more on the commercial aspects of SAS software. The venue for 2003 is Vienna.

July 2002

4 Knowledge Discovery using Enterprise Miner, Amadeus Software

This is a free seminar! See **In Brief** for contact details.

August 2002

1 VIEWS News 19th edition

September 2002

5 Tricks of the Trade (SAS Tips and Techniques), Amadeus Software

This is a free seminar! See **In Brief** for contact details.

26 Tricks of the Trade (SAS Tips and Techniques), Amadeus Software

This is a free seminar! See **In Brief** for contact details.

October 2002

10 Communicating with SAS Software (Web, Intrnet, SAS IT and VB), Amadeus Software

This is a free seminar! See **In Brief** for contact details.

November 2002

1 VIEWS News 20th edition

29 Data Warehousing Explained, Amadeus Software

This is a free seminar! See **In Brief** for contact details.

All VIEWS event information will be posted and/or emailed to registered members of VIEWS, and will include an event application form. Please send your queries about any VIEWS events to events@views-uk.org, and don't forget to look at the web site for the latest news.

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