

VIEWS

International SAS Programmer Community



News, Hints, Tips and Information for SAS® Users

Issue 31, 3rd Quarter 2005

For those of you who were disappointed when we decided to cancel the 2005 *VIEWS* Conference, you will now be able to take part in a special Hints & Tips Special Interest Group at the SAS Forum UK in Birmingham on November 2. The *VIEWS* Committee will be jointly chairing this SIG with SAS UK. All we need are your Hints & Tips presentations to fill the afternoon at The Hilton Birmingham Metropole. More details about the conference, and how to present your ideas there, can be found in the Stop Press, News and Diary sections below.

In this issue of *VIEWS News* I've concentrated heavily on the news about our collaboration with SAS UK, but I would also like to welcome back LeRoy Bessler with his 'Royal' web page creation program using ODS, and you will also find my regular Formats, Options, and Functions section. I hope you will find them interesting.

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. A list of possible subjects for your articles can be found on the *VIEWS* web site, and anyone is very welcome to add to that list by sending emails with your own questions to 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 and postal address. If you would like to receive email notification whenever a new issue of the free quarterly *VIEWS News* is published on the web site, please remember to also include your email address.

Stop Press

VIEWS at the SAS Forum UK

This year SAS UK and *VIEWS* are jointly chairing the Hints & Tips Special Interest Group on 2 November, which is your opportunity to polish up your favourite programming techniques and share them with your peers.

Presenting at SAS Forum UK is your chance to add your insights to the discussion, to share your knowledge and to raise the profile of your project(s) amongst your peers in the SAS community. SAS professionals are keen to hear about your experiences, so apply now using the online application form at: www.sas.com/uk/forum.

We are inviting speaker applications to present in the Special Interest Groups (SIGs). These presentations may be more detailed or specific in content and have a focus on industry,

function or technology challenges that have been supported through the use of SAS technology. Please indicate on the online application form the topics that are highlighted by your presentation. The closing date for submitting presentation abstracts is **15 September**, with the acceptance notification on 20 September, and the final presentations submission deadline on 20 October.

In recognition of your contribution to the conference, all presenters receive complimentary conference registration for yourself and one other colleague from your organisation.

SAS Forum UK and VIEWS Committee.

Ask The Consultant

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

Adding Sound and Motion to Your Web Pages and Working with Images

Q: Can I add a self-initiated audio track to my web page? And a travelling text ribbon like that at the bottom of the TV news screen? How can I enlarge or shrink an embedded image, and make it a hyperlink? What about animation?

A: [SAS 8] The web page below, when opened, plays "God Save the Queen". The Queen's personal flag (animated) is waving continuously. Both that image and the photo display pop-up text (aka HTML "ALT text") if you rest your mouse. When the pop-up window opens, a tool bar also appears near the upper left corner of the image. One pop-up includes a line break—you can create a stack of multi-line pop-up text as high as you need/want. Software for visually impaired web users can read your HTML file, including the ALT text description of images, to convert displayable text to audio. LINK=, which is used to provide the TITLE hyperlink, can also be used in a FOOTNOTE statement.



An explanation follows this listing of the code:

```
DATA _NULL_;
  text = "'Queen & Prince board airplane" ||
        'OD'X ||
        "Click for the British Monarchy web site'";
  CALL SYMPUT('AltText', text);
RUN;

ODS HTML PATH = 'C:\demo\WebPages' (URL = NONE)
        FILE = 'Aug2005.html'
        STYLE = styles.minimal;
TITLE COLOR = CX0000FF font = 'Georgia'
        HEIGHT = 20 pt
        LINK = 'http://www.views-uk.org'
        'Go To VIEWS Home Page';

PROC PRINT LABEL NOOBS
  DATA = sashelp.class
        (WHERE = (name EQ 'Philip'))
  STYLE(HEADER) = [FONT_FACE = Georgia
                  FONT_SIZE = 6
                  CELLWIDTH = 300]
  STYLE(DATA) = [FOREGROUND = CXFFFFFF
                CELLHEIGHT = 1
                CELLWIDTH = 1]
  STYLE = [RULES = NONE CELLSPACING = 0
          FRAME = VOID BORDERWIDTH = 0
          CELLPADDING = 0
          PREHTML =
"<IMG SRC='../Images\WavingFlagOfQueen.gif'
WIDTH=89 HEIGHT=101
ALT='Waving Flag of Her Majesty The Queen'>
<FONT FACE=Georgia SIZE=7 COLOR=#FFFF00>
<MARQUEE
  BGCOLOR=#000099
  WIDTH=100% HSPACE=20 VSPACE=10>
  God save our gracious Queen.
  Long live our noble Queen.
  God save the Queen!
  Send her victorious,
  Happy, and glorious,
  Long to reign over us.
  God save the Queen!
</MARQUEE>
</FONT>
<A HREF='http://www.royal.gov.uk'>
  <IMG SRC='../Images\Boarding.jpg'
  VSPACE=10 WIDTH=300 HEIGHT=225
  ALT=&AltText>
</A>
<BGSOUND LOOP=INFINITE
  SRC='../Audios\UK_anthem.wav'>"] ;
VAR name;
LABEL name='Returning Home';
RUN;
ODS HTML CLOSE;
```

Instead of applying ODS STYLE parameters by customization with PROC TEMPLATE, they are on the PROC PRINT statement. Here, for demonstration, the PROC PRINT is used only to deliver an image caption via the column header cell content (LABEL statement). The data cell is shrunk and hidden.

The HTML used here is delivered via ODS using the PREHTML parameter. One can also or instead use a POSTHTML parameter to deliver HTML that is applied after the tabular (or graphic) PROC output in the web page. For example, a marquee and/or image(s) can be located below the PROC output.

The BGSOUND tag causes the web browser PC to play the sound file without opening a media player, unlike what happens when you click on a hyperlink to a sound file. You can set LOOP to any integer you like, rather than to INFINITE.

HTML colours are RGB colours. You can use SAS RGB colour values, but with # replacing the CX prefix. BGCOLOR in the MARQUEE tag is the colour of the marquee background.

The MARQUEE tag “packages” the travelling text, but formatting the text must be done with the FONT tag. HTML font sizes are integers from 1 to 7. ODS converts any point sizes in your SAS code to HTML font sizes.

WIDTH, HEIGHT, HSPACE, and VSPACE HTML values are in pixels, except that a percent assignment for WIDTH is percent of web page width. VSPACE is space above and below the marquee or image. HSPACE is space at the left and right.

SRC= identifies the location of the image or sound file. Both the animated GIF and the static JPG file are resized, but with care to preserve the aspect ratio, i.e. the ratio of picture height to width) to avoid distortion. Note that the Queen’s flag is a square as shown, not the customary rectangular shape for flags.

The ANCHOR tag (<A . . . >) with HREF= makes the photo image a hyperlink. Animated images can be hyperlinks, too.

If desired, you can make an animated GIF with SAS/GRAPH.

LeRoy Bessler, Assurant Health

Formats, Options, and Functions

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

Use the \$VARYINGw. format or informat when the length of a character value differs from record to record. After writing or reading a data value with \$VARYINGw., the pointer's position is set to the first column after the value:

```
num = 24;
INPUT value $VARYING100. num;
```

[SAS 8] The APPLETLOC= system option specifies the web address where the SAS Java applets are located, and is used when web pages are generated containing SAS Java applets. The maximum address length is 256 characters.

The BAND() function returns the bitwise logical AND of two arguments, the BNOT() function returns the bitwise logical NOT of an argument, the BOR() function returns the bitwise logical OR of two arguments, and the BXOR() function returns the bitwise logical EXCLUSIVE OR of two arguments.

News

SAS Forum UK in Birmingham

Experience the next generation of business intelligence at The Hilton Birmingham Metropole from 2-3 November 2005.

Why attend?

SAS Forum UK is a two-day opportunity for you to meet and network with your industry peers, share experiences and best practices, see new approaches to solving real-life challenges, and so maximise the value you gain from SAS.

What you can expect

This event isn't about SAS, it's about you – and how you can use SAS to take your organisation to the next level. The programme reflects the real world. It covers common business challenges and explains how the next generation of business intelligence – enabled by the SAS Intelligence Platform – can help make all the difference.

- Main Conference.
- Special Interest Groups.
- Business Intelligence Workshops.
- Certification Labs.
- 25 Years of SAS in Europe Celebration.

Who is SAS Forum UK for?

A flexible programme ensures there is something for everyone who has a vested interest in using SAS technology and solutions in the most effective and innovative ways.

- SAS experts and SAS specialists.
- End-users at all levels: in finance, risk, marketing and more.
- Managers of SAS users.
- Line-of-business managers who gain value from SAS technology.
- IT managers and IT directors.

Registration

You can register for SAS Forum UK 2005 by choosing one of the following options:

Mail back the completed form to: UK Events, SAS Institute, Wittington House, Henley Road, Medmenham, Marlow, Bucks SL7 2EB.

Fax back the completed form to: +44-(0)1628-404301.

Email your details to: events.uk@suk.sas.com.

Online at: www.sas.com/uk/forum.

Main Conference – Thursday 3 November

The key day of the forum features three parallel-running streams covering Data Integration, Business Intelligence and Business Analytics. There will be four half-hour presentations in each stream, three of which will be customer case studies.

Special Interest Groups – Wednesday 2 November

The Special Interest Groups (SIGs) afternoon session is a 3.5 hour workshop (14.00-17.30) on selected topics as an adjunct to the main conference.

Business Intelligence Workshops

The workshops, being run on both days of the forum, are a 60-minute interactive 'test drive' of SAS Business Intelligence applications using a case study to analyse a marketing campaign for a financial services company.

Certification

You can become a SAS Certified Professional for free if you attend the forum, and may take any one of the exams listed at <http://support.sas.com/certify/creds.html>.

Certification candidates must bring ID with a signature and photograph, e.g. a driving licence or passport.

Cost

Early Bird Discount: special delegate rate available for all bookings made before 3 October.

3 for 2 Discounted Rate: receive 3 registrations for the price of 2 when registering people from the same company. Delegates must register separately by completing additional forms, stating the names of the other 2 delegates and the name of the delegate responsible for payment. The early bird rate also applies.

Fees payable:

Individual delegate fee - early bird £95 + VAT

3 for 2 delegate fee - early bird £190 + VAT

Individual delegate fee - standard £145 + VAT

3 for 2 delegate fee - standard £290 + VAT

The delegate fee includes drinks and a buffet on Wednesday evening, lunch on Thursday, refreshments during the two days, forum documentation and online access to presentations after the event.

Payment Details

Payment must be made in advance and registration cannot be confirmed until we have received this. We will send you an invoice for the relevant amount.

Personal/company cheques should be made payable to SAS Software Limited and sent to Maria Morgan, UK Events, SAS Institute, Wittington House, Henley Road, Medmenham, Marlow, Bucks. SL7 2EB. Please write your name clearly on the reverse side of the cheque.

Accommodation

Overnight accommodation can be arranged for you at the Hilton Birmingham Metropole at a B&B rate of £131. Early booking is advised. Please note that hotel accommodation is at your own expense.

For all enquiries please contact Maria Morgan:

tel: +44-(0)1628-486933,

or email: events.uk@suk.sas.com.

SAS Forum UK

In Brief

- Back issues of *VIEWS News* are available from the *VIEWS* web site.
- Phil Mason now has a SAS tips newsletter, which can be requested by going to www.woodstreet.org.uk and then clicking on Tips. Previous tips can also be found on the web site.
- More SAS hints and tips can be found on the SAS FAQ pages at www.hollandnumerics.com/sasfaq.

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.

October 2005

10-12 **PhUSE Conference 2005**, Heidelberg, Germany

The Pharmaceutical Users Software Exchange (PhUSE) presents the European Forum for programmers in the pharmaceutical industry. See www.phuse.info for the latest news.

November 2005

2-3 **SAS Forum UK**, Birmingham

The SAS Forum UK is held each year and presents the latest SAS developments to SAS users in the UK. This year *IEWS* will be jointly chairing the Hints & Tips SIG. See www.sas.com/uk/forum for the latest news.

15 **Tricks of the Trade**, Amadeus Software - FREE!

See the Amadeus Software web site, www.amadeus.co.uk, for further details.

December 2005

1 **Data Analytics and Reporting**, Amadeus Software - FREE!

See the Amadeus Software web site, www.amadeus.co.uk, for further details.

March 2006

26-29 **SUGI**, San Francisco, USA

The SAS User Group International (SUGI) Conference is held each year and focuses on the technical aspects of SAS software.

May 2006

16-18 **SAS Forum International**, Geneva, Switzerland

The SAS Forum International is held each year and focuses on the more commercial aspects of SAS software.

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 event@views-uk.org, and don't forget to look at the web site for the latest news.

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***IEWS News** is published quarterly by VIEWS International SAS Programmer Community. VIEWS is a not-for-profit organisation. Our Mission Statement and Rules can be viewed on our web site together with a list of current committee members.*