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Special Issue Newsletter

- Announcing a One-Day Conference on May 31.
- Conveniently located at Schoolcraft College in Livonia.
- Presenter bios and abstracts of conference presentation are included inside this issue!

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MSUG One Day Conference in May

The next Michigan SAS[®] Users Group (MSUG) meeting is a one-day conference on May 31 at Schoolcraft College in Livonia. This meeting is open to all SAS users and is an excellent way to build your skills and keep up on the latest developments with SAS.

This year's conference features eight 50 minute presentations featuring SAS/QC[®] software, statistical graphics, SAS Macro Language facilities, SAS data set indexes, Enterprise Guide[®], the LOGPARSE macro, and stored processes.

From SAS, we are pleased to have Bob Rodriguez and I-kong Fu travel to the Detroit area to speak at the conference. We are also honored to have Ronald

Fehd and Michael Raithel, both of whom are well-known independent SAS authorities who have presented to numerous SAS users groups across the country.

All of this expertise can be shared with you for the low conference registration fee of \$75, which includes continental breakfast and lunch. Registration is convenient through the www.misug.org website, and Schoolcraft College is easy to get to from just about any place in Southeast Michigan. See below for more details. We look forward to seeing you at the conference.

Conference Registration Details

May 31, 2007 One-Day Michigan SAS[®] Users Group Conference

Where: Vistatech Center, Schoolcraft College
18600 Haggerty Road, Livonia, MI 48150

When: 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM, Thursday, May 31

Fees: \$75. Includes continental breakfast, lunch, afternoon refreshments, and materials

Registration: On-line at <http://www.misug.org>. Credit cards are accepted. *Sorry, no purchase orders.*

Bob Rodriguez

Bob Rodriguez joined SAS® in 1983 and is currently a director in SAS R&D with responsibility for the development of statistical software, including SAS/STAT® and SAS/QC®. He received his Ph.D. in statistics from the University of North Carolina in 1977, and was a staff research scientist at General Motors Research Laboratories from 1977 until 1983. Bob is active in the American Statistical Association, where he serves as vice president. Bob will be giving the following presentations at the one-day conference:

A Guided Tour of SAS/QC for Statistical Novices

This presentation answers the question "How can I use SAS/QC in my organization?" for those who are unfamiliar with statistical quality improvement and SAS/QC software. Practical examples drawn from a wide range of settings—including manufacturing, computer performance monitoring, banking call centers, and managed health care—will show how you can improve processes, products, and customer satisfaction by understanding variability. The presentation will explain the basic concepts of statistical process control and designed experiments, and it will provide tips for getting started with SAS/QC.

Creating Statistical Graphics in SAS 9.2: What Every Statistical User Should Know

SAS 9.1 introduced an experimental extension to the Output Delivery System (ODS) that enabled over two dozen SAS/STAT and SAS/ETS® procedures to create statistical graphics as automatically as they create tables. This new functionality, referred to as "ODS Graphics", requires minimal procedure syntax, and it provides displays that are commonly needed in data analysis and statistical modeling, including scatter plots, histograms, and box-and-whisker plots. Many ODS features, such as styles and destination statements, apply equally to tables and graphs.

With the production release of ODS Graphics in SAS 9.2, even more statistical procedures are being enabled to create graphics. For example, PROC RSREG produces contour and ridge plots, and PROC LOGISTIC produces effects plots. In addition, new SAS/GRAPH® procedures, as well as existing SAS/QC procedures, take advantage of this functionality to produce a variety of graphics. New ODS styles for statistical work are being added, and an interactive graphics editor will be provided for making changes such as modifying titles and annotating points.

This presentation is intended for statistical users. In addition to describing forthcoming functionality in SAS 9.2, it will cover the basics of creating, modifying, and managing statistical graphics with ODS Graphics in SAS 9.1.

I-kong Fu

I-kong Fu is a product manager in the Business Intelligence area of SAS, focused on SAS Enterprise Guide® and the SAS Add-In for Microsoft Office. Prior to joining SAS, he worked as a web developer, SE, and product manager at a Web software start-up and newspaper company. He is also a co-founder of a small Internet retailer for which he is responsible for technology infrastructure and marketing analytics. I-kong will be giving the following presentations at the one-day conference:

Enterprise Guide for SAS Programmers

SAS Enterprise Guide (with its easy-to-use interface) has been a boon to SAS users, especially non-programmers. However, SAS Enterprise Guide provides some powerful new features that are geared toward the SAS programmer. This presentation provides an overview of how SAS programmers can leverage SAS Enterprise Guide to create, organize, and execute their SAS programs.

Introduction to Stored Processes

This presentation introduces SAS Stored Processes and demonstrates how to create and register them using SAS Enterprise Guide. The presentation also illustrates how SAS Stored Processes can be executed from the SAS Add-In for Microsoft Office and SAS Web Report Studio to leverage the power of your SAS programs from multiple clients for different end users and needs.

Ronald Fehd

Ronald Fehd has a B.S. in Computer Science, and has attended SAS® User Group conferences since 1989 where he has presented over a dozen papers on macro usage, programming theory, and list processing. He is the macro maven on SAS-L, the international online SAS listserve, where he has posted over 3,000 messages since 1997. In 2001 and 2003 he was voted Most Valuable SAS-L Contributor. His 20 years of SAS experience includes 15 years as a data manager; he is currently tech support for SAS on the HelpDesk at Centers for Disease Control. Ron will be giving the following presentations at the one-day conference:

List Processing Basics: Creating and Using Lists of Macro Variables (co-authored with Art Carpenter, CA Occidental Consultants, Vista, CA, USA)

List Processing or dynamic programming techniques free up your programming time by eliminating hard coded parameter values. List values can be obtained directly from information you already have, and there is more than one way to do it! Commonly the list is stored as series of macro variables or as a macro variable with a series of values or even as values in a data set. This paper compares and contrasts the basic methods of treating variable values as parameters and placing them into repetitive code.

A SASautos Companion: Reusing Macros

Reusable SAS programs come in two forms: macros or %includes. This paper reviews the standard SAS environment and examines the options used to customize a session or batch program for reuse of macros stored in the project directory. Expected audience is intermediate to advanced programmers and macro users.

Michael Raithel

Michael A. Raithel has worked with Information Systems in the commercial and government sectors since 1980. An internationally recognized expert in the use of SAS software in mainframe environments, he is the author of over twenty SAS technical papers and is a popular lecturer at SUGI and at regional SAS conferences. Michael has been a section chair at SUGI, SESUG, and NESUG, and he co-chaired NESUG in 1995. He has been a mainframe computer performance analyst for Marriott International and for the U.S. Customs Service, as well as an independent consultant specializing in mainframe and Unix performance issues. He now works as a Senior Systems Analyst for Westat. A copy of the first edition of his book, *Tuning SAS Applications in the MVS Environment*, resides in the Smithsonian Institution of American History's Permanent Research Collection of Information Technology.

The Basics of Using SAS Indexes

If there was a SAS performance tool that could drastically reduce your program's I/O's and response time, and lower its CPU time, would you use it? Well, this type of performance tool exists; it is called "SAS Indexes." SAS Indexes can dramatically improve the performance of programs that access small subsets of observations from large SAS data sets. However, many SAS programmers never bother to learn about them or to use them. This presentation discusses how to create simple and composite SAS indexes, how to determine which variables make good index key variables, when creating and using indexes is appropriate, what centiles are, and how to generate index usage messages. It illustrates how indexes can improve processing when subsetting and/or updating a large SAS data set and when an index can optimize a BY statement.

Programmatically Measure SAS Application Performance On Any Computer Platform With the New LOGPARSE SAS Macro

The LOGPARSE Macro parses SAS log files and stores SAS performance metrics in a SAS data set. That SAS data set can be used to programmatically report the performance of individual steps within a SAS program, report the performance of the entire SAS program, or report the performance of individual programs within a SAS application. The LOGPARSE Macro can be used to record SAS performance information on any platform that SAS runs on. Examples of how to use LOGPARSE and how to configure it to fit your needs will be discussed.



MWSUG 2007

The 18th Midwest SAS® Users Group regional conference will be held at the Des Moines Marriott in Iowa on Oct 28 – 30. See www.mwsug.org for more information.

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About MSUG

The Michigan SAS® Users Group is organized to further the interests of programmers and users of the SAS Software System. Members share information on building applications with SAS Software and how to better use programming tools and user interfaces. MSUG also provides a forum for informing attendees and members of career opportunities and building your organization's identity among peers, members, employees, or vendors. Send email to info@misug.org to be included in the distribution list for newsletters and meeting announcements. Visit our website at www.misug.org.

American Statistical Association Chapter Meetings

Detroit Chapter – 6:30 PM on May 8 at the SAS regional office in Southfield. Featured speaker is Maura Stokes from SAS to discuss Proc GLIMMIX. Attendance is free.

Ann Arbor Chapter – 6:00 PM on April 26 at 340 West Hall, University of Michigan. Featured speakers are Bob Graban of General Motors to give a talk on 'Design for Six Sigma', and Kate Bombach, lean coach at the University of Michigan Health System to give a talk on 'Lean Production in Health Care'. Attendance is free.