

TORONTO AREA SAS SOCIETY

GENERAL MEETING AGENDA

Friday, March 22, 2002

- 08:30am** Registration and Continental Breakfast
- 09:00am** General Business and Introduction
- 09:30am** **Time and money-saving techniques for Applications Development – How to develop table-driven applications with the SAS System.**
The goal of this presentation is to provide an understanding of strategies designed to reduce applications development time and simplify modifications using reusable code modules. To demonstrate SAS software's ability to build complex data warehousing systems through table-driven, code-free technology (with example for Internet/Intranet environment) The presentation will show how to construct high-quality, reliable complex application systems that are easy to understand, modify and maintain.
Tanya Kolosova
SAS Consultant & Books By Users (BBU) - Author
- 10:45am** Coffee break
- 11:00am** User Exchange
- 11:45am** Prize Draw
- 12:00pm** Adjourn

LOCATION: SAS Institute (Canada) Inc.
BCE Place
181 Bay Street, Suite 2220
Toronto, Ontario
(Subway stops - Union or King)

(Parking is Scarce)

Highlights: TASS General Meeting – February 08, 2002

Welcome: Carl Clutton, President of TASS welcomed the 37 SAS users in attendance at the SAS Institute, BCE Place.

User Discussion

Discussion centered about SAS support for Users. Some are receiving good support while others require presentations to ensure that new products and capabilities are communicated across organizations.

"A Bit More on Job Security: Long Names & Other V8 Tips" – presented by Allan Page, Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce (Original presentation by Arthur L. Carpenter, California Occidental Insurance & Tony Payne, SPSInfo Quest)

This presentation is a "take-off" on SAS Version 8 and is appreciated by SAS Users. Here are some of noticeable 'quirks' or things people do.

Job Security

Version 8 gives job security to all the SAS programmers. The principal techniques allow confusion, misdirection and inconsistency. As an example, the new version enables Users to hide code and expand it when needed. What an easy way to read SAS, just read the open comments and let the hidden code remain.

Misdirection may be applied by creating meaningless variables of any length since length of variables have been extended.

Inconsistency can happen because you may now code use 1=no and 0=yes.

Note: V6 had Datasets while V8 has Tables.
V6 had Observations while V8 has Rows
V6 had Variables while V8 has Columns

Enhanced Editor

To keep your Editor the same, just do not install the Enhanced Editor or if you installed it, set the coloring to only black. This way, nothing will

change and you will be as productive as before.

Long Variable Names

Usually a variable name has no spaces between characters. Welcome to SAS. One can now have spaces if one codes 'variable name'n= Careful how you use it in

Title='Report 'n; Watch your quotes, here is an example: 'Tom;wt=5+wt'n=5;

Long label names can also be used to tell a story.

Capitalization

V8 code is case insensitive so mixed case variables are the same as lower or upper case variables of the same name.

Misdirection in V8

Example: data set; set data; -- an error occurs.

Mixed Data Types

Storing V6 & V8 tables in the same library causes havoc.

Audit Trails

Allows tracking to all edits in a table.

Open=defer

Tables on the SET statement are only opened one at a time. Guess what! – only variables on the first table are included.

ODS

Careful with colours on colours. Know how the ODS output works to switch off the output altogether (ODS Output;)

Use obscure tuning options

Use of Bufsize – example: using 2X space

Use of Indexing

Some index everything – why? (unless in a SQL WHERE clause)

The above 'puns' about SAS were appropriate because we did not have to identify which SAS

'mistakes' we made in the past. Allan reviewed them for us and we could chuckle at our own.

2002 Memberships and Renewals

Well, another highly successful year for the Toronto Area SAS Society has come to a close. With the new year of 2002, it is once again time to renew your TASS memberships. The fee structure for 2002 remains unchanged from 2001, and has not increased since 1993

If you have not yet sent your membership form in, please complete and send in the application form attached at the end of this newsletter along with your payment or bring them to the next meeting.

PLEASE COMPLETE ALL REQUESTED INFORMATION IN ORDER TO ALLOW US TO UPDATE OUR DATA BASE.

2002 is going to be another exiting year for the Toronto Area SAS Society, so plan today to be a part of it.

Membership in the Society has grown over the years. Representatives from Banking, Finance, Insurance, Health Care, Pharmaceutical, Market Research, Telecommunications, Education, Public Utilities and Government Agencies participate in the users group. Members are end users of the SAS System - technical support staff, capacity planners, information centre consultants, programmers, system developers and other SAS professionals.

While we encourage SAS professionals who are non-members to "check out" meetings without charge, to determine if the information presented meets their needs, we do expect them to become paying members if they choose to attend subsequent meetings.

If you have any questions, answers, comments, suggestions, or interest in any special interest groups, please drop us a line via the TASS mailing address.

We are now on the Internet! See our page at www.torsas.org. Any comments or suggestions would be greatly appreciated and can be e-mailed

Bernie Mazur, Secretary

to torsasa@interlog.com Please note our new mailing address.

NEW MAILING ADDRESS
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INFORMATION CHANGES

In order to serve you better, it is imperative that we receive information changes about you, your job or your company as soon as possible so that we can maintain as accurate a Membership Data Base as possible. So take a minute and send any new membership information to our mailbox or e-mail address today.

Year 2002 MEETINGS

The following executive meeting, and general meeting dates and location are subject to change by the 2002 Executive Committee.

2002 Executive Meetings	2002 General Meetings
January 09	February 08
March 13	March 22
May 15	May 24
July 17	July 26
September 11	September 20
November 13	November 22

**Location:- SAS Institute (Canada) Inc.
BCE Place, 181 Bay Street,**

Suite 2220

Executive Committee members are required to attend the next Executive Committee meeting. Please contact Carl Clutton for time and place.

INVITATION TO SPREAD THE NEWS

If there are other SAS users in your company that may be interested in the information in this newsletter, please feel free to make copies and pass them on!

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Members are encouraged to contribute articles which will be credited to them unless s/he requests otherwise.

CLASSIFIED ADS

The classified ads provide a means by which members can ask questions and share information. Please remember that some of our members are students or individuals with no corporate affiliation, and these people particularly may be interested in this.

By printing these ads in the newsletter, we are providing a service to our members. We are not endorsing the products, services or organizations represented. We are not trying to act as an employment agency, nor can we guarantee answers or results for ads placed.

If you have any questions about the classified ads, please contact Carl Clutton. To place an ad, simply document your question or request, providing as much information as possible, and send it to the TASS mailbox. In addition, include the name, address, phone number and fax number of the person members should respond to.

A fee will be charged for placing job advertisements.