

Exporting Data from SAS Enterprise Guide 4.3 to Microsoft Excel 2007/2010

Background

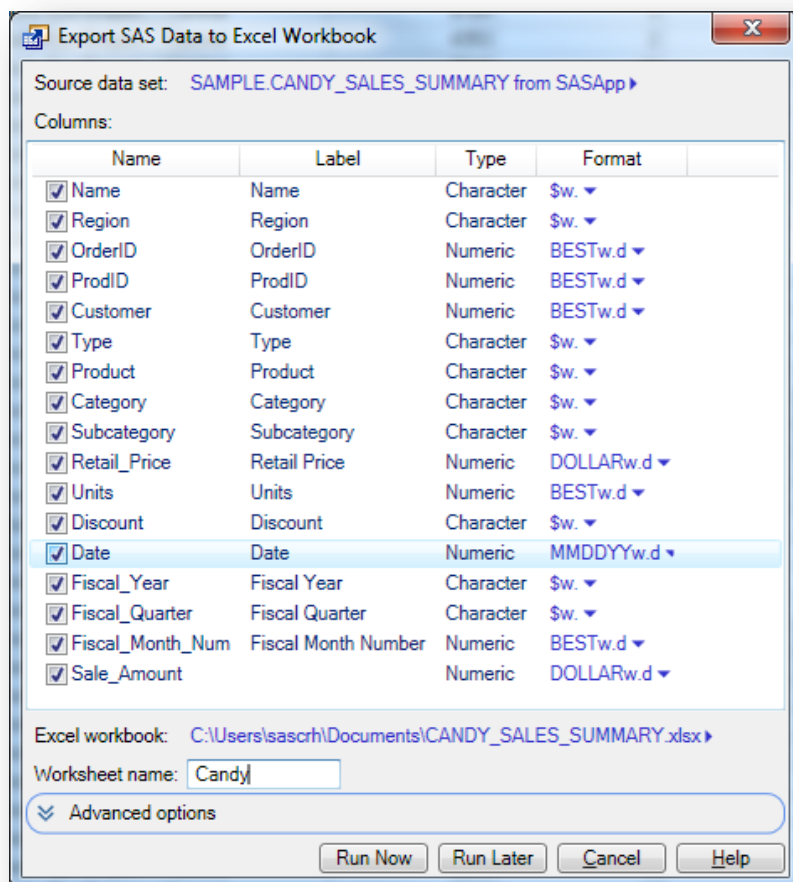
Since its 4.2 release, SAS Enterprise Guide has been able to *import* Microsoft Excel 2007 and 2010 spreadsheet files (usually encountered as .XLSX files). But while SAS Enterprise Guide can export XLS files (which are compatible with all versions of Microsoft Excel), it does not have the ability to export to a native .XLSX file.

Customers see this as a limitation. The Microsoft Excel 2007 format allows for more rows and columns than traditional XLS files can support, and SAS Enterprise Guide does not offer a point-and-click method to create output results in this new format.

In SAS 9.2, you can use PROC EXPORT or the EXCEL LIBNAME engine to write data in this new format, but using PROC EXPORT requires the customer to write a custom SAS program, and both PROC EXPORT and the EXCEL LIBNAME engine require you to license and install SAS/ACCESS to PC Files.

New Custom Task: Export Data to Microsoft Excel 2007/2010

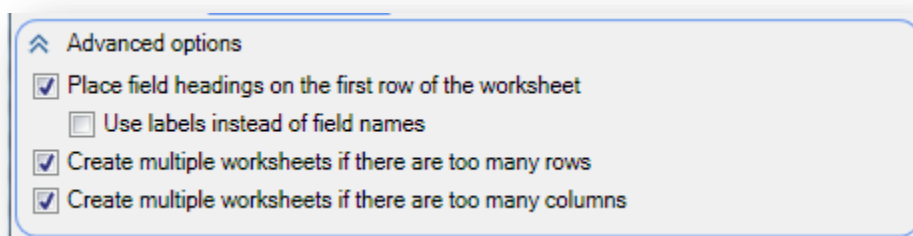
To help customers to work around this limitation, SAS R&D has created a custom task that focuses on one thing: export your SAS data to a Microsoft Excel 2007 (.XLSX) file. Here is an example screen shot of the task:



The task supports the following features/options:

- Export to XLSX or XLS file
- Specify the name of the worksheet in the exported file
- Specify which columns to include in the exported file
- Specify the output format (as a SAS format) for each column. This is especially useful for applying special treatment to date and date-time values to preserve the correct format in the spreadsheet.
- Optionally place field headings on the first row of the exported sheet. You can also use labels instead of variable names.
- Optionally create multiple worksheets if the row count exceeds the maximum supported by Microsoft Excel
- Optionally create multiple worksheets if the column count exceeds the maximum supported by Microsoft Excel

This portion of the screen shot shows the Advanced Options when expanded:



Note: This task uses “native” technology to do its work: SAS/ACCESS to PC Files is *not* required. However, this also means that the task *does not* generate a SAS program that can be run independently outside of SAS Enterprise Guide or within a stored process.

Installing the Custom Task

The custom task is in this assembly (DLL): **SAS.Tasks.ExcelExport.dll**. To install the custom task for use with **SAS Enterprise Guide 4.3**, you simply need to copy the DLL to a designated directory:

- For use by just the current user, copy the DLL to:

`%appdata%\SAS\EnterpriseGuide\4.3\Custom`

where `%appdata%` is a Windows environment variable that resolves to your profile area. You might need to create the “Custom” subfolder in this area.

- For use by all users on a machine, copy the DLL to:

`%programfiles%\SAS\EnterpriseGuide\4.3\Custom`

You might need to create the “Custom” subfolder in this area. You might need elevated privileges on your machine to copy content into the Program Files area.

After the file is copied into place, restart SAS Enterprise Guide 4.3. The task should be available from the Tools->Add-In menu.

Using the Custom Task

To use the task to a data set to a Microsoft Excel 2007 file:

1. In SAS Enterprise Guide 4.3, select a data set from your SAS environment and open it/add it to the project.
2. Choose **Tools->Add-In ->Export to Microsoft Excel 2007/2010**. The Export Data task appears.
3. Use the task options to specify your preferences for the export operation, including a destination file and any advanced options.
4. Click **Run** to perform the Export step. When the export operation completes, the details of the operation are reported in the Log item for the task.

The Export step is saved within your project. Every time that you run the project or process flow that contains the Export step, the Microsoft Excel file will be replaced with the most recent content.

The screenshot displays the SAS Enterprise Guide interface. At the top, the 'Process Flow' window shows a sequence of steps: 'CANDY_SAL...', 'Query Builder', 'QUERY_FOR...', and 'Export to Excel from...'. Below this, the 'Export to Excel from WORK.QUERY_FOR_CANDY_SALES_SUMMARY' task is selected. The 'Input Data' tab is active, showing the task configuration. The 'Log' tab is also visible, displaying the execution details of the task.

Export to Excel Workbook Task

Input Data Set: WORK.QUERY_FOR_CANDY_SALES_SUMMARY from SASApp
Output Excel Workbook: C:\Projects\FilteredCandy.xlsx

EXPORTED FIELDS	Field name	Type	Format
11	Name	Character	\$w.
12	Region	Character	\$w.
13	OrderID	Numeric	BESTw.d
14	ProdID	Numeric	BESTw.d
15	Customer	Numeric	BESTw.d
16	Type	Character	\$w.