Overview

SAS/AF software provides a set of tools that you can use to develop applications within the SAS System. SAS/AF applications provide interactive user interfaces to all the data access, management, analysis, and presentation features of the SAS System. SAS/AF applications are stored in SAS catalog entries. You use the BUILD procedure (or the BUILD command) in SAS/AF software to create the following types of catalog entries:

- FRAME entries, which provide visual, object-oriented components for developing applications in environments that support a graphical user interface
- PROGRAM and MENU entries, which provide character-based features for developing applications in environments where a graphical user interface is not available
- SCL entries, which store SAS Component Language (SCL) programs
- CBT and HELP entries, which provide information and assistance to application users.

Other utility entry types can also be created to support your applications.

Although SAS/AF software is required for building applications, users do not need to license or install SAS/AF software in order to run the applications. The commands and procedure that launch SAS/AF applications are available in base SAS software. Catalog entry types that provide a display run in the AF window, which supports its own set of window management commands in addition to any custom commands that your application supports.

Learning More

- For information about the syntax of the BUILD procedure and the BUILD command, see Chapter 2, “The BUILD Procedure,” on page 3.
- For information about the types of catalog entries you can create with the BUILD procedure, see Chapter 3, “SAS/AF Catalog Entry Types,” on page 21.
- For information about running the applications you create with the BUILD procedure, see Chapter 4, “Executing SAS/AF Applications,” on page 53.
For information about the commands provided in the AF windows in which applications run, see Chapter 5, “AF Window Commands,” on page 65.

For an introduction to developing FRAME entry applications with SAS/AF software, refer to SAS Guide to Applications Development.