Overview of SAS/AF Software

SAS/AF software is a set of tools for developing applications. Central to the SAS/AF development environment is the frame. You can think of a frame as an application window that contains the interface (the fields and buttons) of your application. With SAS/AF frame application development, you can build much of your application visually, using drag-and-drop components. And because SAS/AF applications are stored in SAS catalogs, they are portable to all SAS software platforms.

Purpose of This Document

This document is an introduction to the SAS/AF development environment. It guides you through the basic skills that you need to build a simple frame application. It also gives you a foundation with which you can transition to the larger reference manuals that fully cover SAS/AF software.

Although this document is intended for new users of SAS/AF, you should be familiar with basic SAS concepts such as libraries, catalogs, and catalog entries. You do not need object-oriented programming experience to benefit from this document, but familiarity with object-oriented concepts will certainly help.

Although specific to SAS/AF in SAS®9, the overall processes that are presented in this document also apply to versions of SAS/AF software starting with SAS 8.1.
Help

Help is always available when you are using the SAS/AF development environment. To access help, select Help ➤ SAS Help and Documentation, navigate to SAS Products and then navigate to SAS/AF.

You can also get help on most windows and dialog boxes inside SAS/AF by pressing the F1 key when the window or dialog box is the active window, or by selecting Help ➤ Using This Window.

To access Help on a component in the Components window, right-click on the component, and then select Help on Class.

Documentation Available on the Web

SAS documentation, available in HTML or PDF, is available on the Web at http://support.sas.com/documentation/onlinedoc/.

The following books offer more information about developing applications using SAS/AF software:

- SAS Component Language 9.1: Reference
- SAS/AF 9.1 Procedure Guide

The text of all three of these books is also available in the SAS/AF help.

Software Requirements

To build the frame applications in this document, you must have SAS/AF software installed, and you must have a monitor that is capable of displaying graphics. To run the frame applications in this document, you must have Base SAS software.

Mainframe Support

SAS/AF does not support frame application development on a mainframe. However, you can build a frame application on another platform and then port that application to a mainframe platform (see “Native Controls” on page 5).