Paper 057-2009

The Pros and Cons of PROC DOCUMENT

Philip R Holland, Holland Numerics Limited, Royston, Herts, UK

ABSTRACT

Reports generated by a program using the ODS DOCUMENT destination can be stored, prior to printing, in a single file. This file can then be used with PROC DOCUMENT to generate reports selectively to 1 or more ODS destinations without the need to re-run the original data processing. This paper describes the benefits and limitations of PROC DOCUMENT.

SAVING YOUR REPORTS FOR LATER

The code below is flagged as "Experimental" in the SAS 8.2 Log, but will still run. It has "Production" status in SAS 9.1.3.

CODE

Saving your reports to a SAS Item Store:

```
ODS DOCUMENT NAME=work.doc1;
PROC MEANS DATA=sashelp.class;
  CLASS age;
  VAR height weight;
RUN;
PROC TABULATE DATA=sashelp.class;
  CLASS age;
  VAR height weight;
  TABLE (age ALL)
      ,(height*MEAN weight*MEAN);
RUN;
ODS DOCUMENT CLOSE;
```

Copying your Item Store file:

```
PROC COPY IN=work OUT=sasuser;
  SELECT doc1 (MEMTYPE=ITEMSTOR);
RUN;
```

Producing reports from an Item Store without having to rerun your report processing:

```
ODS HTML FILE="c:\temp\document.htm"
        STYLE=Default;
PROC DOCUMENT;
  DOC;
  DOC NAME=work.doc1;
  LIST/LEVELS=ALL;
  REPLAY;
RUN;
QUIT;
ODS HTML CLOSE;
```

Removing unwanted reports:

```
PROC DOCUMENT;
  DOC NAME=work.doc1;
  DELETE Means#1\Summary#1;
RUN;
QUIT;
```

USES

- All the reports generated by a program run can be stored, prior to printing, in a single file. This file can then be used to generate reports selectively to 1 or more destinations in a user-defined order without the need to rerun the original data processing.

- SAS Item Store files have the "sas7bitm" suffix in Windows Explorer and UNIX File Manager.

DRAWBACKS

- By default, Item Store members cannot be seen in the SAS Explorer window. To allow them to be seen in SAS Explorer in SAS 8.2, carry out the following changes to the Explorer options:

   (a) Start the SAS Explorer with the **EXPLORER** command, or select **Tools > Options > Explorer**.

   (b) Select the **Members** tab.

   (c) Select **ITEMSTOR** in the **Type** list. You may have to check the **View Undefined Types** box first.

   (d) Click the **Edit** button.

   (e) Click the **Select Icon** button, select the **ITEMSTOR** icon in the **Files, Folders, and Reports** group, and click the **OK** button.

   (f) Click the **OK** button.

   (g) Click the **Close** button.

- To allow them to be seen in SAS Explorer in SAS 9.1.3, carry out the following changes to the Explorer options:

   (a) Start the SAS Explorer with the **EXPLORER** command, or select **Tools > Options > Explorer**.

   (b) Select the **Members** tab.

   (c) Select **ITEMSTOR** in the **Type** list.

   (d) Click the **Unhide** button, so that it changes to **Hide**. A **Select Icon** windows will appear, select the **ITEMSTOR** icon in the **Files, Folders, and Reports** group, and click the **OK** button.

   (e) Click the **OK** button.

- Currently certain SAS procedures, i.e. **PROC PRINT** and **PROC REPORT**, only partially support or do not support the DOCUMENT destination, respectively.

- Other SAS procedures, e.g. **PROC FREQ**, can write to the DOCUMENT destination, but reports generated from that Item Store do not look the same as when the reports are sent directly to the final ODS destination. **PROC FREQ** reports from Item Stores look similar to **PROC TABULATE** reports.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Your comments and questions are valued and encouraged. Contact the author at:

Author Name	**Philip R Holland**
Company	**Holland Numerics Ltd**
Address	**94 Green Drift**
City / Postcode	**Royston, Herts SG8 5BT, UK**
Work Phone:	**+44 7714 279085**
Fax:	**+44 1763 244497**
Email:	**phil@hollandnumerics.com**
Web:	**www.hollandnumerics.com**

This paper and associated sample SAS code can be downloaded from the Holland Numerics Ltd web site at **www.hollandnumerics.com/SASPAPER.HTM**