Frequently Asked Questions

Can I upload my own data into the Amazon AWS?
No, you cannot upload your own data into the Amazon server. We have provided the data for every class.

Can I copy and paste my own code into the SAS editor on the Amazon image?
You cannot paste code from outside of the AWS image into the AWS image.

Do I have to do ALL the classes on Amazon or can I do some of the classes on my own machine?
You might opt to do Statistics 1 and PMLR (there might be other classes) on your own computer at work. However, most of the classes for the SAS Academy for Data Science program use software that requires a special image for the advanced software, like Enterprise Miner and Visual Analytics, etc. It would be better for you to use Amazon for your SAS Academy work.

How do the reservations on Amazon work?
There are 2 ways to make your reservation for an image on Amazon. Refer to this screen shot:

1. When you click here to request a future reservation (for example, you get on the VLE at 8:00 am and request a future reservation for 1:30 pm) – in this instance, for a future reservation, your Amazon image will be available exactly at 1:30 pm.
2. When you click "Make Reservation", you are asking for Amazon to retrieve and load the image – this process takes 30-45 minutes, so, for example, if you click this choice at 10:00 am, your reservation will not be ready until approximately 10:45 am.

This means that it is better to use the #1 method to make "future time" reservations to avoid the wait time. Or click #2 when you start working. For either method, when your reservation is ready, you will see a message in this window that your reservation is ready.
What if I make a reservation for 3 hours, but I only use 1 hour? Do I lose 3 hours of my Amazon time or do I lose only 1 hour?

If you work for all 3 hours of a reservation and the reservation time ‘runs out’ the image will be saved and the reservation will end. The next time you make a reservation, you can return to this saved image or you can start with a new image. There are also 2 options on the reservation window to help you deal with the image. When you are notified that the image is ready, you will see this window with some additional cancellation choices:

- Using “Cancel Reservation and Save Servers” stops the reservation and saves the image the student was working on. The next time the student wants to book a server they can book this saved image and continue working from where they left off. Next time you make a reservation use the Saved Image.
- Using “Cancel reservation and discard server?” This stops the reservation. Any changes made to the image during this reservation are discarded.

So, what does Cancelling have to do with the amount of time that I have left. To get time back you need to cancel the reservation explicitly. Both of the above cancel options will give you back any unused time. Book for 3 hours, use 1 hour. Cancel as shown above gives you back two hours. However, if you make a reservation and then do not explicitly cancel the reservation (or terminate the reservation), then the whole reservation time will be deducted. So if something happens after you make a reservation and you are not able to use the image, you should quickly log onto the VLE to cancel the reservation, so you get your time back.

I am working with the Visual Analytics class and can’t find the data or the LASR server

There are instructions in Chapter 1 of the Visual Analytics course that provide instructions for how to start the LASR server. You need to follow the instructions to start the server, first, or you will not see any data for the exercise. Unfortunately, when Amazon builds the image, it cannot start the LASR server on the image.

What if I have a question about something in the class?

The first resource is the SAS Communities for the SAS Academy for Data Science. We have SAS employees and users from around the globe monitoring the questions that come in. Of course, if you have a serious Technical Support issue (such as a system crash with a Fatal Error or some problem with the Amazon reservation) then you should contact trainingtechsupport@sas.com.
Does SAS assist with job placement?
No

What the pass rate is for previous Academy attendees?
Due to privacy issues, we do not publish pass rates.