ACCESSING SAS® SOFTWARE SAMPLE PROGRAM LIBRARIES USING CMS REXX

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Abstract

In order to provide easy online access to the SAS® software sample programs distributed with SAS Institute's products, a system, EXAMPLES, was written in CMS REXX. EXAMPLES provides a means of

• reviewing an annotated list of the sample programs available,
• looking at a specific sample program,
• copying a specific sample program, and
• printing a specific sample program.

Introduction

An important aid in writing new applications software is to study examples of existing programs. Sample program libraries distributed with SAS software products provide many good examples, ranging from code for simple data step manipulation to complex statistical designs and graphics examples. Also, many of the examples found in the SAS software product manuals are included in the program libraries. In order to provide the CMS SAS user convenient access to these SAS sample program libraries, this CMS REXX system, EXAMPLES, was written.

Requirements

CMS Release 4 is required to run EXAMPLES. For Version 5 of CMS SAS, the sample program libraries are shipped by the Institute in MACLIBs (CMS macro libraries) in packed format. Before using EXAMPLES, these MACLIBs should be unpacked. The sample programs are the members of the SAS product MACLIB.

For each SAS product that is to be referenced by EXAMPLES, an annotated list of the sample programs available for the product is required. Here, these lists are the edited output from the index program supplied with each MACLIB (suffix of the filename is INDEX).

Procedure

This system is primarily made up of one REXX EXEC called EXAMPLES, an XEDIT profile used for reviewing the particular SAS product list, and an XEDIT macro that contains the instructions for copying, XEDITing, and printing a selected SAS program. In addition, for each product that is to be referenced, there is an annotated list of the programs available. This list is generated, as mentioned above, from the index program supplied with the product MACLIB.

A diagram of how these procedures work is shown below:

```
Starting from CMS EXAMPLES
    Select SAS Product
        Choose Function
            Print annotated list of SAS product's sample programs
                Display XEDIT session of annotated list of SAS product's sample programs
                    Select SAS program of interest
                        Copy
                            XEDIT
                                Print
                                    Print copy of selected SAS program
```

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Illustrated below is an example of finding a split-plot anova program. A description of the process follows the example.

The first menu displays a list of the SAS product libraries available for review. In this instance, five libraries are listed. This will vary depending on the SAS products supported by a given computing center.

Two choices, PRINT and VIEW, are presented in the second menu.

The PRINT choice sends a copy of the index of sample programs to the printer.

The VIEW choice initiates an XEDIT session of the annotated list of programs available in the selected SAS product library. Standard XEDIT commands can then be used to move around in the annotated list and to locate keywords.

Under the VIEW choice, four function keys are set to specifically manipulate the sample program lists. Function keys 4 and 11 are set to XEDIT a selected sample program. Function key 2 is set to copy a selected sample program to the user's minidisk. Function key 5 is set to send a copy of a selected sample program to the printer. A selected program is selected by moving the cursor to the file of interest and then pressing the function key corresponding to the action desired for the selected program. The user's XEDIT profile is invoked when XEDITing a specific sample program.

Summary

CMS users looking for examples of SAS programs when learning SAS and when coding applications will find EXAMPLES a convenient way to access the SAS sample program libraries. Information center staff members using EXAMPLES will be able to quickly find sample programs requested by a user or quickly find examples when assisting a user in an unfamiliar area. EXAMPLES provides an easy way to more fully utilize the SAS software sample program libraries under CMS.

Acknowledgements

The author would like to acknowledge the advice of James Colten, University of Minnesota, St. Paul Computing Services.

Parts of this material were prepared while the author was employed by University of Minnesota St. Paul Computing Services.

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