Controlling which files are displayed in the PROC ACCESS window

by Bruce Gilsen, IRM

Problem: In order to create a SAS/DB2 access or view descriptor, PROC ACCESS is invoked by entering the following statements in the program editor window:

PROC ACCESS;
RUN;

The ACCESS window displays a list of files that includes a set of access and view descriptors, but also includes a large list of files that are unrelated to SAS/ACCESS software, including over 100 MAP files and several SASUSER files. These extra files clutter up the ACCESS window, making it more difficult to locate and process useful files. How can these extra files be removed from the display? (MVS operating system, Versions 6.06 and 6.07. Question submitted by Jerry Talley).

Solution: When PROC ACCESS is invoked, the ACCESS window displays all files that are currently active in your SAS session. No attempt is made to determine which files are relevant to PROC ACCESS. To limit the display to the set of files in one SAS library, enter the “library” command on the command line of the ACCESS window. The library command has the following syntax:

```===> LIBRARY libref```

where libref is the libref associated with the files that you wish to use. For example, to display only the files in the library that has a libref of mylib, enter on the command line:

```===> LIBRARY MYLIB```

Notes:

1. To determine the libref of the files that you wish to use, look in the column of the ACCESS window display titled “Libname.”

2. To restore the display of the active files in all libraries, type the following command on the command line:

```===> LIBRARY _ALL_```

3. It is also possible to display only the files of one member type in the ACCESS window, by entering the “memtype” command on the command line. For example:

```===> MEMTYPE ACCESS```

to display only access descriptors;

```===> MEMTYPE VIEW```

to display only view descriptors; and

```===> MEMTYPE _ALL_```

to restore the display of the active files of all member types.

It is not possible to display access and view descriptors at the same time using the memtype command.

4. Frequently-used library and memtype commands can be assigned to function keys.

Bruce Gilsen is a member of the SAS Consulting Group in the Research Division Unit of IRM. You can send questions or comments to him through cc:Mail, UNIX mail, or at Mail Stop 158. The “SAS Tips” column answers questions from SAS users, offers tips on problem resolution, and highlights new SAS features.
IV. SASware Ballot Survey Recommendations

The annual SASware Ballot survey distributed by SAS Institute enables SAS users to help shape the future development of the SAS system. At the Federal Reserve Board, the SAS user community is encouraged to participate in this process as follows:

- When SAS Institute requests suggestions for the SASware Ballot survey, a memo is sent to the SAS user community, encouraging them to send their suggestions to SAS Institute.
- When the SASware ballot survey is received at the Federal Reserve Board, a list of recommended ballot items is compiled and sent to the SAS user community. The list is based on the recommendations of the most knowledgeable users of each SAS product.

Future Plans

Future development plans include the following:

- Convert the SASZ Utilities Menu System from Version 6.06 to Version 6.07 in MVS SAS. Convert arrays to SCL lists in the SCL programs to simplify handling of variable names and user inputs. Write new SASZ utilities that display the formats in our in-house format library and the programs in the sample library provided by SAS Institute. Add the new utilities to the SASZ primary menu.
- Port the SASZ Utilities Menu System to Version 6.07 of UNIX SAS.

Conclusion

This paper reviewed methods used to improve SAS system support at the Federal Reserve Board. These methods do not require substantial time resources or intensive technical efforts and can be implemented at many large sites.

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