Using SYSPARM to Conditionally Execute Batch Jobs
Clarence Jackson, City of Dallas, TX

ABSTRACT and INTRODUCTION

SYSPARM is an automatic variable in SAS® which is put into the global Macro table at execution of every SAS job. The value of SYSPARM is set to null (" ") at execution, but can be up to 256 characters long. This variable can prove very useful in production type SAS jobs that must have the same conditional information updated with each execution.

SAMPLE APPLICATION

In the example below, the task is to create code that will print a report of records that are either (1) 'x' number of days old, or (2) within a range of dates. This program will be requested three-nine times a week by several different managers. You could either (1) write more than one version of the code, (2) update the program for each run, or (3) write the code using SYSPARM to control the selection of records for the report.

Using SYSPARM, such code would look like this:

```sas
//cjsparm job (ds07,xxxxxxxx),clja.4bs,class=s
//s1 exec sas,hold=yes,
//" options="dquote SYSPARM=day030 " <-- could be as below
//" syparm options are : 'day999' then put number of days from current day
//" or use start and stop dates : mmddymmdyyyy
//" //filein dd dsn=any,disp=old
//sysin dd *

DATA one (KEEP=acct recdate name amount firstday lastday);
DO UNTIL (END=allin);
  INFILE filein END=allin;
  INPUT recdate mmddyy6. f _n_ eq 1 THEN DO;
    task=SUBSTR(SYSPARM(),3);
    if task='day' then do;
      days=SUBSTR(SYSPARM(),4,3);
      firstday=INPUT(PUT(TODAY()),6.),mmddyy6.)
      lastday=INPUT(PUT((TODAY()-days),6.mmddyy6.);
    END;
    ELSE do;
      firstday=INPUT(PUT(SUBSTR(SYSPARM(),1,6),6.),mmddyy6.);
      lastday=INPUT(PUT(SUBSTR(SYSPARM()),7,6),6.mmddyy6.);
    END;
    RETAIN firstday lastday;
  END;
```
ELSE DO;
   IF lastday LE recday GE firstday THEN DO;
      INPUT cct 6. name $27. amount pd6.2;
      LABEL acct='account*number'
               name='payer*name'
               amount='refund*amount'
               recdate='refund*date';
      OUTPUT;
   END; END; RUN;

PROC SORT; by recdate; RUN;

PROC PRINT _N_ U D SPLIT="*";
   ID acct
   VAR name recdate amount;
   FORMAT recdate firstday lastday mmdy8. amount comma19.2;
   SUM amount;
   TITLE "city of Dallas - program name is &SYSJOBID";
   TITLE3 "list of refunds beginning " firstday " and ending " lastday;
   FOOTNOTE "sorted by refund date";
RUN;

ENDSAS;
/*
//

CONCLUSION

Using **SYSPARM** can allow the SAS program to make decisions, conditionally execute parts of
programs as required, and reduce program modifications. This will save time, and provide
flexibility in writing programs for multiple clients and uses.

REFERENCES

SAS® Language Ref, ver 6, 1st edition, page 784

AUTHOR

Clarence Jackson
City of Dallas
1500 Marilla St, 4BS
Dallas, TX 75201
phone (214) 670-3704
Internet e-mail: 73021.3404@compuserve.com