Video Tools For The SAS® System
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ABSTRACT
This paper supplements the formal online demo of the video tools that are included with Release 6.11 of the SAS System. After a brief introduction to the video tools, a sample presentation system that integrates a SAS/AF® Video Player Object with other multimedia objects is built. Next, we explore the Video Editor shipping with the SAS/GRAPH® Video Extensions. We see, via an editing example, how the video segments used in the presentation system were created. Finally, other sample applications that integrate video will be shown.

INTRODUCTION
Release 6.11 of the SAS System includes two new powerful video tools, the SAS/AF Video Player Class, and the Video Editor, included with the SAS/GRAPH Video Extensions. These two tools give you the power to create dynamic presentations that, until now, were not possible within the SAS System. Possible uses for the video tools include computer based training (CBT), presentation systems, video based help facilities, and executive information systems (EIS).

The SAS/AF Video Player Class makes it possible for you to embed a digital video player in any FRAME based application. This powerful addition to the SAS System adds a totally new dimension to your applications and presentations.

Once you have decided to use digital video, you might want to try your hand at producing your own video clips. The Video Editor shipped with the SAS/GRAPH Video Extensions gives you this capability. With the Video Editor you can:
- cut and paste video segments
- add special effect transitions between segments like dissolves and wipes
- overlay and edit digital audio onto your video
- overlay and animate professional looking text

A SAMPLE APPLICATION
In this example we create a walkthrough presentation system for a hypothetical real estate company. The system is designed to let potential buyers sit at a computer and take a guided tour of any home offered. The presentation system must be:
- simple to use
- highly interactive and mouse driven
- dynamic in visual content
- easy to expand and reconfigure
- portable to different computer systems

SAS/AF provides the perfect development environment for this project. With SAS/AF, a graphical user interface (GUI) can be developed in a relatively short period of time that is both easy to use and totally mouse driven.

A "slide show" system could be used but still images wouldn't give the dynamics that the company is looking for. Digital video, on the other hand, is very dynamic by nature and would make a good choice for the presentation medium. A SAS/AF Video Player Object can be integrated into the application that gives users a real sense of being there.

At times, the system would need to be reconfigured. For example, when a property is bought or taken off the market. Therefore, the presentation system should be easy to reconfigure. This design consideration is not a problem if SAS/AF is used. The system can be reconfigured simply by changing the video clips and associated image references in the SAS/AF catalogues.

The portability issue is a major strength of the SAS System. By developing the application with the SAS System, you are assured that it will run on any wide range of supported platforms.

CONCLUSION
The video tools provided in Release 6.11 of the SAS System add a totally new dimension to SAS applications. No longer are your applications restricted to slide show graphics and text. Now, with the power of SAS/AF and the Video Player Class, your applications can spring to life with full motion video and sound.

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