

Paper 150

Getting Started with the Latest Features of SAS/AF® Software

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ABSTRACT

This hands-on workshop will show you how to exploit the latest features of SAS/AF® software. Whether you are an experienced Application Developer or just getting started, you can benefit from the rapid application development approach that the newest SAS/AF® software features enable. The focus is on minimizing the need for programming while maximizing results!

This workshop is intended for SAS Software users who want to develop applications for the PC or UNIX environments. Before attending this workshop, you should be comfortable using the SAS Display Manager system and you should understand SAS Catalogs.

OBTAINING WORKSHOP HANDOUT

Due to the detailed instruction provided in the delivery of this hands-on workshop, the handout and follow-along instructions are not included in the SUGI Proceedings. Instead, you should access the full handout on the WEB at:

http://www.sas.com/service/edu/cantrain/sugi24_v7af.html

INTRODUCTION

As the initial release of the Nashville Project, Version 7 introduces many new features and enhancements for applications developers using SAS/AF® software. Many components are already enabled to handle common tasks such as drag and drop, and attribute linking without any programming required! To promote rapid development, this hands-on workshop focuses on the "Code-Free" development tools to handle common application tasks.

Example One

Since previous SAS/AF experience is not assumed, the workshop begins with the creation of a simple FRAME entry for navigation. To minimize keystrokes, the FRAME is built by dragging a component from the Component window and dropping it on the frame. The Properties window is then used to view, edit, and add component properties. Version 6 SAS/AF software users will immediately notice the ease of use, and differences in approach!

Example Two

A typical task for an application is the display of data and reports. However, since users need to dynamically make changes to what is displayed or how it is displayed, additional controls are typically used. The next example frame contains two controls: List Box control and Catalog Entry Viewer control. When the user selects a report from the List Box control, the corresponding report immediately displays in the region for the Catalog Entry Viewer control.

Using attribute linking, the Catalog Entry Viewer automatically watches for changes to the selected value in a List Box, and displays a report corresponding to the selected value. This is accomplished with no programming code!

Example Three

Many users enjoy Drag and Drop functionality in their applications so the next example alters the frame from Example Two, and enables Drag and Drop between the List Box Control and the Catalog Entry Viewer. Again, Version 6 SAS/AF® software users will note that Drag and Drop is implemented without the need for any programming code!

While there are many techniques for populating selection lists, this example uses the simplified model/view communication to establish communication between a model (such as Catalog Entry List model) and a viewer (like the List Box Control). Version 7 models and many Version 7 Viewer controls are already enabled for model/view communication.

CONCLUSION

Application Development is now easier and more effective with the enhanced development environment and increased component communication of Version 7 SAS/AF® software! This workshop focused on the development of powerful FRAME entries without the need for complex or lengthy programming.

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