

Moving Data and Analytical Results between SAS and Microsoft Office

posted: July 2005

When SAS software developer Vince DelGobbo wrote his paper "Moving Data and Analytical Results between SAS and Microsoft Office", he knew it would help users successfully integrate their SAS output with Excel and Word. However, he did not anticipate the intense interest the paper has generated, which led to presentations to SAS users groups nationwide.

"Our users really need to be able to get SAS output into Excel and Word. They need something reliable and relatively easy that doesn't require them to learn a lot of new technology," DelGobbo says.

Specifically, DelGobbo's paper explains how to use the HTML and XML support in SAS to incorporate most SAS output into Microsoft Word and Excel documents and, also, how to import Excel workbooks into SAS tables. DelGobbo's techniques are applicable no matter which platform SAS is installed on, whether mainframe, OpenVMS VAX, Windows, or other.

Simple Ways to Integrate SAS and Microsoft Office

The interest in DelGobbo's paper is a testament to the usefulness and simplicity of his techniques.

One technique uses the Output Delivery System (ODS)—part of Base SAS software that enables users to generate different types of output from Procedure code—to generate HTML and XML output. The HTML or XML files, which contain your SAS output, can then be opened using Excel or Word. Using ODS is an effective way to incorporate SAS output in Excel and Word documents.

Demonstrating this technique with sample data and SAS code, DelGobbo identifies common formatting problems that users might have when they use this method, and he shows how to fix such problems by using ODS styles and style overrides. For example, users might find that Excel's formatting erroneously removes leading 0s from data, or it incorrectly maps colors, changing them to gray. DelGobbo's paper provides efficient methods that correct these types of problems.

A second technique presented in this paper imports Excel workbooks into SAS tables. DelGobbo describes how to save a workbook as an XML file and, then, how to load the workbook into SAS by using a SAS macro and SAS XMLMap. All the SAS code that's needed in order to use this technique is available online.

Sharing the Techniques

The author first presented his paper as a Hands-On Workshop (to a full house) at the Southeast SAS Users Group conference in Nashville in October, 2004. After that initial presentation, he held another workshop at SUGI 30 in April, 2005, and gave a third presentation to a full house at the Pharmaceutical Industry SAS Users Group in May, 2005. Since then, the requests for presentations have poured in.

The popularity of the topic is no surprise to Jenine Eason, senior software engineer at Autotrader.com. "Hands-On Workshops (HOW) are traditionally one of the most popular sections at any conference. Vince's topic is a perfect fit for this type of learning experience. Having been the section chair twice for this presentation for HOW, I've seen

Read DelGobbo's SUGI papers

- ▶ [Moving Data and Analytical Results between SAS and Microsoft Office \(.pdf\)](#)
- ▶ [From SAS to Excel via XML \(.pdf\)](#)
- ▶ [A Beginner's Guide to Incorporating SAS Output in Microsoft Office Applications \(.pdf\)](#)
- ▶ [Techniques for SAS Enabling Microsoft Office in a Cross-Platform Environment \(.pdf\)](#)

Learn more about users groups

- ▶ [Review Upcoming U.S. Users Group meetings](#)
- ▶ [Find a Users Group in your area](#)
- ▶ [What's next for SUGI](#)

first-hand that the attendees find great value in it," Eason says.

In the upcoming months, DelGobbo will present this topic as:

- a talk to the Windy City SAS Users Group in Chicago on July 10-11, 2005.
- a talk to the Greater Cincinnati Area SAS Users Group on July 19, 2005.
- a talk to the Philadelphia Area SAS Users Group on November 9, 2005.
- a talk to the Research Triangle SAS Users Group on Nov. 16, 2005.
- a talk to the Westat In-house SAS Users Group on December 5, 2005.
- a talk to the Washington DC SAS Users Group on December 6, 2005.
- a talk to the Virginia SAS Users Group on February 28, 2006.
- a talk to the Genesee Valley SAS Users Group on April 5, 2006.
- a talk to the IHCIS In-house SAS Users Group on May 10, 2006.
- a talk to the Michigan SAS Users Group on June 8, 2006.
- Hands-On Workshops at the conferences for the Southeast SAS Users Group, South Central SAS Users Group, Northeast SAS Users Group, Midwest SAS Users Group, and the Western Users of SAS Software in the fall of 2005.

Among the SAS users who have found DelGobbo's techniques useful is independent consultant Jack Davison, president of Factotum Inc. who describes himself as a SAS enthusiast from the very beginning. "The tools for XML generation that Vince is developing are just about the most useful notion since SAS itself. I have had great success applying what he has shown me to the immediate needs of my work, so much so that other groups are 'borrowing' me to help them achieve similar results," Davison says.

In 2006, users can look forward to a new presentation from DelGobbo that focuses solely on techniques for transferring data from SAS to Excel and vice versa.

Getting This Paper

If you want to read the paper that we've just discussed or download the sample data, SAS macro, and SAS XMLMap, visit support.sas.com/saspresents. Under the heading "SAS Presentations at SUGI 30", scroll to the entry "Moving Data and Analytical Results between SAS and Microsoft Office" where you'll find the links that you need.

Any registered, in-house or local SAS users group can request a presentation for their meeting. If you would like to have this presentation as your annual SAS presentation at an upcoming meeting, please submit the request using the [online User Group Request Form](#) at least eight weeks in advance.