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Special points of interest:

- Welcome to Portsmouth!
- SESUG heads for Atlanta in 2006
- Kirk Lafler talks about SAS system options

The *SESUG* Informant

Welcome to Portsmouth, VA— and SESUG '05!

Welcome to the Commonwealth of Virginia! Our conference planners have been telling us for two years that “Virginia Is For SAS Lovers” – and the hard work they put into the conference proves that SESUG loves Virginia, too!

There's a magic about the Tidewater area. The very air speaks of heritage, of naval tradition, of history. From the first step into the area, you'll find a special warmth that's duplicated nowhere else.

The Tidewater area of Virginia is defined by tidal rivers; the James, York and Potomac. They flow from the Chesapeake Bay into the interior of the state. These rivers make the heart of Virginia, including Richmond, accessible by sea as well as land and air.

But however you make your way, by boat, car, train or plane – we welcome you to our conference.

Where to begin? Well, we hope you take a moment to explore our beautiful facility, the Renaissance Portsmouth Hotel. Upgraded and renovated to a state-of-the-art facility, it nonetheless maintains the charm of the area as if it was constructed during the Civil War. Little touches of maritime history and colonial craftsmanship are everywhere.

conference – and of course, welcome you to SESUG!

Then, if you're one of the lucky ones who registered for our Weekend Workshops – you are in for a day of purest pleasure. We have invited instructors from around the country, from SAS Institute in Cary NC to Eastern Oregon University, to provide our six weekend workshop sessions. At \$99 for a four-hour session, it is an educational bargain! It's late, but if you hurry, there might be one seat left...

General Manager Jacques Baheux and his staff have gone out of their way to help us bring the conference to you, and we appreciate their support as well.

But on to business! Sightseeing is lovely, and there are wonderful places to walk, shop, and eat all around the area. But we're here for the conference – right?

First stop – Registration! Maribeth Johnson, Deborah Skinner, and a crew of

volunteers (encompassing the entire EC, at one time or another during the conference) will be happy to give you your conference package, answer any questions you have any time during the



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Words From the Prez

Wow.

I'm sitting here, trying to sort out all the things buzzing through my head. It's still two months+ until the SESUG '05 conference in Portsmouth, we're working out some details with the GASUG (Greater Atlanta SAS Users Group) on promotions for the conference next year in Atlanta, taking care of some paperwork for the 2007 conference—and someone just asked me if we have candidates for the chairs of the 2008 conference. I pointed out the minor detail that we haven't even finalized where it's going to BE yet—but we still need to figure out who's going to be in the center seats, so we can discuss and finalize that in our Winter meeting in Atlanta next January—*sigh*.

Whoever said "the Devil is in the details" must have planned user group conferences...

Ah, but pretty soon I'll be passing the torch to some other new victim... err, EC member. I've reached my term limit, so I can't be re-elected to the office of Grand

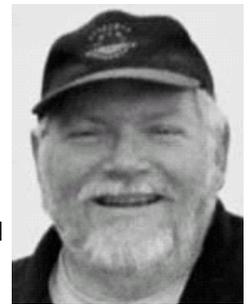
Poobah, High Potentate, and Master of All I Survey. (Oh, OK, on the official paperwork, it says Executive Council President... so what's in a name?)

So, in the Spring newsletter, you'll see a new name under this masthead. Me, I think I'll be content to just help with the conferences for a while, and not have to make so many decisions. And I get 200% of my current salary as a retirement pension... since 200% of zero is still zero... hey, it is a volunteer organization!

My final words here as the Prez are going to be good ones, though. A lot of people pulled together to make sure that the 2005 conference in Portsmouth VA maintains a tradition of excellence.

Section chairs rounded up wonderful speakers; we have a legion of volunteers to keep the conference running smoothly; our on-line Registration is working with nary a hitch. Best of all, I get to meet with good people from SAS and from all over our region, and enjoy the camaraderie that really has become a SESUG tradition.

"Best of all, I get to meet with good people from SAS and from all over our region, and enjoy the camaraderie that really has become a SESUG tradition."



- Dan Bruns

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“It would be easy to fall into a straight syntax definition in a work like this. It would also be a mistake – a mistake that the author does not make.”

Book Review—SAS Functions by Example, by Dr. Ron Cody

When I attend SUGI, I usually attempt to make the time to sit in on a talk by Ron Cody. Ron typically talks about beginner subjects, but he has a comfortable, casual style that makes his 50 minute talk seem like only 10. By the time he gets to the end of his presentation, even a veteran attendee has usually learned something that they can take back to their day-to-day job after the conference.

Ron isn't usually able to attend SESUG, as he does not live in our region, so our conference attendees may not have the opportunity to attend one of his talks. However, SESUG attendees can wander over to the SAS Publications booth at the Demo Room and pick up one of his books. His most recent book for SAS Press, SAS Functions by Example, which was published last year, provides an in-depth look at a commonly used SAS Language construct.

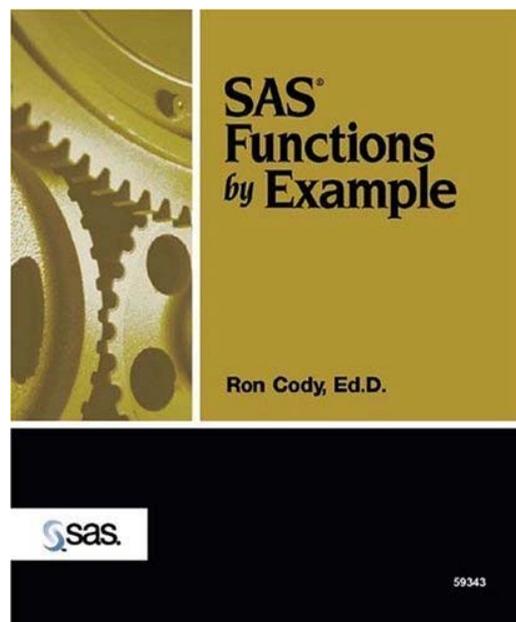
It would be easy to fall into a straight syntax definition in a work like this. It would also be a mistake – a mistake that the author does not make. The book does not have the dry feel of a manual. This is a smart move, since there already is a manual! Instead, the text flows like an instructional session, almost feeling as though Ron was standing behind me explaining what a particular function does and how it should be coded. The book doesn't stress syntax – you can get that out of the manual. It concentrates on explanations and examples, covering WHY you would want to do something and offering alternatives.

There were two aspects of this book that I found very appealing. The main attraction to a long-time SAS user like me is that the new functions are clearly labeled with a “SAS 9.1” Icon. These

are obviously items that I paid particular attention to. The other thing that appealed to me is that there are no footnotes or endnotes in this book. Like most readers, I never seem to thumb to the back of the book to look them up after reading the text, let alone actually go out and locate the material in question! Instead, Ron cites external sources that need to be credited directly in the text at the appropriate moment. For example, there was a reference early in the book to a NESUG presentation by Mike Zdeb – another knowledgeable individual.

This book proved a worthwhile investment of my time, one which I expect to see returned as I refer it in my daily job.

SAS Functions by Example by Ron Cody, published in 2004, is 440 pages long and retails for \$44.95. It is available through SAS Press.





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Then Sunday evening, after you've had a chance to sample the local cuisine, it's time to get the full SESUG ball rolling! We are most pleased to welcome SAS Institute's Vincent Del Gobbo as our Keynote speaker, who will address the opening session. Our Wizard of SAS will let us know that "We're Not In Kansas Any More" – with a smile. Then, of course, the traditional reception after the Opening Session will allow you to meet old friends from past conferences, and new ones as well.

Monday morning finds coffee and snacks on the conference floor, sausage and biscuits in the hotel restaurants, and a wonderland of SAS knowledge everywhere you look. You will know you're not in Kansas anymore, indeed; and the yellow brick road leads to six different rooms containing papers, presentations, and demos from around the globe, helping everyone from the newest SAS user to the 30-year veteran. With the Renaissance's magnificent amphitheater as the home for Hands-On Workshops, SAS Institute and our various sponsors offering the Demo Room, Destiny Corporation offering a visit to the Virtual Learning Center for ongoing classes, eight learning tracks plus the Posters and Video Posters display area – there is a rich tapestry of knowledge available.

We at SESUG know that there is a time and a place for everything. During the day, a time to work and learn; in the evenings, a time to rest and play. So, after the SAS Customer Appreciation Reception Monday evening, you are cordially invited to a Family Feud (SAS Style)! Popular games have been a tradition for a number of years at SAS conferences, and this year is no different. Please join host Barrett Joyner for an hour of fast-paced fun and silliness, as he smiles, jokes, and invites people to "come play the Feud"! Want to play? Contact Dr. Jennifer Waller at JWALLER@mcg.edu, or get in touch with her through the SESUG Registration desk.



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Speaking of Mr. Joyner – he has offered us a rare treat on Tuesday, as he presents "Principles of Project Management, or, Keeping Khaos Under Kontrol". This is a new feature of SESUG; a fully sponsored luncheon, complete with an exciting and talented speaker. (We try not to mention his spelling.) Barrett has long been a friend to SESUG, and we greatly appreciate his participation in the conference.



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Data Extraction	Efficiencies	Project Management
Process Automation	Analysis	Reporting

Finally, our not-to-be-missed Closing Session. Yes, we know you have a plane to catch. But it is our time to give away loads of prizes, including a free registration to next year's conference. We give you a sneak preview of SESUG 2006 in Atlanta GA. And most of all – it gives us a chance to thank our attendees, volunteers, and speakers for making the 2005 conference a success.

So, whether you see us as school, Oz, Wonderland, or just a few days of Southern Hospitality (with a lot of SAS on the side) – we welcome you to Portsmouth – and we're glad you could join us!

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Kirk's Korner: Quick & Simple Tips



Kirk Paul Lafler is with Software Intelligence Corporation. He is a published author on SAS, a frequent contributor to the SAS Informant, and has presented and taught workshops at local, regional, and SUGI conferences.



Identifying which SAS System Options are in Effect

SAS users frequently need to know the current settings of one or more SAS system options in order to customize the programming and/or operating environment. The OPTIONS procedure can help identify a smorgasbord of SAS session option settings including those that control the operating environment, input and output processing, data set handling features, output formatting, and numerous other options. Using PROC OPTIONS, users are able to view each option along with their setting to help control and manage a SAS session. Although SAS system options may vary by site or by operating environment, default settings are automatically initialized when the SAS system is invoked. To identify the SAS system options in effect during a session, users can specify the PROC OPTIONS statement as follows.

SAS Code

```
PROC OPTIONS;
RUN;
```

Options Output (Partial Listing)

SAS (r) Proprietary Software Release 9.1 TS1M0

Portable Options:

```
APPLETLOC=D:\applets\9.1
                                Location of Java applets
NOASYNCHIO                       Do not enable asynchronous input/output
AUTOSAVELOC=
auto saved                       Identifies the location where program editor contents are
NOAUTOSIGNON                      SAS/CONNECT remote submit will not automatically attempt to
SIGNON
NOBATCH                           Do not use the batch set of default values for SAS system
options
BINDING=DEFAULT                   Controls the binding edge for duplexed output
BOTTOMMARGIN=0.000 IN
                                Bottom margin for printed output
BUFNO=1                           Number of buffers for each SAS data set
BUFSIZE=0                         Size of buffer for page of SAS data set
BYERR                              Set the error flag if a null data set is input to the SORT
procedure
BYLINE                             Print the by-line at the beginning of each by-group
BYSORTED                           Require SAS data set observations to be sorted for BY
processing
NOCAPS                             Do not translate source input to uppercase
NOCARDIMAGE                        Do not process SAS source and data lines as 80-byte records
CATCACHE=0                         Number of SAS catalogs to keep in cache memory
CBUFNO=0                           Number of buffers to use for each SAS catalog
CENTER                             Center SAS procedure output
NOCHARCODE                         Do not use character combinations as substitute for special
characters not
                                on the keyboard
CLEANUP                             Attempt recovery from out-of-resources condition
NOCMDMAC                           Do not support command-style macros
CMPLIB=                             Identify previously compiled libraries of CMP subroutines to
use when linking
CMPOPT=(NOEXTRAMATH NOMISSCHECK NOPRECISE NOGUARDCHECK)
                                Enable SAS compiler performance optimizations
```

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NOCOLLATE	Do not collate multiple copies of printed output
COLORPRINTING	Print in color if printer supports color
COMAMID=TCP	Specifies the communication access method to be used for SAS distributed products
COMPRESS=NO	Specifies whether to compress observations in output SAS data sets
CONNECTSTATUS	Show the current status of a SAS/CONNECT upload or download transfer
CONNECTWAIT	Wait for a SAS/CONNECT rsubmit to finish before allowing further processing to occur
COPIES=1	Number of copies to make when printing
CPUCOUNT=1	Number of processors available.
CPUID	Print CPU information at beginning of log
DATASTMTCHK=COREKEYWORDS	Control whether keywords such as SET, MERGE, etc. are accepted as one-level dataset names in the DATA statement
NODATE	Do not print date and time on top of each page of SAS log and procedure output
DATESTYLE=MDY	Identify sequence of month, day and year when ANYDATE informat data is ambiguous

< . . . Partial OPTIONS Listing . . . >

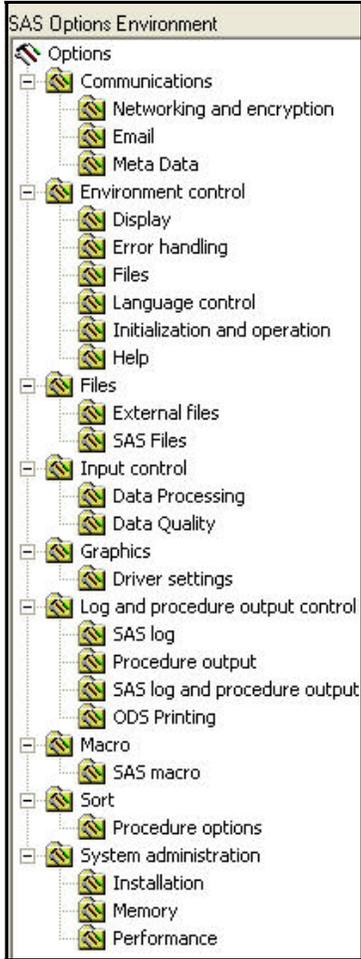
DBSRVTP=NONE	Enable SAS server throughput for these SAS/Access products
NODETAILS	Do not display additional information in directory lists
DEVICE=	Graphics device driver
DFLANG=ENGLISH	Language for EURDF date/time formats and informats
DKRCOND=ERROR	Action for DROP/KEEP/RENAME error conditions on input SAS data sets
DKROCOND=WARN	Action for DROP/KEEP/RENAME error conditions on output SAS data sets
DLDMGACTION=REPAIR	SAS System action taken when a damaged dataset or catalog is opened
NODMR	Invoke a local SAS session
DMS	Invoke the SAS Display Manager System
DMSEXP	Display Explorer, Program Editor, Log, and Output windows.
DMSLOGSIZE=99999	Maximum number of rows in DMS log window
DMSOUTSIZE=99999	Maximum number of rows in DMS output window
NODMSSYNCHK	Do not enable syntax check, in windowing mode, for a submitted statement block
DQLOCALE=	Data Quality best locale default and search order
DQSETUPLOC=	SAS Data Quality - Cleanse setup file
DSNFERR	Generate error when SAS data set not found condition occurs
NODTRESET	Do not update date and time for log and print output
NODUPLEX	Do not print output in duplex mode
NOECHOAUTO	Do not echo AUTOEXEC input to log
EMAILAUTHPROTOCOL=NONE	Identifies the SMTP e-mail authentication protocol
EMAILHOST=LOCALHOST	SMTP server host for email access method
EMAILID=	From E-mail address, log in id, or profile for use with underlying e-mail system
EMAILPORT=25	Port number for SMTP server for email access method
EMAILPW=	Used by the E-mail Access Method and Send menu item to set the email session login password for the underlying e-mail system
ENGINE=V9	Default access method for SAS data libraries
NOERRORABEND	Do not abend on error conditions
NOERRORBYABEND	Do not abend on By-group error condition
ERRORCHECK=NORMAL	Level of special error processing to be performed
ERRORS=20	Maximum number of observations for which complete error messages are printed
NOEXPLORER	Do not invoke EXPLORER, which is an alternative to the Display Manager System
FIRSTOBS=1	Number of the first observation of each SAS data set to read

Another method of displaying the available SAS Options is to specify the OPTIONS command on any Display Manager System window. The OPTIONS command and the resulting Options display appears below.

SAS Command

OPTIONS

Options Window



A final method of displaying SAS Options settings is to specify the OPTIONS Dictionary table in the FROM clause of a PROC SQL SELECT statement as follows.

SAS Code

```
PROC SQL;
SELECT *
FROM DICTIONARY.OPTIONS;
QUIT;
```

Options Dictionary Table Output

Option Name	Option type	Option Setting	Option Description	Option Location	Option Group
APPLETLOC	char	D:\applets\0.1	Location of Java applets	Portable	ENVFILES
ARMAGENT	char		ARM Agent to use to collect ARM records	Portable	PERFORMANCE
ARMLOC	char	ARMLOC.LOG	Identify location where ARM records are to be written	Portable	PERFORMANCE
ARMSUBSYS	char	(ARM_NONE)	Enable/Disable ARMing of SAS subsystems	Portable	PERFORMANCE
ASYNCHIO	boolean	NOASYNCHIO	Enable asynchronous input/output	Portable	SASFILES
AUTOSAVELOC	char		Identifies the location where program editor contents are auto saved	Portable	ENVDISPLAY
AUTOSIGNON	boolean	NOAUTOSIGNON	SAS/CONNECT remote submit will automatically attempt to SIGNON	Portable	COMMUNICATIONS
BATCH	boolean	NOBATCH	Use the batch set of default values for SAS system options	Portable	EXECMODES
BINDING	char	DEFAULT	Controls the binding edge for duplexed output	Portable	ODSPRINT
BOTTOMMARGIN	char	0.000 IN	Bottom margin for printed output	Portable	ODSPRINT
BUFNO	num	1	Number of buffers for each SAS data set	Portable	PERFORMANCE
BUFSIZE	num	0	Size of buffer for page of SAS data set	Portable	PERFORMANCE

SAS users can arbitrarily choose to subset and display SAS options to a specific group or category by specifying the GROUP= parameter with the OPTIONS procedure. The resulting display of options is not only much smaller, but they represent those options relevant to the group being selected. The following table shows an alphabetical list of the different option categories that can be specified with the GROUP= parameter in the PROC OPTIONS statement.

GROUP= Options	Description
COMMUNICATIONS	Communications, networking and encryption controls
ENVDISPLAY	Environment and display controls
ENVFILES	Environment control files
ERRORHANDLING	Error handling and control
EXTFILES	Files: External files
GRAPHICS	Graphics driver settings
INPUTCONTROL	Input control
INSTALL	System administration: Installation
LANGUAGECONTROL	Environmental language control
LISTCONTROL	Procedure output control
LOG_LISTCONTROL	SAS Log and procedure output control
LOGCONTROL	SAS Log control
MACRO	SAS Macro control
MEMORY	System memory administration
ODSPRINT	SAS ODS procedure output and printing control
PERFORMANCE	System performance administration
SASFILES	SAS files
SORT	Sort procedure options

The final example shows how the `OPTIONS` procedure can be used to subset and display only those options relevant to the SAS macro language by specifying the `GROUP = MACRO` parameter.

SQL Code

```
PROC OPTIONS GROUP = MACRO;
RUN;
```

Results

SAS (r) Proprietary Software Release 9.1 TS1M0

```
NOCMDMAC          Do not support command-style macros
NOIMPLMAC         Do not allow statement-style macro calls
MACRO             Allow use of SAS macro facility
NOMAUTOLOCDISPLAY Do not display the location from which the autocall macro source code is
                  compiled
MAUTOSOURCE       Allow the macro autocall feature
MCOMPILENOTE=NONE Issue a note to the log when a macro has been successfully compiled
MERROR           Treat apparent undefined macro references as an error
NOMFILE          Do not write MPRINT output to an external physical file
MINDELIMITER=    Identifies the character to use as the delimiter of the macro IN operator
NOMLOGIC         Do not trace macro execution
NOMLOGICNEST     Do not display macro nesting information in MLOGIC output
NOMPRINT         Do not display SAS statements generated by macro execution
```

(Continued from page 10)

NOMPRINTNEST	Do not display macro nesting information in MPRINT output
NOMRECALL	Do not search autocall libraries for an undefined macro name each time the macro is invoked
NOMSTORED	Do not use stored compiled macros
MSYMTABMAX=4194304	Maximum amount of memory allocated for the macro table
MVARSIZE=4096	Maximum length of value of macro variable
SASAUTOS=SASAUTOS	Search list for autocall macros
SASMSTORE=	Libref associated with SAS data library containing catalog of compiled stored macros
SERROR	Treat references to undefined macro variables as an error
NOSYMBOLGEN	Do not write results of resolving macro variable references to SAS log

CONTACT INFORMATION

If you would like more information or have any questions about this tip, please contact: Kirk Paul Lafler, Software Intelligence Corporation at KirkLafler@cs.com. Kirk has been working with the SAS System for 27 years and is a SAS Certified Professional® and SAS Alliance Partner® (1996 - 2002). His company provides custom SAS programming, application design and development, specialized consulting services, and hands-on SAS training around the world. Kirk is the author of four books including PROC SQL: Beyond the Basics Using SAS by SAS Institute, Power SAS and Power AOL by Apress, and more than one hundred articles that have appeared in professional journals and SAS User Group proceedings. His popular SAS Tips column, Kirk's Korner, appears regularly in the BASAS, HASUG, SANDS, SAS, SESUG, and WUSS Newsletters and websites. Kirk can be reached at:

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Local User Groups in Virginia—Come Visit!

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If you would like to be a part of the next Informant, we always welcome articles, perspectives, and new ideas. Contact the editor, Gary E. Schlegelmilch, via e-mail at editor@sesug.org. Advertising information is also available upon request; contact Imelda Go at igo@sde.state.sc.us.

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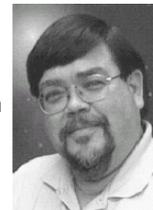
Editor's Afterwords

As I sit and think of what to offer today; our neighbors on the Gulf Coast have no sooner cleaned up after Hurricanes Cindy and Dennis, then they face a new struggle in Katrina. E-mails and phone calls have gone back and forth to friends, family and colleagues, just checking in, making sure everyone's all right.

SESUG has had a challenging flurry of activity as well. Due to a number of professional transitions, personal concerns, and individual choices within our ranks—this year's conference became genuinely a team effort. Instead of a pair of conference chairs, members of the Executive Council pitched in together to bring you the 2005 conference. Hopefully, it taught us all a little something new about teamwork, and strengthened the bonds that keep us coming back as volunteers, year after year, to bring you these conferences.

One of the genuine pleasures of working with SESUG is the parade of people who join in making this happen every year. We have some EC members who have been with us since the first conference in 1993 in St. Petersburg; and the newest members, who will be inducted shortly and are scheduled to host the conference in 2007. In between, there are people who have changed jobs, changed responsibilities, moved, or just generally were not able to actively continue with us. For those who had to move on; your contributions are not forgotten. For those who are still here; we have conferences to plan.

And, for everyone who has contributed to SESUG—fellow EC members, presenters, sponsors, and volunteers—thank you.



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