Questions & Answers
OASUS Spring 2005 General Meeting

Question #1 What is the process for making suggestions to SAS for enhancements in future releases? (Leonard Landry, Statistics Canada)

Answer:

SAS Institute uses suggestions for enhancements to produce the annual SASware Ballot that is sent to users on the SASCOM subscription list and mailing lists of SUGI attendees. It is also posted on the SAS Web site after it has been created for a given year. Users vote for the items they would most like to see implemented. That is how Proc Report came to be, for example. Suggestions can be sent to SAS technical Support by phone, by e-mail or by using the online suggestion form. The form is located at support.sas.com. Click on Technical Support and, on the Technical Support Resources page, click the second last link - SASware Ballot and Suggestions.

Question #2 Can SAS read MS-ACCESS field descriptions and translate or put them into labels in SAS? (Susan Wilson, CFIA)

Answer:

SAS can not read MS-ACCESS field descriptions. Although these are stored along with the data within a .mdb file, they cannot be accessed by the MS Jet Engine which is the facility used by SAS to read an MS-ACCESS database. In fact, a field description is only accessible from the MS-ACCESS Table Design view, which allows you to create an entire table from scratch, add, delete, or customize the fields in an existing table, set a field's data type, and write a description of the field.

Question #3 How to write out to a text file an explicit '+' sign using the scientific notation (such as E22.)? (Joel Orr, Statistics Canada)

Answer:

The following approach is not ideal but it works!

```
data _null_;

      do b = -1.5 to 1.5 by 0.5;

            if b < 0 then sign='-'; else sign='+';
            put b=; /* does not follow scientific notation */
            put  @1 b e22.; /* scientific notation but no explicit + sign */
            put  @1 b e22. @1 sign $1.; /* scientific notation with explicit + sign */

      end;

run;
```

Question #4 How to get a SAS generated printout to fit on a page without dribbling off the edges? (Maryanne Reid)

Answer: Use the linesize option.