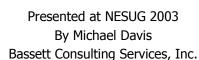


The Best of Cheesy, Sleazy SAS® Tricks





Introduction

- Paper based on off-hand comment
- Tips solicited on SAS-L
- What is "Cheesy" or "Sleazy"?
 - Coding declarations that suppress oversolicitous features of SAS software
 - Tricks that hint at unexpected SAS behavior



Add Dummy Parms to Macros

- What if an addt'l parameter needed after a macro has been deployed?
- Code as
 %macro noparams(dummy=) ;
- Call as
 %noparms();



Do It In Three (or Four)

- Boolean test used with MERGE statement
 - if a=1 and b=1if a and b
 - if a*bif a& b;
- Ampersand represents logical AND



This Variable Is Uninitialized

NOTE: Variable z is uninitialized.

```
data ... ;
    %* prevent NOTE: Variable ***** is
        uninitialized messages ;
   retain _character_ '' _numeric_ . ;
   stop ;
run ;
```



ERR-OR, WARN-ING

Goal is to prevent "ERROR" or "WARNING" from appearing in log

• Note the absence of a concatenation operator



Tweaking PROC FREQ SORT ORDER

- Report comes out in format label order
- Use leading blank to tweak the order

```
value myfmt
1=" High School"
2="College"
3="Grad School";
```



Global Macro Declaration Trick

- Has global macro variable been set ?
 - %put The Length of NESUG is %length(&nesug);
 - WARNING: Apparent symbolic reference NESUG not resolved.
- Solution: %global nesug ;
- LOG: The Length of NESUG is 0



Left Side Functions

Left side of an assignment can be altered!

```
substr(name, 2) =
   lowcase(substr(name, 2));
```

In this example, "RALPH" becomes "Ralph"



Quick Way to Read Mixed-Case Text

```
data xyz ;
  infile 'mydata.txt' ;
  input @ ;
  _infile_ = upcase(_infile_) ;
  input ... ;
run :
```

Why sleazy? Modification of _infile_



Debug PROC REPORT COMPUTE Blocks

- Put statement yields the following error:
 ERROR: PUT statement is not valid in this context.
- Insert the following in the block: call execute('%put' || <variable>);
- Why sleazy? CALL EXECUTE usually references a macro, not a %PUT



Conclusion

- Illustrate the subtle nature of SAS
- Features are well embedded in SAS and should be available in subsequent releases and across platforms
- Author may revisit this subject in the future so keep those "cheesy" and "sleazy" tricks coming in



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