

The Best of Cheesy, Sleazy SAS® Tricks

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Introduction

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

Add Dummy Params 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=1`
 - `if a and b`
 - `if a*b`
 - `if 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

```
data _null_ ;  
  put "WARN" "ING: -bad thing!  
  Check!" _all_ ;  
run ;
```

- 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) =  
    lowercase(substr(name, 2)) ;
```

- In this example, "RALPH" becomes "Ralph"

Quick Way to Read Mixed-Case Text

```
data xyz ;  
    infile 'mydata.txt' ;  
    input @ ;  
    _infile_ = uppercase(_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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