FAQ for New Users of SAS Version 8

Q: What are the new features of SAS Version 8?

A: SAS 8 offers some very useful new features as follows:

1. Variable names can be as long as 32 characters
2. Variable and table labels can be as long as 256 characters
3. Output: column names are labeled as defined
4. Character variable can be as long as 32 kilobytes
5. Mixed case column names
6. Explorer Window for browsing and managing libraries and datasets
7. Results Window for navigating and managing output. You can view, save, and print individual items of the output.
8. Enhanced Editor Window with color coding for easier debugging
9. Output Delivery System (ODS) allows different output format including HTML and postscript
10. Utilities to manage multiple versions of a given SAS dataset
11. Availability of data integrity constraints
12. Enhancement to most procedures
13. Enhanced data accessibility

Q: Can I read/create SAS 8.x datasets in SAS612?

A: No. But you can read/create SAS612 dataset in SAS8.

Q: How can I tell if a SAS dataset is created in SAS 8.x?

A: You can tell by looking at their file extensions. More specifically, if the file extension is **`.sd2`**, the file must be a SAS612 for Windows dataset. If the file extension is **`.ssd01`**, the file must be a SAS612 for UNIX dataset. For SAS 7 and SAS 8.x, the file extension has now become **`.sas7bdat`**, and this is true for both Windows and UNIX.

Q: How can I read/create SAS612 dataset in SAS8?

A: To read/create SAS612 dataset in SAS8, you need to specify the right SAS engine. By default, SAS 8.x uses V8 engine. The following command will ensure that V6 engine be used to read a dataset named olddata.sd2 located in c:\sasdata.

```
LIBNAME old v612 ‘c:\sasdata’;
DATA new;
SET old.olddata;
RUN;
```

Q: How to read/create a SAS8 dataset?

A: By default, SAS 8.x will use V8 engine, but you can use the following command to ensure that the V8 engine be used.

```
LIBNAME   new v8 ‘c:\newdata’;
DATA new.data1;
INPUT x1…..;
…
…
RUN;
```

Q: How can I work with SAS V6 datasets and SAS V8 datasets at the same time?

A: The most effective way to do this is to concatenate SAS libraries so that SAS V8.x can recognize datasets of Version 6 and Version 8.

```
LIBNAME LIB6 V612 “D:\SASDATA”;
LIBNAME LIB8 V8 “D:\SASDATA”;
LIBNAME LIBBOTH (LIB6, LIB8);
```

With the above command, you can access both datasets in d:\sasdata using LIBBOTH.

Q: How to create permanent SAS datasets in Version 8?

A: You can create permanent SAS datasets in two different ways in Version 8. Here’s the first one:

```
LIBNAME DISS 'C:\DATA\';
DATA DISS.DATASET1;
INPUT X1-X5;
CARDS;
10000 10500 11000 12000 12700
14000 16500 18000 22000 29000
;
RUN;
```

The above program will create a permanent SAS dataset in the directory **`c:\data\`**, and it is called **`dataset1.sas7bdat`**. Please notice the extension

of the file. But you can also create permanent SAS datasets in SAS 8 without using library reference.

```
data 'c:\data\dataset2';
input x1000000 x1000001 x1000002;
cards;
100 105 110
140 165 180
200 220 420
;
run;
```

This will create a dataset called **`dataset2.sas7bdat`** in **`c:\data`**.

Q: How can I transfer SAS 8.x datasets between Unix workstations and Windows machines?

A: No Conversion is needed when you transfer SAS 8.x datasets between UNIX workstations and Windows machines. What you need to do is to FTP the dataset, using binary mode of course, to the machine you desire.