

The Elements of SAS[®] Programming Style

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Bio:

Frank DiIorio is author of "SAS Applications Programming: A Gentle Introduction" and (with Ken Hardy) "Quick Start to Data Analysis with SAS." Both titles are part of SAS Institute's Books by Users series and have sold over 25,000 copies. Frank has been active in the SouthEast SAS Users Group (SESUG) since its inception, co-chairing the 1994 and 1996 conferences.

He has, much to his astonishment after doing the math, over a quarter century experience with SAS software. His new book, "The Elements of SAS Programming Style," (working title) will be published "real soon now."

When not writing about SAS, Frank writes in SAS, primarily data management and reporting applications in the pharmaceutical industry. A native New Yorker, he has lived in Chapel Hill, North Carolina since 1974 and sort of buys into its claim of being the "Southern Part of Heaven."

Abstract:

The generalized nature of SAS software almost guarantees that "n" users will develop "n" unique solutions to even basic tasks. The gap between the task correctly performed by the programs and the disparate code is, for the most part, due to programming style. This presentation discusses a set of generalized programming style guidelines useful to both experienced and novice SAS programmers. It first investigates general principles of program design, those aspects of the analysis and coding process common to all aspects of SAS programming. The next sections focus on coding guidelines for the DATA step and procedures. Finally, debugging techniques are addressed.