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Chapter 1
About Data Set Options

Definition of Data Set Options
Data set options specify actions that apply only to the SAS data set with which they appear. Data set options enable you to perform these operations:

• rename variables
• select only the first or last n observations for processing
• drop variables from processing or from the output data set
• specify a password for a data set

Syntax
Specify a data set option in parentheses after a SAS data set name. To specify several data set options, separate them with spaces.

(option-1=value-1 < ...option-n=value-n>)

The following examples show data set options in SAS statements:

• data scores(keep=team game1 game2 game3);
• data mydata(index=(b k) label='label for my data set' drop=p read=secret);
• data new(drop=i n index=(j combo=(x1 a1 a20 b1 b50 )));
• data idxdup2(compress=yes index=(ok1 ok2 ssn/unique ok3));
• proc print data=new(drop=year);
Using Data Set Options

Using Data Set Options with Input or Output SAS Data Sets

Most SAS data set options apply to either input or output SAS data sets in DATA steps or procedure (PROC) steps. If a data set option is associated with an input data set, the action applies to the data set that is being read. If the data set option appears in the DATA statement or after an output data set specification in a PROC step, SAS applies the action to the output data set. In the DATA step, data set options for output data sets must appear in the DATA statement, not in any OUTPUT statements that might be present.

Some data set options, such as COMPRESS=, are meaningful only when you create a SAS data set because they set attributes that exist for the duration of the data set. To change or cancel most data set options, you must re-create the data set. You can change other options (such as PW= and LABEL=) with PROC DATASETS.

When data set options appear in input and output data sets in the same DATA or PROC step, SAS first applies data set options to input data sets. Then SAS evaluates programming statements or applies data set options to output data sets. Likewise, data set options that are specified for the data set that is being created are applied after programming statements are processed. For example, when you are using the RENAME= data set option, the new names are not associated with the variables until the DATA step ends.

In some instances, data set options conflict when they are used in the same statement. For example, you cannot specify the DROP= and KEEP= data set options for the same variable in the same statement. Timing can also be an issue in some cases. For example, if you are using KEEP= and RENAME= on a data set that is specified in the SET statement, KEEP= needs to use the original variable names. SAS processes KEEP= before the data set is read. The new names that are specified in RENAME= apply to the programming statements that follow the SET statement.

How Data Set Options Interact with System Options

Many system options and data set options share the same name and have the same function. System options remain in effect for all DATA steps and PROC steps in a SAS job or session.

The data set option overrides the system option for the data set in the step in which it appears. In this example, the OBS= system option in the OPTIONS statement specifies that only the first 100 observations are processed from any data set within the SAS job. However, the OBS= data set option in the SET statement overrides the system option for data set TWO. OBS= specifies that only the first five observations are read from data set TWO. The PROC PRINT step prints the data set FINAL. This data set contains the first five observations from data set TWO, followed by the first 100 observations from data set THREE:

```sas
options obs=100;

data final;
  set two(obs=5) three;
```
Data Set Options Documented in Other SAS Publications

In addition to data set options documented in SAS Viya Data Set Options: Reference, data set options are also documented in the following publication:

• SAS Cloud Analytic Services: Language Reference
# Chapter 2

## Dictionary of Data Set Options

### SAS Data Set Options by Category

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SAS Data Set Options by Category

The categories for SAS data set options correspond to the SAS data set option groups:

- **CAS**
  - options that run in the CAS server
- **Data Set Control**
  - options that are associated with data sets
- **Observation Control**
  - options that are associated with observations
- **User Control of SAS Index Usage**
  - options that are associated with indexes
- **Variable Control**
  - options that are associated with variables
- **Miscellaneous**
  - option that is associated with tape position

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<td>IN= Data Set Option (p. 34)</td>
<td>Creates a Boolean variable that indicates whether the data set contributed data to the current observation.</td>
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<td>WHERE= Data Set Option (p. 74)</td>
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<td>Variable Control</td>
<td>DROP= Data Set Option (p. 17)</td>
<td>For an input data set, excludes the specified variables from processing; for an output data set, excludes the specified variables from being written to the data set.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>KEEP= Data Set Option (p. 37)</td>
<td>For an input data set, specifies the variables to process; for an output data set, specifies the variables to write to the data set.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>RENAME= Data Set Option (p. 54)</td>
<td>Changes the name of a variable.</td>
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Dictionary

ALTER= Data Set Option
Assigns an ALTER= password to a SAS file that prevents users from replacing or deleting the file, and enables access to a read- and write-protected file.

**Valid in:** DATA step and PROC steps  
**Category:** Data Set Control  
**Restriction:** This data set option is not valid in a DATA step that runs in Cloud Analytic Services.  
**Note:** Check your log after this operation to ensure password security.

**Syntax**

```sas
ALTER=alter-password
```

**Syntax Description**

`alter-password`

must be a valid SAS name.

**Details**

The ALTER= option applies to all types of SAS files except catalogs. You can use this option to assign a password to a SAS file or to access a read-protected, write-protected, or alter-protected SAS file.

When replacing a SAS data set that is protected with an ALTER password, the new data set inherits the ALTER password. To change the ALTER password for the new data set, use the MODIFY statement in the DATASETS procedure.

**Note:** A SAS password does not control access to a SAS file beyond the SAS system. Use the operating system-supplied utilities and file-system security controls in order to control access to SAS files outside of SAS.

**Operating Environment Information**

Use one of the following SAS engines: V9, V8, V6

**See Also**

Data Set Options:

- “ENCRYPT= Data Set Option” on page 19
- “PW= Data Set Option” on page 52
- “READ= Data Set Option” on page 54
- “WRITE= Data Set Option” on page 78
**BUFNO= Data Set Option**

Specifies the number of buffers to be allocated for processing a SAS data set.

- **Valid in:** DATA step and PROC steps
- **Category:** Data Set Control
- **Restriction:** This data set option is not valid in a DATA step that runs in Cloud Analytic Services.
- **See:** BUFNO= Data Set Option in the documentation for your operating environment.

### Syntax

```
BUFNO= n | nK | hexX | MIN | MAX
```

#### Syntax Description

- **n | nK**
  
  specifies the number of buffers in multiples of 1 (bytes); 1,024 (kilobytes). For example, a value of 8 specifies 8 buffers, and a value of 1k specifies 1,024 buffers.

- **hexX**
  
  specifies the number of buffers as a hexadecimal value. You must specify the value beginning with a number (0–9), followed by an X. For example, the value 2dx sets the number of buffers to 45.

- **MIN**
  
  sets the minimum number of buffers to 0, which causes SAS to use the minimum optimal value for the operating environment. This is the default.

- **MAX**
  
  sets the number of buffers to the maximum possible number in your operating environment, up to the largest four-byte, signed integer, which is $2^{31} - 1$, or approximately 2 billion.

### Details

The buffer number is not a permanent attribute of the data set; it is valid only for the current SAS session or job.

BUFNO= applies to SAS data sets that are opened for input, output, or update.

A larger number of buffers can speed execution time by limiting the number of input and output (I/O) operations that are required for a particular SAS data set. However, the improvement in execution time comes at the expense of increased memory consumption.

To reduce I/O operations on a small data set as well as speed execution time, allocate one buffer for each page of data to be processed. This technique is most effective if you read the same observations several times during processing.

To request that SAS allocate the number of buffers based on the number of data set pages and index file pages, use the SASFILE global statement.

### Operating Environment Information

The default value for BUFNO= is determined by your operating environment and is set to optimize sequential access. To improve performance for direct (random) access, change the value for BUFNO=. For the default setting and possible settings
for direct access, see the BUFNO= data set option in the SAS documentation for your operating environment.

Operating Environment Information
Use one of the following SAS engines: V9, V8, V6

Comparisons

• If the BUFNO= data set option is not specified, then the value of the BUFNO= system option is used. If both are specified in the same SAS session, the value that is specified for the BUFNO= data set option overrides the value that is specified for the BUFNO= system option.

See Also

Data Set Options:
• “BUFSIZE= Data Set Option” on page 11

System Options:
• “BUFNO= System Option” in SAS Viya System Options: Reference

Statements:
• “SASFILE Statement” in SAS Viya Statements: Reference

BUFSIZE= Data Set Option

Specifies the size of a permanent buffer page for an output SAS data set.

Valid in: DATA step and PROC steps
Category: Data Set Control
Restrictions: This data set option is not valid in a DATA step that runs in Cloud Analytic Services. Use with output data sets only.

Syntax

\texttt{BUFSIZE=|n|nK|nM|nG|hexX|MAX}

Syntax Description

\texttt{n | nK | nM | nG}

specifies the page size in multiples of 1 (bytes); 1,024 (kilobytes); 1,048,576 (megabytes); or 1,073,741,824 (gigabytes). For example, a value of 8 specifies a page size of 8 bytes, and a value of 4k specifies a page size of 4,096 bytes.

Note: If the system option and the data set option are not set, the default is 0. As a result, SAS uses the minimum optimal page size for the operating environment. The BUFSIZE= system option is used in either of the following scenarios:

• if the BUFSIZE= data set option is not set
• if the BUFSIZE= data set option is set to zero
Use BUFSIZE=0 to reset the buffer page size to the default value in your operating environment.

**hexX**
specifies the page size as a hexadecimal value. You must specify the value beginning with a number (0–9), followed by an X. For example, the value 2dx sets the page size to 45 bytes.

**MAX**
sets the page size to the maximum possible number in your operating environment, up to the largest four-byte, signed integer, which is $2^{31} - 1$, or approximately 2 billion bytes.

**Details**
The page size is the amount of data that can be transferred for a single I/O operation to one buffer. The page size is a permanent attribute of the data set and is used when the data set is processed.

A larger page size can speed execution time by reducing the number of times SAS has to read from or write to the storage medium. However, the improvement in execution time comes at the expense of increased memory consumption.

To change the page size, use a DATA step to copy the data set and either specify a new page or use the SAS default. To reset the page size to the default value in your operating environment, use BUFSIZE=0.

**Note:** You can use the COPY procedure to copy a data set to another library that is allocated with a different engine. The specified page size of the data set is not retained.

**Operating Environment Information**
The default value for BUFSIZE= is determined by your operating environment and is set to optimize sequential access. To improve performance for direct (random) access, change the value for BUFSIZE=. For the default setting and possible settings for direct access, see the BUFSIZE= data set option in the SAS documentation for your operating environment.

**Operating Environment Information**
Use one of the following SAS engines: V9, V8

**See Also**

**Data Set Options:**
- “BUFNO= Data Set Option” on page 10

**System Options:**
- “BUFSIZE= System Option” in SAS Viya System Options: Reference

**COMPRESS= Data Set Option**
Specifies how observations are compressed in a new output SAS data set.

**Valid in:** DATA step and PROC steps

**Categories:** CAS
Data Set Control

Restrictions: When using this option with the CAS engine, use YES and NO values only. Use with output data sets only.

Syntax

COMPRESS=NO | YES | CHAR | BINARY

Syntax Description

NO
 specifies that the observations in a newly created SAS data set are uncompressed (maintaining fixed-length records).

YES | CHAR
 specifies that the observations in a newly created SAS data set are compressed (producing variable-length records) by using RLE (Run Length Encoding). RLE compresses observations by reducing repeated runs of the same character (including blanks) to two-byte or three-byte representations.

Alias ON

BINARY
 specifies that the observations in a newly created SAS data set are compressed (producing variable-length records) by using RDC (Ross Data Compression). RDC combines run-length encoding and sliding-window compression to compress the file by representing repeated byte patterns more efficiently.

Note: This method is highly effective for compressing medium to large (several hundred bytes or larger) blocks of binary data (character and numeric variables). Because the compression function operates on a single record at a time, the record length needs to be several hundred bytes or larger for effective compression.

Details

When copying compressed tables between BASE engine libraries and CAS engine libraries that use the PROC COPY statement or the PROC DATASETS COPY statement, the following actions occur:

• If a SAS data set is compressed, it retains the COMPRESS=YES value on a CAS table.

• If a CAS table is compressed, it converts to a SAS data set with the COMPRESS=CHAR value.

Compressing a file reduces the number of bytes that are required to represent each observation. Advantages of compressing a file include reduced storage requirements for the file and fewer I/O operations to read or write to the data during processing. However, more CPU resources are required to read a compressed file (because of the overhead of uncompressing each observation). There are situations where the resulting file size might increase rather than decrease.

Use the COMPRESS= data set option to compress an individual file. Specify the option for output data sets only. That is, specify data sets named in the DATA statement of a DATA step or in the OUT= option of a SAS procedure. Use the COMPRESS= data set option only when you are creating a SAS data file (member type DATA). You cannot compress SAS views, because they contain no data. The COPY procedure does not
support data set options. Therefore, you cannot use the COMPRESS= data set option in PROC COPY or a COPY statement from PROC DATASETS.

**Tip** When using the BASE engine to compress an OUTPUT data set that is generated by PROC COPY, you can use the COMPRESS=YES system option before the PROC COPY statement with the NOCLONE option:

```sas
options compress=yes;
proc copy in=work out=new noclon;
select x;
run;
```

The CAS engine does not support the COMPRESS= system option. However, you can use the COMPRESS LIBNAME option on the output library, and then use the PROC COPY statement with the NOCLONE option.

After a file is compressed, the setting is a permanent attribute of the file. To change the setting, you must re-create the file. That is, to uncompress a file, specify COMPRESS=NO for a DATA step that copies the compressed file.

In general, COMPRESS=CHAR provides good compression when single bytes repeat; COMPRESS=BINARY provides good compression when strings of bytes repeat. It is more costly to look for strings of bytes that repeat, than to look for single bytes that repeat. For examples, see “Example 1: Compress=CHAR” on page 14 and “Example 2: COMPRESS=BINARY” on page 15.

**Comparisons**

The COMPRESS= data set option overrides the COMPRESS= option in the LIBNAME statement and the COMPRESS= system option.

The data set option POINTOBS=YES, which is the default, determines that a compressed data set can be processed with random access (by observation number) rather than sequential access. With random access, you can specify an observation number in the FEDIT procedure and the POINT= option in the SET and MODIFY statements.

When you create a compressed file, you can also specify REUSE=YES (as a data set option or system option) to track and reuse space. With REUSE=YES, new observations are inserted in available space when other observations are updated or deleted. When the default REUSE=NO is in effect, new observations are appended to the existing file.

POINTOBS=NO and REUSE=YES are mutually exclusive. That is, they cannot be used together. REUSE=YES takes precedence over POINTOBS=NO. If you set REUSE=YES, SAS automatically sets POINTOBS=NO.

The TAPE engine supports the COMPRESS= data set option, but the engine does not support the COMPRESS= system option.

**Note:** The TAPE engine is not supported in SAS Viya.

The XPORT engine does not support compression.

**Note:** The XPORT engine is not supported in SAS Viya.

**Examples**

**Example 1: Compress=CHAR**

```sas
data mylib.CharRepeats(compress=char);
```
length ca $ 200;
do i=1 to 100000;
  ca='aaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaa';
  cb='bbbbbbbbbbbbbbbbbbbbbb';
  cc='ccccccccccccccccccccccc';
  output;
end;
run;

The following message is written to the log:
NOTE: Compressing data set MYLIB.CHARREPEATS decreased size by 88.55 percent.
Compressed is 45 pages; un-compressed would require 393 pages.

Example 2: COMPRESS=BINARY
data mylib.StringRepeats(compress=binary);
length cabcd $ 200;
do i=1 to 1000000;
  cabcd='abcdabcdabcdabcdabcdabcdabcdabcd';
  cefgh='efghefghefghefghefghefghefghefghefghefghefghefghefghefghefghefghefg';
  cijkl='ijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijklijkljl
Syntax
CNTLLEV=LIB | MEM | REC

Syntax Description
LIB
specifies that concurrent access is controlled at the library level. Library-level control restricts concurrent access to only one update process to the library.

MEM
specifies that concurrent access is controlled at the SAS data set (member) level. Member-level control restricts concurrent access to only one update or output process to the SAS data set. If the data set is open for an update or output process, then no other operation can access the data set. If the data set is open for an input process, then other concurrent input processes are allowed, but no update or output process is allowed.

REC
specifies that concurrent access is controlled at the observation (record) level. Record-level control allows more than one Update access to the same SAS data set, but it denies concurrent update of the same observation.

Details
The CNTLLEV= option specifies the level at which shared Update access to a SAS data set is denied. A SAS data set can be opened concurrently by more than one SAS session or by more than one statement, tab, or procedure within a single session. By default, SAS procedures allow the greatest degree of concurrent access possible, and they guarantee the integrity of the data and the data analysis. Therefore, you typically use the CNTLLEV= data set option in these situations:

• when your application controls the access to the data, such as in SAS Component Language (SCL), SAS/IML software, or DATA step programming
• when you access data through an interface engine that does not provide member-level control of the data.

If you use CNTLLEV=REC and the SAS procedure needs member-level control for integrity of the data analysis, SAS prints a warning to the log. The warning states that inaccurate or unpredictable results can occur if the data is updated by another process during the analysis.

Example: Changing the Shared Access Level
In this example, the first SET statement includes the CNTLLEV= data set option in order to override the default level of shared access from member-level control to record-level control. The second SET statement opens the SAS data set with the default member-level control.

```sas
set datalib.fuel (cntllev=rec) point=obsnum;
.
.
.
set datalib.fuel;
    by area;
```
**DLDMGACTION= Data Set Option**

Specifies the action to take when a SAS data set in a SAS library is detected as damaged.

- **Valid in:** DATA step and PROC steps
- **Category:** Data Set Control
- **Default:** The shipped default is REPAIR for interactive mode and FAIL for batch mode.
- **Restriction:** This data set option is not valid in a DATA step that runs in Cloud Analytic Services.

**Syntax**

\[ \text{DLDMGACTION=FAIL | ABORT | REPAIR | NOINDEX | PROMPT} \]

**Syntax Description**

- **FAIL**
  
  stops the step and issues an error message to the log immediately. This is the default for batch mode.

- **ABORT**
  
  stops the step, issues an error message to the log, and terminates the SAS session.

- **REPAIR**
  
  attempts to automatically repair a damaged data set on the next attempt to open the damaged file. The data set might truncate at the point of damage. The REPAIR option re-creates the index or indexes. If the damage is too severe, the auto repair attempt might not be successful.

- **NOINDEX**
  
  automatically repairs the data file without the indexes and integrity constraints. The repair also deletes the index file and updates the data file to reflect the disabled indexes and integrity constraints. The repair limits the data file to be opened only in INPUT mode. A warning is written to the log instructing you to execute the PROC DATASETS REBUILD statement to correct or delete the disabled indexes and integrity constraints.

See “DLDMGACTION= System Option” in *SAS Viya System Options: Reference*

- **PROMPT**
  
  displays a dialog box that asks you to select the FAIL, ABORT, REPAIR, or NOINDEX action.

**DROP= Data Set Option**

For an input data set, excludes the specified variables from processing; for an output data set, excludes the specified variables from being written to the data set.

- **Valid in:** DATA step and PROC steps
- **Category:** Variable Control
Syntax

```
DROP=variable(s)
```

Syntax Description

```
variable(s)
```

lists one or more variable names. You can list the variables in any form that SAS allows.

Details

If the option is associated with an input data set, the variables are not available for processing. If the DROP= data set option is associated with an output data set, SAS does not write the variables to the output data set, but they are available for processing.

Comparisons

The DROP= data set option differs from the DROP statement in these ways:

- In DATA steps, the DROP= data set option can apply to input and output data sets. The DROP statement applies only to output data sets.
- In DATA steps, when you create multiple output data sets, use the DROP= data set option to write different variables to different data sets. The DROP statement applies to all output data sets.
- In PROC steps, you can use only the DROP= data set option, not the DROP statement.

Examples

Example 1: Excluding Variables from Input

In this example, the variables SALARY and GENDER are not included in processing, and they are not written to either output data set:

```
data plan1 plan2;
   set payroll(drop=salary gender);
   if hired<'01jan98'd then output plan1;
   else output plan2;
run;
```

You cannot use SALARY or GENDER in any logic in the DATA step because DROP= prevents the SET statement from reading SALARY and GENDER from PAYROLL.

Example 2: Processing Variables without Writing Them to a Data Set

In this example, SALARY and GENDER are not written to PLAN2, but they are written to PLAN1:

```
data plan1 plan2(drop=salary gender);
   set payroll;
   if hired<'01jan98'd then output plan1;
   else output plan2;
run;
```
See Also

Data Set Options:
- “KEEP= Data Set Option” on page 37

Statements:
- “DROP Statement” in *SAS Viya Statements: Reference*

---

**ENCRYPT= Data Set Option**

Specifies whether to encrypt an output SAS data set.

**Valid in:** DATA step and PROC steps

**Category:** Data Set Control

**Default:** ENCRYPT=NO

**Restrictions:** This data set option is not valid in a DATA step that runs in Cloud Analytic Services. Use with output data sets only.

---

**Syntax**

**ENCRYPT=** AES | NO | YES

**Syntax Description**

**AES**

encrypts the file by using the AES (Advanced Encryption Standard) algorithm. AES provides enhanced encryption by using SAS/SECURE software, which is included with SAS software. You must specify the ENCRYPTKEY= data set option when you are using ENCRYPT=AES. For more information, see “ENCRYPTKEY= Data Set Option” on page 23.

**Restriction**

The tape engine does not support ENCRYPT=AES. Use ENCRYPT=YES for tape engine encryption.

**CAUTION**

Record all ENCRYPTKEY= values when you are using ENCRYPT=AES. If you forget to record the ENCRYPTKEY= value, you lose your data. SAS cannot assist you in recovering the ENCRYPTKEY= value. The following note is written to the log:

Note: If you lose or forget the ENCRYPTKEY= value, there will be no way to open the file or recover the data.

**NO**

does not encrypt the file.

**YES**

encrypts the file by using the SAS Proprietary algorithm. This encryption uses passwords that are stored in the data set. At a minimum, you must specify the READ= data set option or the PW= data set option at the same time that you specify ENCRYPT=YES. Because the encryption method uses passwords, you cannot change any password on an encrypted data set without re-creating the data set.
CAUTION:
Record all passwords when you are using ENCRYPT=YES. If you forget the passwords, you cannot reset them without assistance from SAS. This is a time-consuming and resource-intensive process.

Details
To use ENCRYPT=YES data files, you must have SAS 6.11 or later. When you use ENCRYPT=YES, these rules apply:

• To copy an encrypted data file, the output engine must support the encryption.
• If the data file is encrypted, all associated indexes are also encrypted.
• You cannot use PROC CPORT on SASProprietary encrypted data files.

Note: SAS views do not contain data. Therefore, encryption is not necessary.

To use encrypted AES data files, you must use SAS 9.4 or later and SAS/SECURE software. In addition, when you use ENCRYPT=AES, these rules apply:

• You must use the ENCRYPTKEY= data set option when creating a data set with AES encryption.
• To copy an encrypted AES data file, the output engine must support AES encryption.
• In SAS software, data files with referential integrity constraints can use AES encryption. All primary key and foreign key data files must use the same encryption key that opens all referencing foreign key and primary key data files.

You cannot change the ENCRYPTKEY= value on an AES-encrypted data file without re-creating the data file.

Note: Encryption requires approximately the same amount of CPU resources as compression.

Examples

Example 1: Using the ENCRYPT=YES Option
The following example encrypts the data set by using the SAS Proprietary algorithm:

```
libname mylib "c:\mylib";

data mylib.salary(encrypt=yes read=green);
  input name $ yrsal bonuspct;
  datalines;
  Muriel 34567 3.2
  Bjorn 74644 2.5
  Freda 38755 4.1
  Benny 29855 3.5
  Agnetha 70998 4.1
;                    
To use this data set, specify the READ= password:

proc contents data=mylib.salary(read=green);
run;
```
Output 2.1  ENCRYPT=YES

The SAS System
The CONTENTS Procedure

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Data Set Name</th>
<th>MYLIB.SALARY</th>
<th>Observations</th>
<th>5</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Member Type</td>
<td>DATA</td>
<td>Variables</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Engine</td>
<td>V9</td>
<td>Indexes</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Created</td>
<td>04/30/2014 13:37:05</td>
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</tr>
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<td>Last Modified</td>
<td>04/30/2014 13:37:05</td>
<td>Deleted Observations</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Protection</td>
<td>READ</td>
<td>Compressed</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Data Set Type</td>
<td></td>
<td>Sorted</td>
<td>NO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Encrypted</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Label</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Data Representation</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Encoding</td>
<td>wlatin1 Western (Windows)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Engine/Host Dependent Information</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Data Set Page Size</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of Data Set Pages</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>First Data Page</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Max Obs per Page</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Obs in First Data Page</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of Data Set Repairs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ExtendObsCounter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Filename</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Release Created</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Host Created</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Example 2: Using the ENCRYPT=AES Option
libname mylib "c:\mylib";

data mylib.salary(encrypt=aes encryptkey=green);
   input name $ yrsal bonuspct;
   datalines;
Muriel 34567 3.2
Bjorn 74644 2.5
Freda 38755 4.1
Benny 29855 3.5
The following example encrypts the data set by using the AES algorithm:

```sas
proc contents data=mylib.salary(encryptkey=green);
run;
```

**Output 2.2**  
**ENCRYPT=AES**

---

## The SAS System

### The CONTENTS Procedure

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Data Set Name</th>
<th>MYLIB.SALARY</th>
<th>Observations</th>
<th>5</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Member Type</td>
<td>DATA</td>
<td>Variables</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Engine</td>
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<td>Indexes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Label</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Data Representation</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Encoding</td>
<td>wlatin1 Western (Windows)</td>
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## Engine/Host Dependent Information

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Data Set Page Size</th>
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</tr>
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<td>First Data Page</td>
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<tr>
<td>Obs in First Data Page</td>
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<tr>
<td>Number of Data Set Repairs</td>
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<td>ExtendObsCounter</td>
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</tr>
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<td>Filename</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Release Created</td>
<td>9.0401MO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Host Created</td>
<td>x64_7PRO</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
See Also

Data Set Options:
- “ALTER= Data Set Option” on page 9
- “PW= Data Set Option” on page 52
- “READ= Data Set Option” on page 54
- “WRITE= Data Set Option” on page 78

** ENCRYPTKEY= Data Set Option **

Specifies a key value for AES (Advanced Encryption Standard) encryption.

Valid in: DATA step and PROC steps
Category: Data Set Control
Range: 1 to 64 bytes
Restrictions: This data set option is not valid in a DATA step that runs in Cloud Analytic Services.
Use with SAS 9.4 or later only.
Use only with AES-encrypted data files.

Note: Check your log after this operation to ensure encryption key security.

** Syntax **

`ENCRYPTKEY= key-value`

** Syntax Description **

`key-value`

assigns an encrypt key value. You must specify the ENCRYPTKEY= data set option when you are using ENCRYPT=AES. The key value can be up to 64 bytes long. To create an ENCRYPTKEY= key value with or without quotation marks, follow these rules:

No quotation marks:
- use alphanumeric characters and underscores only
- can be up to 64 bytes long
- use uppercase and lowercase letters
- must start with a letter
- cannot include blank spaces
- is not case sensitive

%let mykey=abcdefghi12;
encryptkey=&mykey
encryptkey=key_value
encryptkey=key_value1

Single quotation marks:
- use alphanumeric, special, and DBCS characters
• can be up to 64 bytes long
• use uppercase and lowercase letters
• can include blank spaces, but cannot contain all blanks
• is case sensitive
  
  ```
  encryptkey='key_value'
  encryptkey='1234*#mykey'
  ```

Double quotation marks:
• use alphanumeric, special, and DBCS characters
• can be up to 64 bytes long
• use uppercase and lowercase letters
• can include blank spaces, but cannot contain all blanks
• is case sensitive
  
  ```
  encryptkey="key_value"
  encryptkey="1234*#mykey"
  %let mykey=Abcdefghi12;
  encryptkey="$mykey"
  ```

When the ENCRYPTKEY= key value uses DBCS characters, the 64-byte limit applies to the character string after it has been transcoded to UTF-8 encoding. You can use the following DATA step to calculate the length in bytes of a key value in DBCS:

```
data _null_;  
  key=length(unicodec('key-value','UTF8'));  
  put 'key length=' key;  
run;
```

Interaction  You cannot change the key value on an AES-encrypted data set without re-creating the data set.

Details

**CAUTION:**

*Record all ENCRYPTKEY= values when you are using ENCRYPT=AES.* If you forget to record the ENCRYPTKEY= value, you lose your data. SAS cannot assist you in recovering the ENCRYPTKEY= value. The following note is written to the log:

  Note: If you lose or forget the ENCRYPTKEY= value, there will be no way to open the file or recover the data.

You must use the ENCRYPTKEY= option when you are creating or accessing a SAS data set with AES encryption.

The ENCRYPTKEY= data set option does not protect the file from deletion or replacement. Encrypted data sets can be deleted using any of the following scenarios without specifying an ENCRYPTKEY= key value:

• the KILL option in PROC DATASETS
• the DROP statement in PROC SQL
• the DELETE procedure
The ENCRYPTKEY= option only prevents access to the contents of the file. To protect the file from deletion or replacement, the file must also contain an ALTER= password.

You must specify the ENCRYPTKEY= key value when you copy AES-encrypted data files. The value follows the data set name in the SELECT statement. The following example uses the SELECT statement:

```sas
copy in=OldLib out=NewLib;
   select salary(encryptkey=key-value);
run;
```

When working with data files that are protected with the ENCRYPTKEY= key value in the DATASETS procedure, you can specify the value in the AGE, APPEND, AUDIT, CONTENTS, MODIFY, REBUILD, and REPAIR statements. You must also specify the value when the CHANGE statement refers to a specific generation data set by using a relative reference to the value:

```sas
change OldName(gennum=-1 encryptkey=key-value)=NewName;
run;
```

The option can be specified either in parentheses after the name of the SAS data file or after a forward slash.

**CAUTION:**

When you are using referential integrity constraints, all primary key and foreign key data files that reference each other must use the same encryption key.

You can use a macro variable as the ENCRYPTKEY= key value. The following code defines a macro variable:

```sas
%let secret=myvalue;
```

The following code uses the macro variable as the ENCRYPTKEY= key value:

```sas
data my.dsname(encrypt=aes encryptkey="&secret");
```

When you specify a macro variable for the ENCRYPTKEY= key value, you must enclose the macro variable in double quotation marks. If you do not use double quotation marks, unpredictable results can occur.

### Example: Using the ENCRYPTKEY= Option

This example uses the ENCRYPT=AES option:

```sas
data salary(encrypt=aes encryptkey=green);
   input name $ yrsal bonuspct;
datalines;
Muriel 34567 3.2
Bjorn  74644 2.5
Freda  38755 4.1
Benny  29855 3.5
Agnetha 70998 4.1
```

To use this data set, specify the ENCRYPTKEY= key value:

```sas
proc contents data=salary(encryptkey=green);
run;
```
**EXTENDOBSCOUNTER= Data Set Option**

Specifies whether to extend the maximum observation count in a new output SAS data file.

- **Valid in:** DATA step and PROC steps
- **Category:** Data Set Control
- **Alias:** EOC=
- **Default:** YES
- **Restrictions:** This data set option is not valid in a DATA step that runs in Cloud Analytic Services. Use with output data files only. Use with the BASE engine only.

**Syntax**

`EXTENDOBSCOUNTER=YES | NO`

**Syntax Description**

**YES**

requests an enhanced file format in a newly created SAS data file that counts observations beyond the 32-bit limitation. Although this SAS data file is created for an operating environment that stores the number of observations with a 32-bit integer, the data file behaves like a 64-bit file with respect to counters. This is the default.

**Restrictions**

A SAS data file that is created with an extended observation count is incompatible with releases prior to SAS 9.3. If the SAS data file was created in SAS 9.3 or later and EXTENDOBSCOUNTER was set to YES when the SAS data file was created, you must re-create the SAS data file with EXTENDOBSCOUNTER=NO.

`EXTENDOBSCOUNTER=YES` is valid only for an output SAS data file whose internal data representation stores the observation count as a 32-bit integer. `EXTENDOBSCOUNTER=YES` is ignored for SAS data files with a 64-bit integer.

**NO**

specifies that the maximum observation count in a newly created SAS data file is determined by the long integer size for the operating environment. In operating environments with a 32-bit integer, the maximum number is $2^{31}-1$ or approximately two billion observations ($2,147,483,647$). In operating environments with a 64-bit integer, the maximum number is $2^{63}-1$ or approximately 9.2 quintillion observations.

**See Also**

“`EXTENDOBSCOUNTER=YES | NO`” in *SAS Viya Statements: Reference*

**FILECLOSE= Data Set Option**

Specifies how a tape is positioned when a SAS data set is closed.
Valid in: DATA step and PROC steps
Category: Miscellaneous
Restriction: This data set option is not valid in a DATA step that runs in Cloud Analytic Services.

CAUTION: The option values are not recognized by all operating environments. Additional values are available on some operating environments. For more information about using SAS libraries that are stored on tape, see the SAS documentation for your operating environment.

Syntax

FILECLOSE=DISP | LEAVE | REREAD | REWIND

Syntax Description

DISP
positions the tape volume according to the disposition that is specified in the operating environment's control language.

LEAVE
positions the tape at the end of the file that was recently processed. Use FILECLOSE=LEAVE if you are not repeatedly accessing the same files in a SAS program, but you are accessing one or more subsequent SAS files on the same tape.

REREAD
positions the tape volume at the beginning of the file that was recently processed. Use FILECLOSE=REREAD if you are accessing the same SAS data set on tape several times in a SAS program.

REWIND
rewinds the tape volume to the beginning. Use FILECLOSE=REWIND if you are accessing one or more previous SAS files on the same tape, but you are not repeatedly accessing the same files in a SAS program.

FIRSTOBS= Data Set Option

Specifies the first observation that SAS processes in a SAS data set.

Valid in: DATA step and PROC steps
Category: Observation Control
Restrictions: This data set option is not valid in a DATA step that runs in Cloud Analytic Services. Valid for input (read) processing only. Cannot use with PROC SQL views.

Syntax

FIRSTOBS=n | nK | nM | nG | hexX | MIN | MAX
Syntax Description

\[ n \mid nK \mid nM \mid nG \]

specifies the number of the first observation to process in multiples of 1 (bytes); 1,024 (kilobytes); 1,048,576 (megabytes); or 1,073,741,824 (gigabytes). For example, a value of 8 specifies the 8th observation, and a value of 3k specifies 3,072.

\[ \text{hexX} \]

specifies the number of the first observation to process as a hexadecimal value. You must specify the value beginning with a number (0–9), followed by an X. For example, the value 2dx sets the 45th observation as the first observation to process.

MIN

sets the number of the first observation to process to 1. This is the default.

MAX

sets the number of the first observation to process to the maximum number of observations in the data set. This number can be up to the largest eight-byte, signed integer, which is \(2^{63} - 1\), or approximately 9.2 quintillion observations.

Details

The FIRSTOBS= data set option affects a single, existing SAS data set. Use the FIRSTOBS= system option to affect all steps for the duration of your current SAS session.

FIRSTOBS= is valid for input (read) processing only. Specifying FIRSTOBS= is not valid for output or update processing.

You can apply FIRSTOBS= processing to WHERE processing.

If you use the table viewer to delete data set observations, the FIRSTOBS= option returns incorrect results if the value assigned to the FIRSTOBS= option is greater than the number of observations that are deleted. This behavior occurs because using the table viewer to delete data set observations only flags the observations for deletion. The observations are not physically removed from the data set; the behavior makes the observations unusable.

Comparisons

- The FIRSTOBS= data set option overrides the FIRSTOBS= system option for the individual data set.
- When the FIRSTOBS= data set option specifies a starting point for processing, the OBS= data set option specifies an ending point. The two options are often used together to define a range of observations to be processed.
- When external files are read, the FIRSTOBS= option in the INFILE statement specifies which record to read first.

Example: Using the FIRSTOBS= Data Set Option

This PROC step prints the data set STUDY, beginning with observation 20:

```sas
proc print data=study(firstobs=20);
run;
```

This SET statement uses FIRSTOBS= and OBS= to read only observations 5 through 10 from the data set STUDY. The data set NEW contains six observations.
data new;
   set study(firstobs=5 obs=10);
run;
proc print data=new;
run;

See Also

Data Set Options:
• “OBS= Data Set Option” on page 41

Statements:
• “INFILE Statement” in SAS Viya Statements: Reference
• “WHERE Statement” in SAS Viya Statements: Reference

System Options:
• “FIRSTOBS= System Option” in SAS Viya System Options: Reference

**GENMAX= Data Set Option**
Requests generations for a new data set, modifies the number of generations for an existing data set, and specifies the maximum number of versions.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Valid in:</th>
<th>DATA step and PROC steps</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Category:</td>
<td>Data Set Control</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Restrictions:</td>
<td>This data set option is not valid in a DATA step that runs in Cloud Analytic Services. Use with output data sets only.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Syntax**

`GENMAX=number-of-generations`

**Syntax Description**

`number-of-generations`
requests generations for a data set and specifies the maximum number of versions to maintain. The value can be from 0 to 1,000. The default is `GENMAX=0`, which means that no generation data sets are requested.

**Details**

You use `GENMAX=` to request generations for a new data set and to modify the number of generations for an existing data set. The first time the data set is replaced, SAS keeps the replaced version and appends a four-character version number to its member name. The member name includes # and a three-digit number. For example, for a data set named A, a historical version would be A#001.

After generations of a data set are requested, the member name is limited to 28 characters (rather than 32). The last four characters are reserved for the appended
version number. When the GENMAX= data set option is set to 0, the member name can be up to 32 characters.

If you reduce the number of generations for an existing data set, SAS deletes the oldest versions above the new limit.

Examples

Example 1: Requesting Generations When You Create a Data Set
The DATA step creates a data set named Work.A that can have as many as 10 generations (one current version and nine historical versions):

data a(genmax=10);
  x=1;
  output;
run;

Example 2: Modifying the Number of Generations on an Existing Data Set
The number of generations on the data set MYLIB.A is changed to 4:

proc datasets lib=mylib;
  modify a(genmax=4);
run;

See Also

Data Set Option:
• “GENNUM= Data Set Option” on page 30

GENNUM= Data Set Option

Specifies a particular generation of a SAS data set.

Valid in: DATA step and PROC steps
Category: Data Set Control
Restrictions: This data set option is not valid in a DATA step that runs in Cloud Analytic Services. Use with input data sets only.

Syntax

GENNUM=integer

Syntax Description

integer

is a number that references a specific version from a generation group. Specifying a positive number is an absolute reference to a specific generation number that is appended to the name of a data set. Specifying a negative number is a relative reference to a historical version in relation to the base (current) version, from the youngest to the oldest. Typically, a value of 0 refers to the base version.
The DATASETS procedure provides a variety of statements for which specifying GENNUM= has additional functionality:

- For the DATASETS and DELETE statements, GENNUM= supports the additional values ALL, HIST, and REVERT.
- For the DELETE procedure, GENNUM= supports the additional values ALL, HIST, and REVERT.
- For the CHANGE statement, GENNUM= supports the additional value ALL.
- For the CHANGE statement, specifying GENNUM=0 refers to all versions rather than the base version only.

Details

After generations for a data set have been requested using the GENMAX= data set option, use GENNUM= to request a specific version. For example, specifying GENNUM=3 refers to the historical version #003; specifying GENNUM= –1 refers to the youngest historical version.

After 999 replacements, the youngest version would be #999. After 1,000 replacements, SAS rolls over the youngest version number to #000. Therefore, if you want the historical version #000, specify GENNUM=1000.

Both an absolute reference and a relative reference refer to a specific version. A relative reference does not skip deleted versions. Therefore, when working with a generation group that includes one or more deleted versions, using a relative reference results in an error if the version that is being referenced has been deleted. For example, if you have the base version AIR and three historical versions (AIR#001, AIR#002, and AIR#003), delete AIR#002. The following statements return an error because AIR#002 does not exist.

```
proc print data=air (gennum= -2);
run;
```

Examples

**Example 1: Requesting a Version Using an Absolute Reference**

This example prints the historical version #003 for data set A, using an absolute reference:

```
proc print data=a(gennum=3);
run;
```

**Example 2: Requesting a Version Using a Relative Reference**

The following PRINT procedure prints the data set three versions back from the base version:

```
proc print data=a(gennum=-3);
run;
```

See Also

“GENMAX= Data Set Option” on page 29
IDXNAME= Data Set Option
Directs SAS to use a specific index to match the conditions of a WHERE expression.

Valid in: DATA step and PROC steps
Category: User Control of SAS Index Usage
Restrictions: This data set option is not valid in a DATA step that runs in Cloud Analytic Services.
Use with input data sets only.
Mutually exclusive with IDXWHERE= data set option

Syntax
IDXNAME=index-name

Syntax Description
index-name
specifies the name (up to 32 characters) of a simple or composite index for the SAS data set. SAS does not attempt to determine whether the specified index is the best one or whether a sequential search might be more resource efficient.

Interaction
The specification is not a permanent attribute of the data set and is valid only for the current use of the data set.

Tip
To request that IDXNAME= usage be noted in the log, specify the system option MSGLEVEL=I.

Details
To satisfy the conditions of a WHERE expression for an indexed SAS data set, SAS identifies zero or more candidate indexes that could be used to optimize the WHERE expression. From the list of candidate indexes, SAS determines the following:

• the candidate index that provides the best performance
• the rejection of all the indexes if a sequential pass of the data is more efficient

Because the index SAS selected cannot always provide the best optimization, you can direct SAS to use one of the candidate indexes by specifying the IDXNAME= data set option. If you specify an index that SAS does not identify as a candidate index, then IDXNAME= does not process the request. That is, IDXNAME= does not enable you to specify an index that would produce incorrect results.

Comparisons
IDXWHERE= enables you to override the SAS decision about whether to use an index, whereas INDEXNAME= enables you to direct SAS to use a specific index.

Example: Specifying an Index
This example uses the IDXNAME= data set option in order to direct SAS to use a specific index to optimize the WHERE expression. SAS then disregards the possibility that a sequential search of the data set might be more resource efficient. SAS does not
attempt to determine whether the specified index is the best one. (The EMPNUM index was not created with the NOMISS option.)

data mydata.empnew;
   set mydata.employee (idxname=empnum);
   where empnum < 2000;
run;

See Also

Data Set Option:
- “IDXWHERE= Data Set Option” on page 33

IDXWHERE= Data Set Option

Specifies whether SAS uses an index search or a sequential search to match the conditions of a WHERE expression.

Valid in: DATA step and PROC steps
Category: User Control of SAS Index Usage
Restrictions: This data set option is not valid in a DATA step that runs in Cloud Analytic Services. Use with input data sets only. Mutually exclusive with IDXNAME= data set option

Syntax

IDXWHERE= YES | NO

Syntax Description

YES
  tells SAS to choose the best index to optimize a WHERE expression, and to disregard the possibility that a sequential search of the data set might be more resource efficient.

NO
  tells SAS to ignore all indexes and satisfy the conditions of a WHERE expression with a sequential search of the data set.

Note: You cannot use IDXWHERE= to override the use of an index to process a BY statement.

Details

By default, to satisfy the conditions of a WHERE expression for an indexed SAS data set, SAS decides whether to use an index or to read the data set sequentially. The software estimates the relative efficiency and chooses the method that is more efficient.

You might need to override the software's decision by specifying the IDXWHERE= data set option. The decision is based on general rules that might not always produce the best results. By specifying the IDXWHERE= data set option, you can determine the processing method.


Note: The specification is not a permanent attribute of the data set and is valid only for the current use of the data set.

Note: If you issue the system option MSGLEVEL=I, you can request that IDXWHERE= usage be noted in the SAS log if the setting affects index processing.

Comparisons

IDXNAME= enables you to direct SAS to use a specific index, whereas INDEXWHERE= enables you to override the SAS decision about whether to use an index.

Examples

Example 1: Specifying Index Usage
This example uses the IDXWHERE= data set option to tell SAS to decide which index is the best to optimize the WHERE expression. SAS then disregards the possibility that a sequential search of the data set might be more resource efficient:

```sas
data mydata.empnew;
   set mydata.employee (idxwhere=yes);
   where empnum < 2000;
```

Example 2: Specifying No Index Usage
This example uses the IDXWHERE= data set option to perform the following tasks:

- tell SAS to ignore any index
- satisfy the conditions of the WHERE expression with a sequential search of the data set

```sas
data mydata.empnew;
   set mydata.employee (idxwhere=no);
   where empnum < 2000;
```

See Also

“IDXNAME= Data Set Option” on page 32

IN= Data Set Option

Creates a Boolean variable that indicates whether the data set contributed data to the current observation.

Valid in: DATA step

Categories: CAS
Observation Control

Restriction: Use with the SET, MERGE, MODIFY, and UPDATE statements only.

Syntax

```
IN=variable
```
Syntax Description

`variable`  
names the new variable whose value indicates whether the input data set contributed data to the current observation. Within the DATA step, the value of the variable is 1 if the data set contributed to the current observation. Otherwise, the value is 0.

Details

Specify the `IN=` data set option in parentheses after a SAS data set name in the SET, MERGE, MODIFY, and UPDATE statements only. Values of `IN=` variables are available to program statements during the DATA step. These variables are not included in the SAS data set that is being created, unless they are assigned to a new variable.

When you use `IN=` with BY-group processing, and when a data set contributes an observation for the current BY group, the `IN=` value is 1. The value remains as long as that BY group is still being processed and the value is not reset by programming logic.

Example

In this example, `IN=` creates a new variable, OVERSEAS, that denotes international flights. The variable `I` has a value of 1 when the observation is read from the NONUSA data set. Otherwise, the variable has a value of 0. The IF-THEN statement checks the value of `I` to determine whether the data set NONUSA contributed data to the current observation. If `I`=1, the variable OVERSEAS receives an asterisk (*) as a value.

```sas
data allflts;
  set usa nonusa(in=i);
  by fltnum;
  if i then overseas='*';
run;
```

See Also

- “BY Statement” in SAS Viya Statements: Reference
- “MERGE Statement” in SAS Viya Statements: Reference
- “MODIFY Statement” in SAS Viya Statements: Reference
- “SET Statement” in SAS Viya Statements: Reference
- “UPDATE Statement” in SAS Viya Statements: Reference

INDEX= Data Set Option

Defines an index for a new output SAS data set.

Valid in: DATA step and PROC steps

Category: Data Set Control

Restrictions: This data set option is not valid in a DATA step that runs in Cloud Analytic Services. Use with output data sets only.
Syntax

INDEX=(index-specification <index-specification-2 ...>)

Syntax Description

index-specification
  names and describes a simple or a composite index to be built. Index-specification
  has this form:

  index= (variable(s) </UNIQUE> </NOMISS> )

index
  is the name of a variable that forms the index or the name that you choose for a
  composite index.

variable(s)
  is a list of variables to use in building a composite index.

UNIQUE
  specifies that the values of the key variables must be unique. If you specify UNIQUE
  for a new data set and multiple observations have the same values for the index
  variables, the index is not built. A slash (/) must precede the UNIQUE option.

NOMISS
  excludes all observations with missing values from the index. Observations with
  missing values are still read from the data set, but not through the index. A slash (/)
  must precede the NOMISS option.

Examples

Example 1: Defining a Simple Index
This INDEX= data set option defines a simple index for the SSN variable:

data new(index=(ssn));

Example 2: Defining a Composite Index
This INDEX= data set option defines a composite index named CITYST that uses the
CITY and STATE variables:

data new(index=(cityst=(city state)));

Example 3: Defining a Simple and a Composite Index
This INDEX= data set option defines a simple index for SSN and a composite index for
CITY and STATE:

data new(index=(ssn cityst=(city state)));

Example 4: Defining a Simple Index with the UNIQUE Option
This INDEX= data set option defines a simple index for the SSN variable with unique
values:

data new(index=(ssn /unique));

Example 5: Defining a Simple Index with the NOMISS Option
This INDEX= data set option defines a simple index for the SSN variable, excluding all
observations with missing values from the index:
data new(index=(ssn /nomiss));

**Example 6: Defining Multiple Indexes By Using the UNIQUE and NOMISS Options**

This INDEX= data set option defines a simple index for the SSN variable and a composite index for CITY and STATE. Each variable must have a UNIQUE and NOMISS option:

data new(index=(ssn /unique/nomiss cityst=(city state) /unique/nomiss));

**See Also**

“CREATE INDEX Statement” in *SAS Viya SQL Procedure User’s Guide*

---

**KEEP= Data Set Option**

For an input data set, specifies the variables to process; for an output data set, specifies the variables to write to the data set.

**Valid in:** DATA step and PROC steps

**Categories:** CAS

Variable Control

**Syntax**

KEEP=variable(s)

**Syntax Description**

variable(s)

lists one or more variable names. You can list the variables in any form that SAS allows.

**Details**

If the KEEP= data set option is associated with an input data set, only those variables that are listed after the KEEP= data set option are available for processing. If the KEEP= data set option is associated with an output data set, only the variables that are listed after the option are written to the output data set. All variables are available for processing.

**Comparisons**

The KEEP= data set option differs from the KEEP statement in the following ways:

- In DATA steps, the KEEP= data set option can apply to input and output data sets. The KEEP statement applies only to output data sets.
- In DATA steps, when you create multiple output data sets, use the KEEP= data set option to write different variables to different data sets. The KEEP statement applies to all output data sets.
- In PROC steps, use only the KEEP= data set option, not the KEEP statement.
Example

In this example, only IDNUM and SALARY are read from PAYROLL, and they are the only variables in PAYROLL that are available for processing:

```sas
data bonus;
  set payroll(keep=idnum salary);
  bonus=salary*1.1;
run;
```

See Also

Data Set Options:
- “DROP= Data Set Option” on page 17

Statements:
- “KEEP Statement” in SAS Viya Statements: Reference

---

**LABEL= Data Set Option**

Specifies a label for a SAS data set.

- **Valid in:** DATA step and PROC steps
- **Categories:**
  - CAS
  - Data Set Control

**Syntax**

`LABEL='label'

**Syntax Description**

`'label'`

specifies a text string of up to 256 characters. If the label text contains single quotation marks, enclose the label in double quotation marks. To remove a label from a data set, assign a blank space that is enclosed in quotation marks to the label.

You can also use two single quotation marks in the label text and enclose the string in single quotation marks.

**Details**

You can use the LABEL= option on input and output data sets. When you specify LABEL= on input data sets, it assigns a file label for the duration of that DATA step or PROC step. When you specify LABEL= for an output data set, the label becomes a permanent part of that file. The file can be printed using the CONTENTS or DATASETS procedure, and modified using PROC DATASETS.

A label that is assigned to a data set remains associated with that data set when you update a data set by using the APPEND procedure or the MODIFY statement. However, a label is lost if you use a data set with a previously assigned label to create a new data set in the DATA step. For example:
Comparisons

- The LABEL= data set option enables you to assign labels only for data sets. You can specify labels for the variables in a data set by using the LABEL statement.
- The LABEL= option enables you to assign labels to variables in the ATTRIB statement.

Example: Assigning Labels to Data Sets

data w2(label='1976 W2 Info, Hourly');
data new(label='Peter''s List');
data new(label="Hillside's Daily Account");
data sales(label='Sales For May(NE)');

See Also

Statements:
  - “ATTRIB Statement” in SAS Viya Statements: Reference
  - “LABEL Statement” in SAS Viya Statements: Reference
  - “MODIFY Statement” in SAS Viya Statements: Reference

Procedures:
  - “CONTENTS” in SAS Viya Data Management and Utility Procedures Guide

OBSBUF= Data Set Option

Determines the size of the view buffer for processing a DATA step view.

Valid in: DATA step and PROC steps
Category: Data Set Control
Restrictions: This data set option is not valid in a DATA step that runs in Cloud Analytic Services. Valid only for a DATA step view

Syntax

OBSBUF=n

Syntax Description

n specifies the number of observations that are read into the view buffer at a time.
Default 32K bytes of memory are allocated for the default view buffer, which means the default number of observations that can be read into the view buffer at one time depends on the observation length. Therefore, the default is the number of observations that can fit into 32K bytes. If the observation length is larger than 32K bytes, then only one observation can be read into the buffer at a time.

Tip To determine the observation length in bytes, use PROC CONTENTS for the DATA step view.

CAUTION The maximum value for the OBSBUF= option depends on the amount of available memory. If you specify a value so large that the memory allocation of the view buffer fails, an out-of-memory error results.

Details

The OBSBUF= data set option specifies the number of observations that can be read into the view buffer at a time. The view buffer is a segment of memory that is allocated to hold output observations that are generated from a DATA step view. The size of the buffer determines how much data can be held in memory at one time. OBSBUF= enables you to tune the performance of reading data from a DATA step view.

The view buffer is shared between the request that opens the DATA step view (for example, a SAS procedure) and the DATA step view itself. Two computer tasks coordinate between requesting data and generating and returning the data as follows:

- When a request task (such as a PRINT procedure) requests data, task switching occurs from the request task to the view task. This action executes the DATA step view and generates the observations. The DATA step view fills the view buffer with as many observations as possible.
- When the view buffer is full, task switching occurs from the view task back to the request task in order to return the requested data. The observations are cleared from the view buffer.

The size of the view buffer determines how many generated observations can be held. The number of generated observations determines how many times the computer must switch between the request task and the view task. For example, OBSBUF=1 results in task switching for each observation. OBSBUF=10 results in 10 observations being read into the view buffer at a time. The larger the view buffer, the less task switching is needed to process a DATA step view, which can speed execution time.

To improve efficiency, determine how many observations fit in the default buffer size, and then set the view buffer so that it can hold more generated observations.

Note: Using OBSBUF= can improve processing efficiency by reducing task switching. However, the larger the view buffer size, the more time it takes to fill. This process delays the task switching from the view task back to the request task. The delay is more apparent in interactive applications. For example, when you use the table viewer, the larger the view buffer, the longer it takes to display the requested observations. The view buffer must be filled before even one observation is returned to the table viewer. Before you set a very large view buffer size, consider the following information:

- the type of application that you are using to process the DATA step view
- the amount of available memory
Example

For this example, the observation length is 10K. The default view buffer size, which is 32K, would result in three observations at a time to be read into the view buffer. The default view buffer size causes the execution time to be slower, because the computer must perform task switching for every three observations that are generated.

To improve performance, the OBSBUF= data set option is set to 100. This action causes 100 observations at a time to be read into the view buffer. It also reduces task switching in order to process the DATA step view with the PRINT procedure:

```sas
data testview / view=testview;
  ... more SAS statements ...
run;
proc print data=testview (obsbuf=100);
run;
```

See Also

Data Set Options:
- “SPILL= Data Set Option” on page 64

---

**OBS= Data Set Option**

Specifies the last observation that SAS processes in a data set.

- **Valid in:** DATA step and PROC steps
- **Category:** Observation Control
- **Default:** MAX
- **Restrictions:** This data set option is not valid in a DATA step that runs in Cloud Analytic Services. Use with input data sets only. Cannot use with PROC SQL views

**Syntax**

```
OBS= n | nK | nM | nG | nT | hexX | MIN | MAX
```

**Syntax Description**

- `n | nK | nM | nG | nT` specifies a number to indicate when to stop processing observations, with `n` as an integer. Using one of the letter notations results in multiplying the integer by a specific value. That is, specifying K (kilo) multiplies the integer by 1,024; M (mega) multiplies by 1,048,576; G (giga) multiplies by 1,073,741,824; or T (tera) multiplies by 1,099,511,627,776. For example, a value of 20 specifies 20 observations, and a value of 3m specifies 3,145,728 observations.

- `hexX` specifies a number to indicate when to stop processing as a hexadecimal value. You must specify the value beginning with a number (0–9), followed by an X. For example, the hexadecimal value F8 must be specified as 0F8X in order to specify the decimal equivalent of 248. The value 2dx specifies the decimal equivalent of 45.
MIN
specifies the number to indicate when to stop processing to 0. Use OBS=0 to create an empty data set that has the structure, but not the observations, of another data set.

Interaction If OBS=0 and the NOREPLACE option is in effect, SAS can still take certain actions. SAS actually executes each DATA and PROC step in the program, using no observations. For example, SAS executes procedures, such as CONTENTS and DATASETS, that process libraries or SAS data sets.

MAX
specifies the number to indicate when to stop processing to the maximum number of observations in the data set. This number can be up to the largest 8-byte, signed integer, which is $2^{63} - 1$, or approximately 9.2 quintillion. This is the default.

Details
OBS= tells SAS when to stop processing observations. To determine when to stop processing, SAS uses the value for OBS= in a formula that includes the value for OBS= and the value for FIRSTOBS=.

\[(\text{obs} - \text{firstobs}) + 1 = \text{results}\]

For example, if OBS=10 and FIRSTOBS=1 (which is the default for FIRSTOBS=), the result is 10 observations. That is, \((10 - 1) + 1 = 10\). If OBS=10 and FIRSTOBS=2, the result is nine observations. That is, \((10 - 2) + 1 = 9\). OBS= is valid only when an existing SAS data set is read.

The OBS= data set option overrides the OBS= system option for the individual data set.

Comparisons
- When the OBS= data set option specifies an ending point for processing, the FIRSTOBS= data set option specifies a starting point. The two options are often used together to define a range of observations to be processed.
- The OBS= data set option enables you to select observations from SAS data sets. You can select observations to be read from external data files by using the OBS= option in the INFILE statement.

Examples

Example 1: Using OBS= to Specify When to Stop Processing Observations
This example creates a SAS data set and executes the PRINT procedure with FIRSTOBS=2 and OBS=12. The result is 11 observations. That is, \((12 - 2) + 1 = 11\). The result of OBS= appears to be the observation number that SAS processes last.

```sas
data Ages;
  input Name $ Age;
  datalines;
Miguel 53
Brad 27
Willie 69
Marc 50
Sylvia 40
Arun 25
```
Example 2: PROC PRINT Using a WHERE Statement

This example uses the data set that was created in Example 1, which contains 15 observations.

Here is the PRINT procedure with a WHERE statement. The subset of the data results in 12 observations:

```sas
proc print data=Ages;
  where Age LT 65;
run;
```
Example 3: PROC PRINT Using a WHERE Statement and OBS=
Executing the PRINT procedure with the WHERE statement and OBS=10 results in 10 observations. That is, \((10 - 1) + 1 = 10\). With WHERE processing, SAS subsets the data and applies OBS= to the subset.

```sas
proc print data=Ages (obs=10);
    where Age LT 65;
run;
```
Output 2.5  PROC PRINT Output Using a WHERE Statement and OBS=

Example 4: PROC PRINT Using a WHERE Statement, OBS=, and FIRSTOBS=

The result of OBS= appears to be the observation number that SAS processes. If you apply FIRSTOBS=2 and OBS=10 to the subset, then the result is nine observations. That is, 

\[
(10 - 2) + 1 = 9
\]

OBS= is neither the observation number to end with nor how many observations to process; the value is used in the formula to determine when to stop processing.

```sas
proc print data=Ages (firstobs=2 obs=10);
   where Age LT 65;
run;
```
Example 5: PROC PRINT Showing Deleted Observations

This example uses the data set that was created in Example 1, with observation 6 deleted.

Here is PROC PRINT output of the modified file:

```sas
proc print data=Ages;
run;
```
Example 6: PROC PRINT Using OBS=
Executing the PRINT procedure with OBS=12 results in 12 observations. That is, \((12 - 1) + 1 = 12\):

```sas
proc print data=Ages (obs=12);
run;
```
Output 2.8  PROC PRINT Output Using OBS=

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Obs</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Age</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Miguel</td>
<td>53</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Brad</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Willie</td>
<td>69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Marc</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Sylvia</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Gary</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Becky</td>
<td>51</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Alma</td>
<td>39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Tom</td>
<td>62</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Kris</td>
<td>66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Paul</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Randy</td>
<td>43</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Example 7: Using OBS= When Observations Are Deleted

The result of OBS= appears to be the observation number that SAS processes. However, if you apply FIRSTOBS=2 and OBS=12, the result is 11 observations. That is, \((12 - 2) + 1 = 11\). OBS= is neither the observation number to end with nor how many observations to process; the value is used in the formula to determine when to stop processing.

```sas
proc print data=Ages (firstobs=2 obs=12);
run;
```
OUTREP= Data Set Option

Specifies the data representation for the output SAS data set.

Valid in: DATA step and PROC steps
Category: Data Set Control
Restriction: This data set option is not valid in a DATA step that runs in Cloud Analytic Services.
Syntax

OUTREP=\textit{format}

Syntax Description

\textit{format} specifies the data representation, which is the form in which data is stored in a particular operating environment. Different operating environments use different standards or conventions for storing floating-point numbers for character encoding; for the ordering of bytes in memory (big Endian or little Endian); for word alignment (4-byte boundaries or 8-byte boundaries); for integer data-type length (16-bit, 32-bit, or 64-bit); and for doubles (byte-swapped or not).

By default, SAS creates a new SAS data set by using the data representation of the CPU that is running SAS. Specifying the OUTREP= option enables you to create a SAS data set with a different data representation.

Values for OUTREP= are listed in the following table:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>OUTREP= Value</th>
<th>Alias*</th>
<th>Environment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HP_IA64</td>
<td>HP_ITANIUM</td>
<td>HP-UX for the Itanium Processor Family Architecture</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HP_UX_32</td>
<td>HP_UX</td>
<td>HP-UX for PA-RISC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HP_UX_64</td>
<td></td>
<td>HP-UX for PA-RISC, 64-bit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LINUX_32</td>
<td>LINUX</td>
<td>Linux for Intel architecture</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LINUX_IA64</td>
<td>LINUX</td>
<td>Linux for Itanium-based systems</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LINUX_X86_64</td>
<td></td>
<td>Linux for x64</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* It is recommended that you use the current values. The aliases are available for compatibility only.

Details

\textbf{CAUTION:} Transcoding could result in character data loss when encodings are incompatible. For information about encoding and transcoding, see the \textit{SAS Viya National Language Support: Reference Guide}.

See Also

“OUTREP=\textit{format}” in \textit{SAS Viya Statements: Reference}
**POINTOBS= Data Set Option**

Specifies whether SAS creates compressed data sets whose observations can be randomly accessed or sequentially accessed.

- **Valid in:** DATA step and PROC steps
- **Category:** Observation Control
- **Restrictions:** This data set option is not valid in a DATA step that runs in Cloud Analytic Services. POINTOBS= is effective only when creating a compressed data set. Otherwise, it is ignored.

### Syntax

**POINTOBS=** **YES | NO**

### Syntax Description

**YES**

causes SAS software to produce a compressed data set that might be randomly accessed by observation number. This is the default.

Here are examples of accessing data directly by observation number:

- through the **POINT=** option of the MODIFY and SET statements in the DATA step
- through a specific observation number with PROC FSEDIT

**TIP** Specifying POINTOBS=YES does not affect the efficiency of retrieving information from a data set. It does increase CPU usage by approximately 10% when creating a compressed data set and when updating or adding information to it.

**NO**

suppresses the ability to randomly access observations in a compressed data set by observation number.

**TIP** If you do not need to access data by observation number in a compressed data set, then you can improve performance by approximately 10% when you specify POINTOBS=NO in these situations:

- when you create a compressed data set
- when you update or add observations to a compressed data set

### Details

REUSE=YES takes precedence over POINTOBS=YES. For example:

```sas
data test (compress=yes pointobs=yes reuse=yes);
```

This data set option results in a data set that has POINTOBS=NO. Because POINTOBS=YES is the default when you use compression, REUSE=YES causes POINTOBS= to change to NO.
**PW= Data Set Option**

Assigns a READ, WRITE, and ALTER password to a SAS file, and enables access to a password-protected SAS file.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Valid in:</th>
<th>DATA step and PROC steps</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Category:</td>
<td>Data Set Control</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Restriction:</td>
<td>This data set option is not valid in a DATA step that runs in Cloud Analytic Services.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Note:</td>
<td>Check your log after this operation to ensure password security.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Syntax**

PW=password

**Syntax Description**

`password` must be a valid SAS name, which limits the password to eight characters and is case-insensitive.

**Details**

The PW= option applies to all types of SAS files except catalogs. Use this option to assign a password to a SAS file or to access a password-protected SAS file.

When you replace a SAS data set that is protected by an ALTER password, the new data set inherits the ALTER password. To change the ALTER password for the new data set, use the MODIFY statement in the DATASETS procedure.

**Operating Environment Information**

For more information about using passwords, see the appropriate sections of the SAS documentation.

**Note:** A SAS password does not control access to a SAS file beyond the SAS system. Use the operating system-supplied utilities and file-system security controls to control access to SAS files outside of SAS.
PWREQ= Data Set Option

Specifies whether to display a password dialog box.

Valid in: DATA step and PROC steps
Category: Data Set Control
Restriction: This data set option is not valid in a DATA step that runs in Cloud Analytic Services.

Syntax

PWREQ=YES | NO

Syntax Description

YES
specifies to display a dialog box.

NO
prevents a dialog box from displaying. If a missing or invalid password is entered, the data set is not opened and an error message is written to the SAS log.

Details

In an interactive SAS session, the PWREQ= option controls whether a dialog box is displayed when an incorrect or a missing password for a password-protected SAS data set is specified. PWREQ= applies to data sets with READ=, WRITE=, or ALTER= passwords. PWREQ= is most useful in SCL applications.

See Also

Data Set Options:

• “ALTER= Data Set Option” on page 9
• “ENCRYPT= Data Set Option” on page 19
• “READ= Data Set Option” on page 54
• “WRITE= Data Set Option” on page 78
READ= Data Set Option

Assigns a READ= password to a SAS file that prevents users from reading the file, unless they enter the password.

Valid in:  DATA step and PROC steps  
Category:  Data Set Control  
Restriction:  This data set option is not valid in a DATA step that runs in Cloud Analytic Services.  
Note:  Check your log after this operation to ensure password security.

Syntax

READ=read-password

Syntax Description

read-password  
must be a valid SAS name.

Details

The READ= option applies to all types of SAS files except catalogs. Use this option to assign a password to a SAS file or to access a read-protected SAS file.

Note:  A SAS password does not control access to a SAS file beyond the SAS system. Use the operating system-supplied utilities and file-system security controls to control access to SAS files outside of SAS.

See Also

Data Set Options:

•  “ALTER= Data Set Option” on page 9  
•  “ENCRYPT= Data Set Option” on page 19  
•  “PW= Data Set Option” on page 52  
•  “WRITE= Data Set Option” on page 78

RENAME= Data Set Option

Changes the name of a variable.

Valid in:  DATA step and PROC steps  
Categories:  CAS  
Variable Control
Syntax

\textbf{RENAME=}\(\text{(old-name-1=new-name-1 <old-name-2=new-name-2 ...>)}\)

\textbf{Syntax Description}

\textit{old-name}

\begin{itemize}
  \item is the variable that you want to rename.
\end{itemize}

\textit{new-name}

\begin{itemize}
  \item is the new name of the variable. It must be a valid SAS name.
\end{itemize}

\textbf{Details}

If you use the \texttt{RENAME=} data set option when you create a data set, the new variable name is included in the output data set. If you use \texttt{RENAME=} on an input data set, the new name is used in \texttt{DATA} step programming statements.

If you use \texttt{RENAME=} on an input data set that is used in a SAS procedure, SAS changes the name of the variable in that procedure. If you use \texttt{RENAME=} with \texttt{WHERE} processing such as a \texttt{WHERE} statement or a \texttt{WHERE= data set option}, the new name is applied before the data is processed. You must use the new name in the \texttt{WHERE} expression.

Use \texttt{RENAME=} in the same \texttt{DATA} step with either the \texttt{DROP=} data set option or the \texttt{KEEP=} data set option. The \texttt{DROP=} and \texttt{KEEP=} data set options are applied before \texttt{RENAME=}=. You must use the old name in the \texttt{DROP=} and \texttt{KEEP=} data set options. You cannot drop and rename the same variable in the same statement.

\textit{Note:} The \texttt{RENAME=} data set option has an effect only on data sets that are opened in output mode.

Use the \texttt{RENAME} statement or the \texttt{RENAME=} data set option when program logic requires that you rename variables. An example is two input data sets that have variables with the same name. To rename variables as a file management task, use the \texttt{DATASETS} procedure.

You must use the \texttt{RENAME=} data set option on the input data set or data sets to rename variables before processing begins.

\textbf{Comparisons}

The \texttt{RENAME=} data set option differs from the \texttt{RENAME} statement in these ways:

\begin{itemize}
  \item You can use the \texttt{RENAME=} data set option, not the \texttt{RENAME} statement, in \texttt{PROC} steps.
  \item You must use the \texttt{RENAME=} data set option to rename different variables in different data sets. The \texttt{RENAME} statement applies to all output data sets.
\end{itemize}

\textbf{Examples}

\textit{Example 1: Renaming a Variable at Time of Output}

This example uses \texttt{RENAME=} in the \texttt{DATA} statement to show that the variable is renamed when it is written to the output data set. The variable keeps its original name, \texttt{X}, during \texttt{DATA} step processing.

```
data one;
  input x y z;
```
data three;
   set one(rename=(x=keys));
   z=keys+y;
run;

proc print data=three;
run;

Example 2: Renaming a Variable at Time of Input
This example renames variable X to a variable named KEYS in the SET statement, before DATA step processing.

```
data three;
   set one(rename=(x=keys));
   z=keys+y;
run;
```
Example 3: Renaming a Variable for a SAS Procedure with WHERE Processing
This example renames variable Score1 to a variable named Score2 for the PRINT procedure. Because the new name is applied before the data is processed, the new name must be specified in the WHERE statement.

```
data test;
  input score1;
  datalines;
26
76
86
56
;
proc print data=test (rename=(score1=score2));
  where score2 gt 75;
run;
```

See Also

Data Set Options:
- “DROP= Data Set Option” on page 17
- “KEEP= Data Set Option” on page 37

Statement:
- “RENAME Statement” in SAS Viya Statements: Reference
REPEMPTY= Data Set Option

Specifies whether a new, empty data set can overwrite an existing SAS data set that has the same name.

Valid in: DATA step and PROC steps
Category: Data Set Control
Restrictions: This data set option is not valid in a DATA step that runs in Cloud Analytic Services. Use with output data sets only.

Syntax
REPEMPTY= YES | NO

Syntax Description
YES
specifies that a new empty data set with a given name replaces an existing data set with the same name. This is the default.

Interaction If REPEMPTY= YES and REPLACE= NO, then the data set is not replaced.

NO
specifies that a new empty data set with a given name does not replace an existing data set with the same name.

Tips Use REPLACE= YES and REPEMPTY= NO for the convenience of replacing existing data sets with new ones that contain data.

Use REPEMPTY= NO to prevent the following syntax error from replacing the existing data set B with the new empty data set B that is created by mistake:

data mylib.a set b;

Use REPLACE= YES and REPEMPTY= NO for the protection of not overwriting existing data sets with new empty ones that are created by mistake.

Details
For an individual data set, the REPEMPTY= data set option overrides the REPEMPTY= option in the LIBNAME statement.

Comparisons
- The REPEMPTY= and REPLACE= data set options apply to permanent and temporary SAS data sets. However, the REPLACE system option only applies to permanent SAS data sets.
**See Also**

**Data Set Options:**
- “REPLACE= Data Set Option” on page 59

**Statement Options:**
- “REPEMPTY=YES|NO” in SAS Viya Statements: Reference

**System Options:**
- “REPLACE System Option” in SAS Viya System Options: Reference

---

**REPLACE= Data Set Option**

Specifies whether a new SAS data set that contains data can overwrite an existing data set that has the same name.

**Valid in:** DATA step and PROC steps

**Categories:** CAS
- Data Set Control

**Restrictions:** Use with output data sets only.
- This option is valid only when creating a SAS data set.

**Note:** When you use the OUT2= PermanentLibrary._ALL_ option within PROC CONTENTS or PROC DATASETS with the CONTENTS statement, you must also set the REPLACE=YES data set option or the REPLACE system option.

---

**Syntax**

**REPLACE=NO | YES**

**Syntax Description**

**NO**
- specifies that a new data set with a given name does not replace an existing data set with the same name.

**YES**
- specifies that a new data set with a given name replaces an existing data set with the same name.

**Details**

- The REPLACE= data set option overrides the REPLACE system option for the individual data set.
- The REPLACE system option only applies to permanent SAS data sets.

Use REPLACE=YES and REPEMPTY=NO for the convenience of replacing existing data sets with new ones that contain data.
Example
Using the REPLACE= data set option in this DATA statement prevents SAS from replacing a permanent SAS data set named ONE in a library referenced by MYLIB:

```sas
data mylib.one(replace=no);
```

SAS writes a message to the log that the file has not been replaced.

See Also

System Options:
• “REPLACE System Option” in SAS Viya System Options: Reference

---

**REUSE= Data Set Option**

Specifies whether new observations can be written to available space in compressed SAS data sets.

- **Valid in:** DATA step and PROC steps
- **Category:** Data Set Control
- **Restrictions:** This data set option is not valid in a DATA step that runs in Cloud Analytic Services. Use with output data sets only.

**Syntax**

```
REUSE=NO | YES
```

**Syntax Description**

**NO**

does not track and reuse space in compressed data sets. New observations are appended to the existing data set. Specifying the NO argument results in less efficient data storage if you delete or update many observations in the SAS data set.

You can use procedures such as APPEND and FSEDIT that add observations to the end of SAS data sets with compressed data sets.

**YES**

tracks and reuses space in compressed SAS data sets. New observations are inserted in the space that is available when other observations are updated or deleted.

REUSE=YES causes new observations to be added wherever there is space in the file, not necessarily at the end of the file.

**Details**

By default, new observations are appended to existing compressed data sets. To track and reuse available space by deleting or updating other observations, use the REUSE= data set option when you create a compressed SAS data set.

Use REUSE= only when you are creating new data sets with the COMPRESS=YES data set option or system option.

The REUSE= data set option overrides the REUSE= system option.
REUSE=YES takes precedence over POINTOBS=YES. For example, the following statement results in a data set that has POINTOBS=NO:
```
data test(compress=yes pointobs=yes reuse=yes);
```
Because POINTOBS=YES is the default when you use compression, REUSE=YES causes POINTOBS= to change to NO.

**See Also**

**Data Set Options:**
- “COMPRESS= Data Set Option” on page 12

**System Options:**
- “REUSE= System Option” in *SAS Viya System Options: Reference*

### ROLE= Data Set Option

Identifies the fact table for a star schema join.

**Valid in:** PROC SQL  
**Category:** Data Set Control  
**Restrictions:** This data set option is not valid in a DATA step that runs in Cloud Analytic Services. Use with input data sets only.

**Syntax**

```
ROLE=FACT | DIMENSION | DIM
```

**Syntax Description**

**FACT**
identifies the SAS data set as the fact table for a star schema.

**DIMENSION | DIM**
identifies the SAS data set as a dimension table for a star schema.

**Details**

A *star schema* is an arrangement of several tables in which a large fact table is joined to several dimension tables. For example, you can join SAS data sets by using SQL procedure syntax to create a star schema.

To improve the performance of the application that processes the joined tables, specify the ROLE= data set option. For example, specify ROLE=FACT to designate the specific fact table. You can also specify ROLE=DIMENSION to designate each dimension table.

Because the role a table plays can change between queries, the ROLE= specification is in effect for the current step only and is not stored with the data set.
Example: Designating the Fact Table

In this example, the ROLE= data set option improves the performance of PROC SQL. ORDERS is the fact table, and PRODUCT, PERIOD, and CUSTOMER are dimension tables.

```sql
proc sql;
  select orders.Order_Total
  from orders (role=fact), product, period, customer
  where orders.Product_ID = product.Product_ID
    and orders.Period_ID = period.Period_ID
    and product.Product_Name = "camera"
    and period.Period_Name = "1997"
    and customer.Customer_Name = "Walmart";
quit;
```

See Also

“SQL” in SAS Viya SQL Procedure User’s Guide

SORTEDBY= Data Set Option

Specifies how a data set is currently sorted.

Valid in: DATA step and PROC steps
Category: Data Set Control
Restriction: This data set option is not valid in a DATA step that runs in Cloud Analytic Services.

Syntax

```
SORTEDBY=by-clause</collate-name> | _NULL_
```

Syntax Description

- **by-clause**: `<collate-name>`
  - indicates how the data is currently sorted.

- **by-clause**: names the variables and options that you use in a BY statement in a PROC SORT step.

- **collate-name**: names the collating sequence that is used for the sort. By default, the collating sequence is that of your operating environment. A slash (/) must precede the collating sequence.
  - **Operating Environment Information**
    - For more information about collating sequences, see the SAS documentation for your operating environment.

- **_NULL_**: removes any existing sort indicator.
Details

SAS determines whether a data set is already sorted by the key variable or variables in ascending order by checking the sort indicator. The sort indicator is stored in the data set descriptor information and is set from a previous sort. For more information about how the sort indicator is used and how it improves performance, see “SORTVALIDATE System Option” in SAS Viya System Options: Reference.

This example of the CONTENTS procedure indicates that the data set was sorted using the SORTEDBY= data set option.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sort Information</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sortedby var1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Validated NO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Character Set ANSI</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Comparisons

- The CONTENTS statement in the DATASETS procedure indicates how a data set is sorted.
- The SORTEDBY= option indicates how the data is sorted, but does not cause a data set to be sorted.

Example

This example uses the SORTEDBY= data set option to specify how the data is currently sorted. The data set ORDERS is sorted by PRIORITY and by the descending values of INDATE. Once the data set is created, the sort indicator is stored with it. These statements create the data set ORDERS and record the sort indicator:

```sas
libname mylib 'SAS-library';
options yearcutoff=1926;
data mylib.orders(sortedby=priority descending indate);
  input priority 1. +1 indate date7. +1 office $ code $;
  format indate date7.;
datalines;
  1 03may01 CH J8U
  1 21mar01 LA M91
  1 01dec00 FW L6R
  1 27feb99 FW Q2A
  2 15jan08 FW I9U
  2 09jul99 CH P3Q
  3 08apr10 CH HST
  3 31jan12 FW D2W
;```
Output 2.13  PROC CONTENTS Sort Information

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sort Information</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sortedby</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Validated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Character Set</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

See Also
- “SORT” in SAS Viya Data Management and Utility Procedures Guide
- “SQL” in SAS Viya SQL Procedure User's Guide

**SPILL= Data Set Option**

Specifies whether to create a spill file for non-sequential processing of a DATA step view.

**Valid in:** DATA step and PROC steps  
**Category:** Data Set Control  
**Restrictions:** This data set option is not valid in a DATA step that runs in Cloud Analytic Services. Valid only for a DATA step view

**Syntax**

`SPILL=YES | NO`

**Syntax Description**

**YES**

Creates a spill file for non-sequential processing of a DATA step view. This is the default.

Interaction: A spill file is never created for sequential processing of a DATA step view.

**NO**

Does not create a spill file or reduce the size of a spill file.

Interaction: For direct (random) access, a spill file is always created even if you specify SPILL=NO.

**Note**

If you do not have enough disk space to accommodate a resulting spill file from a DATA step view that generates a large amount of data, specify SPILL=NO.

**Tip**

For SAS procedures that process BY-group data, consider specifying SPILL=NO in order to write only the current BY group to the spill file.
Details

When a DATA step view is opened for non-sequential processing, a spill file is created by default. The spill file contains the observations that are generated by a DATA step view. Subsequent requests for data read the observations from the spill file rather than execute the DATA step view again. The spill file is a temporary file in the Work library.

Non-sequential processing includes the following access methods, which are supported by several SAS statements and procedures. How the SPILL= data set option operates with each of the access methods is described here:

random access
retrieves observations directly either by an observation number or by the value of one or more variables through an index without reading all observations sequentially. Whether SPILL=YES or SPILL=NO, a spill file is always created, because the processing time to restart a DATA step view for each observation is significant.

BY-group access
uses a BY statement to process observations that are ordered, grouped, or indexed according to the values of one or more variables. SPILL=YES creates a spill file the size of all the data that is requested from the DATA step view. SPILL=NO writes only the current BY group to the spill file. The size of a spill file depends on the size of a BY group.

two-pass access
performs multiple sequential passes through the data. With SPILL=NO, no spill file is created. Instead, after the first pass through the data, the DATA step view is restarted for each subsequent pass through the data. If small amounts of data are returned by the DATA step view for each restart, the processing time to restart the view might be significant.

Note: With SPILL=NO, subsequent passes through the data could result in generating different data. Some processing might require using a spill file. For example, results from using random functions and computing values that are based on the current time of day could affect the data.

Examples

Example 1: Using a Spill File for a Small Number of Large BY Groups

This example creates a DATA step view that generates a large amount of random data and uses the UNIVARIATE procedure with a BY statement. The example illustrates the effects of SPILL= with a small number of large BY groups.

With SPILL=YES, all observations that are requested from the DATA step view are written to the spill file. With SPILL=NO, only the observations that are in the current BY group are written to the spill file. The output messages that are produced by this example show that the size of the spill file is reduced with SPILL=NO. However, the time it takes to truncate the spill file for each BY group might add to the overall processing time for the DATA step view.

```sas
options msglevel=i;
data vw_few_large / view=vw_few_large;
drop i;
do byval = 'Group A', 'Group B', 'Group C';
do i = 1 to 500000;
r = ranuni(4);
output;
```

Note: With SPILL=NO, subsequent passes through the data could result in generating different data. Some processing might require using a spill file. For example, results from using random functions and computing values that are based on the current time of day could affect the data.
end;
end;
run;
proc univariate data=vw_few_large (spill=yes) nopr
var r;
by byval;
run;
proc univariate data=vw_few_large (spill=no) nopr
var r;
by byval;
run;
Example 2: Using a Spill File for a Large Number of Small BY Groups

This example creates a DATA step view that generates a large amount of random data and uses the UNIVARIATE procedure with a BY statement. This example illustrates the effects of SPILL= with a large number of small BY groups.

With SPILL=YES, all observations that are requested from the DATA step view are written to the spill file. With SPILL=NO, only the observations that are in the current BY group are written to the spill file. The output messages that are produced by this
example show that the size of the spill file is reduced with SPILL=NO. Small BY groups result in large space savings.

```sas
options msglevel=i;
data vw_many_small / view=vw_many_small;
  drop i;
  do byval = 1 to 100000;
    do i = 1 to 5;
      r = ranuni(4);
      output;
    end;
  end;
run;
proc univariate data=vw_many_small (spill=yes) noprint;
  var r;
  by byval;
run;
proc univariate data=vw_many_small (spill=no) noprint;
  var r;
  by byval;
run;
```
Log 2.2 Log Output

1    options msglevel=i;
2    data vw_many_small / view=vw_many_small;
3        drop i;
4
5        do byval = 1 to 100000;
6            do i = 1 to 5;
7                r = ranuni(4);
8            output;
9        end;
10    end;
11    run;
NOTE: DATA STEP view saved on file WORK.VW_MANY_SMALL.
NOTE: A stored DATA STEP view cannot run under a different operating system.
NOTE: DATA statement used (Total process time):
    real time   0.56 seconds
    cpu time   0.03 seconds
12   proc univariate data=vw_many_small (spill=yes) noprint;
INFO: View WORK.VW_MANY_SMALL open mode: BY-group rewind.
13      var r;
14      by byval;
15    run;
INFO: View WORK.VW_MANY_SMALL opening spill file for output observations.
INFO: View WORK.VW_MANY_SMALL deleting spill file. File size was 8024240 bytes.
NOTE: VIEW WORK.VW_MANY_SMALL VIEW used (Total process time):
    real time   30.73 seconds
    cpu time   29.59 seconds
NOTE: PROCEDURE UNIVARIATE used (Total process time):
    real time 30.96 seconds
    cpu time 29.68 seconds
16   proc univariate data=vw_many_small (spill=no) noprint;
INFO: View WORK.VW_MANY_SMALL open mode: BY-group rewind.
17      var r;
18      by byval;
19    run;
INFO: View WORK.VW_MANY_SMALL opening spill file for output observations.
INFO: View WORK.VW_MANY_SMALL truncating spill file. File size was 65504 bytes.
NOTE: The above message was for the following by-group:
byval=410
INFO: View WORK.VW_MANY_SMALL truncating spill file. File size was 65504 bytes.
NOTE: The above message was for the following by-group:
byval=819
INFO: View WORK.VW_MANY_SMALL truncating spill file. File size was 65504 bytes.
NOTE: The above message was for the following by-group:
byval=1229

. Deleted many INFO and NOTE messages for BY groups
.
INFO: View WORK.VW_MANY_SMALL truncating spill file. File size was 65504 bytes.
NOTE: The above message was for the following by-group:
byval=99894
INFO: View WORK.VW_MANY_SMALL deleting spill file. File size was 32752 bytes.
NOTE: VIEW WORK.VW_MANY_SMALL VIEW used (Total process time):
    real time 29.43 seconds
    cpu time 28.81 seconds
NOTE: PROCEDURE UNIVARIATE used (Total process time):
    real time 29.43 seconds
    cpu time 28.81 seconds

SPILL= Data Set Option
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Example 3: Using a Spill File with Two-Pass Access

This example creates a DATA step view that generates a large amount of random data and uses the TRANSPOSE procedure. The example illustrates the effects of SPILL= with a procedure that requires two-pass access processing.

When PROC TRANSPOSE processes a DATA step view, the procedure must make two passes through the observations that the view generates. The first pass counts the number of observations and the second pass performs the transposition. With SPILL=YES, a spill file is created during the first pass, and the second pass reads the observations from the spill file. With SPILL=NO, a spill file is not created. After the first pass, the DATA step view is restarted.

The first TRANSPOSE procedure does not include the SPILL= data set option, even though a spill file is used by default. A log message about the Open mode is not displayed.

```plaintext
options msglevel=i;
data vw_transpose/view=vw_transpose;
  drop i j;
  array x[10000];
  do i = 1 to 10;
    do j = 1 to dim(x);
      x[j] = ranuni(4);
    end;
    output;
  end;
run;
proc transpose data=vw_transpose out=transposed;
run;
proc transpose data=vw_transpose(spill=yes) out=transposed;
r
proc transpose data=vw_transpose(spill=no) out=transposed;
run;
```
Log 2.3  Log Output

1   options msglevel=i;
2   data vw_transpose/view=vw_transpose;
3       drop i j;
4       array x[10000];
5       do i = 1 to 10;
6          do j = 1 to dim(x);
7             x[j] = ranuni(4);
8          end;
9         output;
10      end;
11   run;
NOTE: DATA STEP view saved on file WORK.VW_TRANSPOSE.
NOTE: A stored DATA STEP view cannot run under a different operating system.
NOTE: DATA statement used (Total process time):
   real time           0.68 seconds
   cpu time            0.18 seconds
12   proc transpose data=vw_transpose out=transposed;
13   run;
INFO: View WORK.VW_TRANSPOSE opening spill file for output observations.
INFO: View WORK.VW_TRANSPOSE deleting spill file.  File size was 880000 bytes.
NOTE: View WORK.VW_TRANSPOSE.VIEW used (Total process time):
   real time           2.37 seconds
   cpu time            1.17 seconds
NOTE: There were 10 observations read from the data set WORK.VW_TRANSPOSE.
NOTE: The data set WORK.TRANSPOSE has 10000 observations and 11 variables.
NOTE: PROCEDURE TRANSPOSE used (Total process time):
   real time           4.17 seconds
   cpu time            1.51 seconds
14   proc transpose data=vw_transpose (spill=yes) out=transposed;
INFO: View WORK.VW_TRANSPOSE open mode: sequential.
15   run;
INFO: View WORK.VW_TRANSPOSE reopen mode: two-pass.
INFO: View WORK.VW_TRANSPOSE opening spill file for output observations.
INFO: View WORK.VW_TRANSPOSE deleting spill file.  File size was 880000 bytes.
NOTE: View WORK.VW_TRANSPOSE.VIEW used (Total process time):
   real time           0.95 seconds
   cpu time            0.92 seconds
NOTE: There were 10 observations read from the data set WORK.VW_TRANSPOSE.
NOTE: The data set WORK.TRANSPOSE has 10000 observations and 11 variables.
NOTE: PROCEDURE TRANSPOSE used (Total process time):
   real time           1.34 seconds
   cpu time            1.32 seconds
16   proc transpose data=vw_transpose (spill=no) out=transposed;
INFO: View WORK.VW_TRANSPOSE open mode: sequential.
17   run;
INFO: View WORK.VW_TRANSPOSE reopen mode: two-pass.
INFO: View WORK.VW_TRANSPOSE restarting for another pass through the data.
NOTE: View WORK.VW_TRANSPOSE.VIEW used (Total process time):
   real time           1.34 seconds
   cpu time            1.32 seconds
NOTE: The View WORK.VW_TRANSPOSE was restarted 1 times. The following view
statistics
   only apply to the last view restart.
NOTE: There were 10 observations read from the data set WORK.VW_TRANSPOSE.
NOTE: The data set WORK.TRANSPOSE has 10000 observations and 11 variables.
NOTE: PROCEDURE TRANSPOSE used (Total process time):
   real time           1.42 seconds
   cpu time            1.40 seconds

See Also

Data Set Options:
TOBSNO= Data Set Option

Specifies the number of observations to send in a client/server transfer.

Valid in: DATA step and PROC steps
Category: Data Set Control
Restrictions: This data set option is not valid in a DATA step that runs in Cloud Analytic Services.
  The TOBSNO= option is valid only for data sets that are accessed through a SAS server by using the REMOTE engine.

Syntax

TOBSNO=n

Syntax Description

n specifies the number of observations to be transmitted.

Details

If the TOBSNO= option is not specified, its value is calculated based on the observation length and the size of the server’s transmission buffers. This action is specified by the PROC SERVER statement TBUFSIZE= option.

The TOBSNO= option is valid only for data sets that are accessed through a SAS server via the REMOTE engine. If this option is specified for a data set that is opened for update or accessed via another engine, it is ignored.

See Also

“FOPEN Function” in SAS Viya Functions and CALL Routines: Reference

TYPE= Data Set Option

Specifies the data set type for a specially structured SAS data set.

Valid in: DATA step and PROC steps
Category: Data Set Control
Restriction: This data set option is not valid in a DATA step that runs in Cloud Analytic Services.

Syntax

TYPE=data-set-type
Syntax Description

data-set-type
    specifies the special type of data set.

Details

Use the TYPE= data set option in a DATA step to perform these tasks:

• to create a special SAS data set in the proper format
• to identify the special type of SAS data set in a procedure statement

You can use the CONTENTS procedure to determine the type of data set.

Most SAS data sets do not have a specified type. However, there are several specially structured SAS data sets that are used by some SAS/STAT procedures. These SAS data sets contain special variables and observations, and they are usually created by SAS statistical procedures. Because most of the special SAS data sets are used with SAS/STAT software, they are described in the SAS/STAT User's Guide. Some of the special data sets are CORR, COV, SSPC, EST, and FACTOR.

Additional values are available in other SAS software products and are described in the appropriate documentation.

Note: If you use a DATA step with a SET statement to modify a special SAS data set, you must specify the TYPE= option in the DATA statement. The data-set-type is not automatically copied to the data set that is created.

See Also

“CONTENTS” in SAS Viya Data Management and Utility Procedures Guide

USEDIRECTIO= Data Set Option: Linux

Turns on direct file I/O for a library that contains the file to which the ENABLEDIRECTIO option has been applied.

Valid in:      DATA step                  
Category:     Data Set Control         
Default:      Off                       
Engine:       V9, V8                    
Operating environment: To use this option, you must also use the ENABLEDIRECTIO option in the LIBNAME statement where the libref was assigned.

Syntax

USEDIRECTIO=YES | NO

Required Argument

YES | NO
    specifies whether to turn on the USEDIRECTIO= option.
Details

The USEDIRECTIO= data set option turns on direct file I/O for a data set that is listed in a DATA statement. The associated libref must have been defined with the ENABLEDIRECTIO option in the LIBNAME statement.

Using ENABLEDIRECTIO in a LIBNAME statement makes direct file I/O possible for data sets in that library. Direct I/O itself is not turned on. You must use the USEDIRECTIO= option to produce direct file I/O.

You can turn on direct file I/O in two ways:

• Use both the ENABLEDIRECTIO and USEDIRECTIO= options in the LIBNAME statement:

  libname libref-name '.' ENABLEDIRECTIO USEDIRECTIO=yes;

  In this case, SAS uses direct file I/O on all SAS I/O data sets that are opened using the libref libref-name.

• Use ENABLEDIRECTIO in the LIBNAME statement and use USEDIRECTIO= in a DATA statement:

  libname libref-name ' . ' ENABLEDIRECTIO;
  data libref-name.data-set-name (USEDIRECTIO=yes);

  In this case, libref-name.data-set-name is opened for direct file I/O. Other SAS I/O data sets referenced by libref-name will not use direct file I/O.

USEDIRECTIO= by itself has no effect. Neither of the following statements open a data set for direct file I/O:

  libname libref-name ' . ' USEDIRECTIO=yes;
  data libref-name.data-set-name (USEDIRECTIO=yes);

Example

The following example uses the ENABLEDIRECTIO LIBNAME option to enable files that are associated with the libref test to be opened for direct I/O. The USEDIRECTIO= data set option opens test.file1 for direct I/O. test.file2 is not opened for direct I/O.

```
LIBNAME test'.' ENABLEDIRECTIO;
data test.file1(USEDIRECTIO=yes);
  ... more SAS statements ... 
run;
data test.file2;
  ... more SAS statements ... 
run;
```

WHERE= Data Set Option

Specifies specific conditions to use to select observations from a SAS data set.

Valid in: DATA step and PROC steps

Categories: CAS
Observation Control

Restriction: Cannot be used with the POINT= option in the SET and MODIFY statements.
Syntax

\[ \text{WHERE}= ( \text{where-expression-1} <\text{logical-operator}\ where-expression-2> ) \]

Syntax Description

\[ \text{where-expression} \]

is an arithmetic or logical expression that consists of a sequence of operators, operands, and SAS functions. An \textit{operand} is a variable, a SAS function, or a constant. An \textit{operator} is a symbol that requests a comparison, logical operation, or arithmetic calculation. The expression must be enclosed in parentheses.

\[ \text{logical-operator} \]

can be AND, AND NOT, OR, or OR NOT.

Details

• The \texttt{WHERE=} data set option is not supported as output for a DATA step that is running in Cloud Analytic Services (CAS). It is supported as output for a DATA step that is loading a SAS data set to a CAS table using the CAS engine. You can filter the data before loading it to a CAS table. This data set option is not valid in a DATA step running in CAS. For example, you can run this code:

\[
\begin{align*}
\text{libname mycas cas;}
\text{data mycas.air(where=(air>450));}
\text{set sashelp.air;}
\text{run;}
\end{align*}
\]

You cannot run this code:

\[
\begin{align*}
\text{libname mycas cas;}
\text{data mycas.air(where=(air>450)) / sessref="casauto";}
\text{set mycas.air;}
\text{run;}
\end{align*}
\]

• Use the \texttt{WHERE=} data set option with an input SAS data set to select observations that meet the condition that is specified in the \texttt{WHERE} expression. SAS brings the observations into the DATA or PROC step for processing. Selecting observations that meet the conditions of the \texttt{WHERE} expression is the first operation SAS performs in each iteration of the DATA step.

You can also select observations that are written to an output data set. In general, selecting observations at the point of input is more efficient than selecting them at the point of output.

• You can apply \texttt{OBS=} and \texttt{FIRSTOBS=} processing to \texttt{WHERE} processing. These data set options are not valid in a DATA step running in CAS.

• You cannot use the \texttt{WHERE=} data set option with the \texttt{POINT=} option in the \texttt{SET} and \texttt{MODIFY} statements. This data set option is not valid in a DATA step running in CAS.

• You can use both the \texttt{WHERE=} data set option and the \texttt{WHERE} statement in the same SAS DATA step. SAS ignores the \texttt{WHERE} statement for data sets with the \texttt{WHERE=} data set option.

\textit{Note:} Using indexed SAS data sets can improve performance significantly when you are using \texttt{WHERE} expressions to access a subset of the observations in a SAS data set. Indexes are not supported in Cloud Analytic Services.
Comparisons

- The WHERE statement applies to all input SAS data sets, whereas the WHERE= data set option selects observations only from the SAS data set for which it is specified.
- The DROP= and KEEP= data set options select variables for processing, whereas the WHERE= data set option selects observations.

Examples

Example 1: Selecting Observations from an Input Data Set

This example uses the WHERE= data set option to subset the SALES data set as it is read into another data set:

```sas
data whizmo;
  set sales(where=(product='whizmo'));
run;
```

Output 2.14  Input Data Set Observations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>product</th>
<th>sales</th>
<th>store</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>whizmo</td>
<td>234</td>
<td>mountain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>whizmo</td>
<td>273</td>
<td>lakeside</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>whizmo</td>
<td>234</td>
<td>parkview</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>whizmo</td>
<td>233</td>
<td>central</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Example 2: Selecting Observations from an Output Data Set

This example uses the WHERE= data set option to subset the SALES output data set:

```sas
data whizmo(where=(product='whizmo'));
  set sales;
run;
```
WHEREUP= Data Set Option
Specifies whether to evaluate new observations and modified observations against a WHERE expression.

Valid in: DATA step and PROC steps
Category: Observation Control
Restriction: This data set option is not valid in a DATA step that runs in Cloud Analytic Services.

Syntax
WHEREUP=NO | YES

Syntax Description
NO
does not evaluate added observations and modified observations against a WHERE expression.
YES
evaluates added observations and modified observations against a WHERE expression.

Details
Specify WHEREUP=YES when you want any added observations or modified observations to match a specified WHERE expression.

Examples

Example 1: Accepting Updates That Do Not Match the WHERE Expression
This example shows how WHEREUP= allows observations to be updated and added even though the modified observation does not match the WHERE expression:

data a;
  x=1;
  output;

Whizmo Data Set

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Obs</th>
<th>product</th>
<th>sales</th>
<th>store</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>whizmo</td>
<td>234</td>
<td>mountain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>whizmo</td>
<td>273</td>
<td>lakeside</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>whizmo</td>
<td>234</td>
<td>parkview</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>whizmo</td>
<td>233</td>
<td>central</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
In this example, SAS updates the observation and adds the new observation to the data set.

**Example 2: Rejecting Updates That Do Not Match the WHERE Expression**

In this example, WHEREUP= does not allow observations to be updated or added when the update and the addition do not match the WHERE expression:

```sas
data a;
  x=1;
  output;
  x=2;
  output;
run;

data a;
  modify a(where=(x=1) whereup=yes);
  x=3;
  replace; /* Update does not match WHERE expression */
  output; /* Add does not match WHERE expression */
run;
```

In this example, SAS does not update the observation nor does it add the new observation to the data set.

**See Also**

Data Set Option:
- “WHERE= Data Set Option” on page 74

---

**WRITE= Data Set Option**

Assigns a WRITE= password to a SAS file that prevents users from writing to a file, unless the users enter the password.

- **Valid in:** DATA step and PROC steps
- **Category:** Data Set Control
- **Restriction:** This data set option is not valid in a DATA step that runs in Cloud Analytic Services.
- **Note:** Check your log after this operation to ensure password security.

**Syntax**

```
WRITE=write-password
```
**Syntax Description**

`write-password` must be a valid SAS name.

**Details**

The WRITE= option applies to all types of SAS files except catalogs. You can use this option to assign a password to a SAS file or to access a write-protected SAS file.

*Note:* A SAS password does not control access to a SAS file beyond the SAS system. You should use the operating system-supplied utilities and file-system security controls in order to control access to SAS files outside of SAS.

**See Also**

**Data Set Options:**

- “ALTER= Data Set Option” on page 9
- “ENCRYPT= Data Set Option” on page 19
- “PW= Data Set Option” on page 52
- “READ= Data Set Option” on page 54
Recommended Reading

Here is the recommended reading list for this title:

- *SAS Cloud Analytic Services: Language Reference*
- *SAS Viya Data Management and Utility Procedures Guide*
- *SAS Viya Formats and Informats: Reference*
- *SAS Viya Functions and CALL Routines: Reference*
- *SAS Viya Statements: Reference*
- *SAS Viya System Options: Reference*
- *Base SAS Glossary*
- *Learning SAS by Example*
- *The Little SAS Book: A Primer*
- *Combining and Modifying SAS Data Sets: Examples*
- *An Array of Challenges--Test Your SAS Skills*

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