About SAS Visual Analytics

What Is SAS Visual Analytics?

SAS Visual Analytics leverages SAS high-performance analytic technologies and empowers organizations to explore huge volumes of data quickly to identify patterns, trends, and opportunities for further analysis. The highly visual, drag-and-drop data interface of SAS Visual Analytics, combined with the speed of SAS LASR Analytic Server, accelerates analytic computations and enables organizations to derive value from massive amounts of data. This creates an unprecedented ability to solve difficult problems, improve business performance, predict future performance, and mitigate risk rapidly and confidently. Users can quickly design reports or dashboards, which can be viewed on a mobile device or on the web.

SAS Visual Analytics enables you to explore, discover, and predict using your data. If SAS Visual Statistics is licensed at your site, then you can create, test, and compare models based on the patterns discovered during exploration of your data. You can export a model before or after performing model comparison, to use it with other SAS products.

One type of document, a report, is created in SAS Visual Analytics. Whether you are working with text, a table, or a linear regression, all objects are added to pages in a report. All objects can be presented in the various layouts supported by SAS Visual Analytics. For more information, see SAS Visual Analytics: Designing Reports.

For information about new features, see SAS Visual Analytics: What’s New.

What Are the SAS Visual Analytics Apps?

The SAS Visual Analytics Apps (previously called SAS Mobile BI) are free mobile apps. You can download the apps from the following locations:

- Apple App Store
- Google Play
- Microsoft Store

Using these apps, you can view and interact with SAS Visual Analytics reports, as well as share comments and observations with others. The apps support all charts and graphs that are available in SAS Visual Analytics.
What Is the SAS SDK?

The SAS SDK lets you create mobile apps that include SAS Visual Analytics content. The SAS SDK gives you the ability to personalize, preconfigure, customize, and manage the user experience of including SAS Visual Analytics content in your apps.

- Personalize your apps by substituting your organization’s name and icon in the SAS Visual Analytics App.
- Preconfigure your apps to include server connections and report subscriptions so that your users do not have to perform these tasks.
- Create completely customized mobile apps that combine the interactivity of SAS Visual Analytics reports with any other external content and capabilities that you choose.
- Manage and secure your mobile deployments by integrating your mobile apps with your mobile device management (MDM) service.

Your mobile apps can connect to your SAS servers and can be managed by your organization’s SAS administrators. The SAS SDK is free and is available for iOS and Android devices from the SAS SDK product page.

Benefits of Using SAS Visual Analytics

By using SAS Visual Analytics, users can enhance the analytic power of their data, explore new data sources, uncover relevant patterns, and create reports. In traditional reporting, the resulting output is well defined up-front. That is, you know what you are looking at and what you need to convey. In contrast, data discovery invites you to plumb the data, its characteristics, and its relationships. Reports can be made available on a mobile device or on the web.

SAS Visual Analytics provides users with the following benefits:

- enables users to apply the power of SAS analytics to massive amounts of data
- empowers users to visually explore data, based on any variety of measures, at amazingly fast speeds
- enables users to quickly create powerful statistical models if SAS Visual Statistics is licensed at your site
- enables users to quickly create reports or dashboards using standard tables, graphs, and gauges
- enables users to share insights with anyone, anywhere, via the web or a mobile device

SAS Visual Analytics Community

The SAS Visual Analytics community is dedicated to users who are focused on exploratory visualization and analytical techniques, data preparation, dashboard reporting, and mobile reporting. Using the community, you can share your experiences, discuss topics and ideas, seek help from your peers, and share information about upcoming events. You can access the user community at communities.sas.com/visual-analytics.

For questions requiring immediate technical assistance, contact SAS Technical Support at support.sas.com.
Accessing SAS Visual Analytics

Authenticated Users

After you sign in to SAS Visual Analytics using the standard sign-in window for SAS applications, you will see SAS Home, which enables you to access SAS Visual Analytics. In addition, it enables you to access content that you and others have created.

Use the Side Menu to Access SAS Visual Analytics

If you are using another SAS application (for example, SAS Home), you can access SAS Visual Analytics from the side menu. Click ☰ in the application bar. Using the side menu, click Report Builder. Here is an example of what you might see in the side menu:

Note: The items available in the side menu depend on your assigned identity and the products licensed at your site.

Guest Access

SAS Visual Analytics system administrators can configure support for guest access. Users with guest access can access only SAS Home and SAS Visual Analytics Viewer (the report viewer). Guest access uses a shared account, so it does not provide individualized features, such as history or alerts. If provided by the system administrator, favorites and preferences are read-only features.

Accessing SAS Visual Analytics as a guest is useful if you do not have a metadata identity. This enables you to view reports that are widely available under a generic, shared account. You can also view reports that are available to the public on the internet.

Overview of SAS Visual Analytics Capabilities

Users might have access to different functionality, depending on their assigned roles. Roles are mapped to capabilities. A capability, also known as an application action, defines the operations a user can perform.
Note: Access to functionality depends on how SAS Visual Analytics is installed at your site. For example, a site might not have SAS Visual Statistics licensed and installed.

SAS Visual Analytics provides five predefined roles—Basic, Report Viewing, Analysis, Data Building, and Administration. A predefined set of capabilities is available for each role. A system administrator can modify these roles and specify the capabilities for each role that meet the guidelines for your company. They can also define new roles. If you have questions about your assigned role, contact your system administrator. For more information about the roles and the capabilities that are available, see the *SAS Visual Analytics: Administration Guide*.

Note: The usage documentation for SAS Visual Analytics discusses tasks that you might be able to perform, depending on your role.

**About the Availability of Menus and Menu Selections in SAS Visual Analytics**

All of the following conditions influence whether a SAS Visual Analytics menu or menu selection is available to use:

- your role and the associated capabilities. For example, you must have a Data Building role to prepare data.
- your SAS Visual Analytics deployment. For example, some application features are available only if SAS Visual Statistics is licensed at your site.
- the currently selected report object. For example, ranges are not available for list tables.
- whether the data for a report has been defined. For example, if the data has not been selected, then you cannot create a filter.

**Sign Out of SAS Visual Analytics**

Use the application bar to sign out of SAS Visual Analytics. Click the user name button, and then click **Sign out**. When you click **Sign out**, you are signed out of all SAS web applications. For example, suppose that you have SAS Studio and SAS Visual Analytics open, and then you click **Sign out** when you finish working on a report in SAS Visual Analytics. In this case, you have signed out of both SAS Studio and SAS Visual Analytics.

**Personalize SAS Visual Analytics**

SAS provides accessibility features that you can use to personalize the user interface to make it easier to use. Accessibility features are part of the global settings, which are applied to all SAS web applications, including SAS Visual Analytics. For more information about global settings, see *SAS 9.4 Web Applications: General Usage Help*.

For more information about accessibility in SAS Visual Analytics, see the following:

- *SAS Visual Analytics: Accessibility Features*
- “Keyboard Shortcuts for SAS Visual Analytics” in *SAS Visual Analytics: Reference*
- “Accessibility for Viewing Reports” in *SAS Visual Analytics: Designing Reports*
- “Modify SAS Visual Analytics Settings” in *SAS Visual Analytics: Designing Reports*
Moving Content from a Previous Release of SAS Visual Analytics

Promotion is the process of moving content from one SAS deployment to another. Content can be promoted from SAS Visual Analytics 7.1, 7.2, 7.3, or 7.4 to the 7.5 release.

An administrator can promote the following types of SAS Visual Analytics content:

- reports and folders
- explorations
  
  Note: Starting in the 7.5 release, explorations have been replaced by reports. For this reason, explorations that are promoted to 7.5 are converted into reports.
- statistical models
- externally created files
- graph templates
- comments

For more information and promotion instructions, see SAS Intelligence Platform: System Administration Guide.

Note: There are different requirements for promoting content to SAS Visual Analytics on SAS Viya. For the most current technical resources, see the SAS Visual Analytics page on the SAS support site.

Recommended Reading

Here is the recommended reading list for SAS Visual Analytics 7.5:

- SAS Visual Analytics: What’s New
- SAS Visual Statistics: What’s New
- SAS Visual Analytics: Getting Started with Reports
- SAS Visual Analytics: Getting Started with Analytical Models
- SAS Visual Analytics: Getting Started with Data on Windows
- SAS Visual Analytics: Designing Reports
- SAS Visual Analytics: Working with Report Data
- SAS Visual Analytics: Working with Report Content
- SAS Visual Analytics: Reference
- SAS Visual Analytics: Accessibility Features
- SAS Visual Analytics: Viewer Documentation
- SAS Visual Analytics: Viewer Accessibility Features
- SAS Visual Data Builder: Accessing Data
- SAS Visual Data Builder: Preparing Data
If you are an administrator for SAS Visual Analytics, here are some additional resources:

- SAS Visual Analytics: Administration Guide
- SAS Intelligence Platform: System Administration Guide