SAS® Visual Analytics 8.2: Overview

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 Cloud Analytic Services (CAS), accelerate analytic computations and enable 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 create 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 the data. You can export the model before or after performing model comparison, for use with other SAS products, and to put the model into production.

SAS Visual Analytics empowers business users, business analysts, and IT administrators to accomplish tasks that are accessed from SAS Home. The central entry point for SAS Visual Analytics enables users to perform a wide variety of tasks such as exploring data, designing reports, as well as analyzing and interpreting data. Most important, reports can be displayed on a mobile device or on the web.

There is one type of document in SAS Visual Analytics, namely a *report*. 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 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*.

Benefits of Using SAS Visual Analytics

By using SAS Visual Analytics, users can enhance the analytic power of their data, explore new data sources, investigate them, 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 work with factorization machines, forests, gradient boosting, neural networks, and support vector machines if SAS Visual Data Mining and Machine Learning 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 BI. 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.

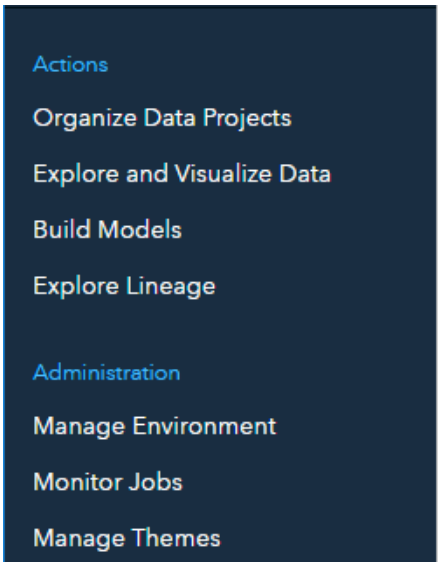
Accessing SAS Visual Analytics

Use SAS Home to Access SAS Visual Analytics

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. For more information, refer to *SAS Home Documentation*.

Use the Side Menu to Access SAS Visual Analytics

If you are using another SAS Viya application (for example, SAS Theme Designer), you can access SAS Visual Analytics from the side menu. Click ☰ in the application menu bar. Using the side menu, click **Explore and Visualize Data**. 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.

Sign Out of SAS Visual Analytics

Use the application bar to sign out of SAS Visual Analytics. Click your name, 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 also signed out of SAS Studio and SAS Visual Analytics.

Access to SAS Visual Analytics Functionality

Users might have access to different functionality, depending on the assigned rules. Rules can give all authenticated users access to functionality or they can provide special categories of users access to functionality.

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.

In addition to your identity, the following conditions influence whether a SAS Visual Analytics menu or menu selection is available:

- your location in SAS Visual Analytics. For example, some application features are available only if SAS Visual Statistics is licensed at your site.
- the currently selected object. For example, sparklines are not available for crosstabs.
- whether the data for a report has been defined. For example, if the data has not been added, then you cannot create a filter.

For more information about identity management and rules, see *SAS Viya Administration: Identity Management*.

Moving Content from a Previous Release of SAS Visual Analytics

Promotion is the process of capturing content and moving it to a different location. The following scenarios are supported for SAS Visual Analytics:

- Content can be promoted from the 7.x release to the 8.2 release.
- Content can be moved from the 8.1 release to the 8.2 release or from the 8.2 release to the 8.2 release.

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

- reports and folders
- externally created files
- comments
- explorations (from a 7.x release)
- graph templates (from a 7.x release)

For more information and instructions, see SAS Viya Administration: Promotion (Import and Export).

Recommended Reading

Here is the recommended reading list for SAS Visual Analytics:

- *SAS Visual Analytics: What's New*
- *SAS Visual Analytics: Designing Reports*
- *SAS Visual Analytics: Working with Report Data*
- *SAS Visual Analytics: Working with Report Content*
- *SAS Visual Analytics: Working with SAS Visual Statistics*
- *SAS Visual Analytics: Working with SAS Visual Data Mining and Machine Learning*
- *SAS Visual Analytics: Reference*
- *SAS Data Explorer: User's Guide*
- *SAS Visual Analytics Programming Guide*

If you are an administrator for SAS Visual Analytics, here are some additional resources:

- SAS Viya Administration: Orientation
- SAS Viya Administration: Promotion (Import and Export)

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