What’s New in SAS Visual Analytics 8.5: General Enhancements

- The user interface has been enhanced. For example, there are new page templates.
- A new automated prediction object has been added.
- New geo map objects have been added and existing geo map features have been enhanced. For example, geo maps now support multiple data layers.
- Existing objects have been improved. For example, crosstabs now display sparse values with a horizontal line (—).
- Accessibility has been enhanced. SAS Visual Analytics now produces accessible PDF files.

See Also

- What’s New in SAS 9.4 and SAS Viya
- SAS Visual Statistics: What’s New

What’s New in SAS Visual Analytics 8.5: Details

The following lists include the new features and enhancements since SAS Visual Analytics 8.4 was released.
Enhanced User Interface

- The new page templates enable you to quickly create a beautifully designed page. Six page templates are available in a gallery at the bottom of the canvas.
- If any object on the canvas has incomplete data assignments, a new Assign Data button is displayed. A pop-up menu enables you to select data roles.
- If an image on the canvas is incomplete, a new Select Image button is displayed. A pop-up menu enables you to upload a local image, choose SAS content, or enter a URL.
- The undo and redo feature now returns you to the object that is affected by the change. For example, suppose you made a change to a list table on page 1 and you switched to the second page in the report before you selected undo. SAS Visual Analytics switches back to page 1 to undo the change to the list table.
- The Copy Link window provides an Embeddable web component option, which generates custom HTML tags for an object or a report that can be embedded by the SAS Visual Analytics SDK.
- The print feature now provides an option that includes accessibility tags, which creates a tagged PDF.
- The hierarchy feature now has interactive breadcrumbs.

A New Object

- The new automated prediction object determines the best model for predicting the specified variable of interest. You can then adjust the values of the underlying factors to determine how the model prediction changes with each adjustment. For the 8.5 release, the descriptions of the prediction are available only in English.

New and Enhanced Geo Maps

- The geo map object has been replaced with five separate objects:
  - geo contour
    - displays a contour map to indicate the density of data on the map or the values of a measure.
  - geo coordinate
    - displays a map with either a scatter plot of coordinates or a bubble plot of coordinates.
  - geo network
    - displays a map with a network diagram.
  - geo region
    - displays a map with colored regions.
  - geo region-coordinate
    - displays a map with colored regions and either a scatter plot of coordinates or a bubble plot of coordinates.
- You can now display labels and data values on region maps.
When you import custom map regions, SAS Visual Analytics can now calculate the centroids (geographic center points) automatically.

You can now define geographic data providers that contain latitude and longitude coordinates rather than polygons (region boundaries).

Enhanced Objects

- The details table for analytical objects now contains a text summary of the object and details about the results.
- Crosstabs indicate sparse values with a horizontal line (—).
- The key value object can now be the source for page, report, and URL links.
- The copy link feature is now available for containers.
- The parallel coordinates plot now has a details table.
- Decision trees use a new method to bin values.

Enhanced Accessibility

- There is improved accessibility for keyboard-only users and for users of some assistive technologies when they are viewing reports. (June 2020 Update)
- All objects now have an Alternative text option, which enables you to specify text that a screen reader announces when a user selects the object.
- SAS Visual Analytics has an option to create a tagged PDF for a report.

Differences between SAS Visual Analytics 8.4 and 8.5

Here are some differences between SAS Visual Analytics 8.4 and 8.5:

- In the 8.4 and earlier releases, you could delete a report in the Open window. Starting in the 8.5 release, you can delete reports only by using SAS Drive.
- In the 8.4 release, the Copy Link window had an Embeddable link option that generated iframe tags. Starting in the 8.5 release, the Copy Link window has an Embeddable web component option that generates custom HTML tags for the SAS Visual Analytics SDK.
- In the 8.4 release, decision trees used bucket intervals (evenly spaced intervals) to bin values. In the 8.5 release, decision trees use quantiles (intervals that contain approximately the same number of values) to bin values. Decision trees that you promote from an earlier release continue to use bucket intervals, but if you change the Growth Strategy option for the decision tree, the bin intervals change to quantiles.
- In the 8.4 release, there was a single object type for geographic maps. In the 8.5 release, geographic maps are available as five different object types.
In the 8.4 release, aggregated measures could be assigned to contour maps and clustered coordinate maps. In the 8.5 release, aggregated measures are no longer supported for these objects.

In the 8.5 release, network objects with a map background are now available as a separate geo network object. However, you can still enable a map background for the basic network object.

In the 8.4 and earlier releases, you could specify the Description option for objects. Starting in the 8.5 release, the Description option has been removed.

In the 8.4 release, the SAS Visual Analytics SDK allows embedding of SAS Visual Analytics content into custom web apps and websites through guest access. In 8.5, authenticated access to SAS Visual Analytics report content is supported in addition to guest access.