SAS® Commands PIPE and CALL EXECUTE;
Dynamically Advancing from Strangers to Best Friends

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**ABSTRACT**

Communication is the basic foundation of all relationships, including your relationship with SAS and the Server/PC/Mainframe (S/P/M). There are times when you need to communicate with the S/P/M, through the UNIX, Windows, or z/OS Operating System (OS), to obtain important data to use in your various projects. To communicate with the S/P/M, you will ideally design your SAS program to request, receive, and utilize data to automatically create and execute Dynamic Code.

Our presentation highlights the powerful SAS partnership which occurs when the PIPE and CALL EXECUTE commands are surprisingly and creatively used together within SAS Enterprise Guide® Base SAS® Program Nodes. You will have the opportunity to learn how 1,259 time-consuming Manual Steps are amazingly replaced with only 3 time-saving Dynamic Automated Steps.

We look forward to introducing you to the powerful PIPE and CALL EXECUTE partnership – Your newest BFF (Best Friends Forever) in SAS.

**INTRODUCTION**

SAS is highly regarded around the world, and rightly so, as a powerful, intuitive, and flexible programming language. SAS stands for Statistical Analysis Software or, as we like to say, Smarter And Smarter. However, the SAS programming language, as amazing as it is, is not an island unto itself.

The tagline for SAS is *The Power To Know®*, and the power to know expands with your ability to communicate with the S/P/M. *The Power To Know* enables *The Power To Create* which leads to *The Power To Execute*. However, this power will quickly go down the drain if you do not know how to effectively communicate with the S/P/M through the OS.
Here are 3 questions you need to ask yourself when designing your SAS program:

- How do I efficiently request data from the S/P/M while protecting the integrity of the data?
- How do I automate my program to eliminate time-consuming manual processing, prevent potential manual intervention errors, and gain back valuable time for more enjoyable SAS endeavors?
- How do I pursue and accomplish this grand and noble feat?

**Good News – we are going to show you how to design Base SAS Program Nodes which:**

- Use Static Code to create a communication pipeline to request and receive data from the S/P/M.
  - Static Code is defined as executable code which never changes and always runs exactly the same way.
- Utilize the data from the S/P/M to automatically create Dynamic Code.
  - Dynamic Code is defined as executable code automatically created within a SAS data set based upon parameters which can change and therefore may or may not run exactly the same way.
- Execute the Dynamic Code automatically with no manual processing or intervention.

**The SAS Project In This Presentation Demonstrates:**

**The Power To Know** through the PIPE command

**The Power To Create** Static Code which automatically creates Dynamic Code

**The Power To Execute** Dynamic Code automatically using the CALL EXECUTE command

We invite you to journey with us as we share how the PIPE and CALL EXECUTE commands were discovered and soon became **Best Friends Forever.**

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**How PIPE and CALL EXECUTE Became Best Friends**

😊 *A Tale of SAS Wis-h-dom* 😊

As we stated before, the SAS programming language is powerful, intuitive, and flexible. SAS has a built-in wisdom which you can tap into when you wish for a better way to design your program. Thus, we have coined the phrase **SAS Wis-h-dom** to describe the blending of SAS Wisdom with a SAS Wish.

**Discovering the power** of combining the PIPE and CALL EXECUTE commands was, as Bob Ross, the well-known painter on PBS, so often said, “**A happy accident.**” When Bob was unable to paint something he had planned in a painting and had to paint something different, he referred to the detour as a happy accident. Likewise, while searching for one particular programming solution, which you may or may not find, you will often accidentally discover new and creative ways to accomplish other SAS endeavors.
Recently, a SAS Quest led to Happy Accident discoveries which we are eager to share with you through our project example. This project was prompted by a business need to greatly increase the efficiency of the research and analysis of vital variables from 11 years of weekly snapshot SAS data sets. The goal was to condense 572 weekly data sets to 11 yearly data sets. Read on to learn about the Project Requirements, the SASWis-h-dom that transpired along the way, and the Happy Accidents which occurred on the journey.

**Project Requirements:**
- **Extract** vital variables from 52 weekly snapshot data sets per year for 11 years (2003-13) and combine them with a Load_Date variable (created from the Friday date value derived from the Filenames of the data sets) to create 572 new data sets.
- **Append** the 52 new data sets per year to create 11 yearly data sets.
- **Export** the 11 appended yearly data sets back to the folder on the S/P/M where the weekly snapshot data sets are stored.

Since SAS Enterprise Guide was being used to design this project the first decision to make was, “To GUI or not to GUI?” In other words, should the program be designed using Graphical User Interface (GUI) and/or Base SAS Program Nodes?

**These questions were considered in the programming decision “To GUI or not to GUI?”:**
- What will it take to **manually** add 52 weekly data sets to the project?
- What will it take to **manually** create 52 queries to select vital variables from 52 data sets?
- What will it take to **manually** enter the derived value of the Load_Date variable in 52 queries?
- What will it take to **manually** append the 52 new data sets created by the 52 queries?
- What will it take to **manually** export the appended yearly data set back to the S/P/M?
- Once the program is designed, what will it take to **manually** swap 52 inputs and **manually** update the Load_Date variable in 52 queries – 10 more times – while running the program for the 11 year timeframe?

Are you getting tired yet?

Although it was determined that the requirements could be fulfilled by using GUI, it became apparent the program would be too manually intensive and prone to errors due to the 209 manual steps required to design the program, as well as the 105 manual steps needed to update the program each year. Overall, a total of 1,259 manual steps would be required to run the program for the 11 year timeframe. As a result of this challenging realization, SAS Intuition said, “There must be a smarter, easier, and faster way to do this in SAS!”

**Thus, the following SAS Wish email was imagined:**

Hi SAS Wisdom,

Please help us to find a way to automate this program and eliminate manual processing and intervention, except of course for choosing the year.

We look forward to hearing from you soon,

Thank You

**By the way**, are you in tune with your SAS Intuition? Be sure to listen when the quiet, reassuring voice within you says with conviction, “There must be a better way to do this in SAS!” We encourage you to honor your SAS Intuition because it will motivate you to find new ways to improve and maximize your programming.

“*And now for the rest of the story…*”,
as Paul Harvey so often said on the radio.

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At the beginning of a project, it can sometimes seem overwhelming to figure out how to accomplish the requirements. But remember, you just need to take the first step and the rest will follow - one step at a time.

Maxwell's/Phelps'/Lafler's Law

Nothing is as hard as it looks; everything is more rewarding than you expect; and if anything can go right it will and at the best possible moment.

Our first step was to revise the previous programming questions:

- What will it take to automatically create 52 DATA steps to read 52 data sets?
- What will it take to automatically extract vital variables in 52 DATA steps?
- What will it take to automatically enter the derived value of the Load_Date variable in 52 DATA steps?
- What will it take to automatically append the 52 new data sets created by the 52 DATA steps?
- What will it take to automatically export the appended yearly data set back to the S/P/M?
- Once the program is designed, what will it take to automatically swap 52 inputs and automatically update the Load_Date variable in 52 DATA steps – 10 more times – while running the program for the 11 year timeframe?

When the decision was made to automate this program a quest was undertaken to accomplish this grand and noble feat 😊. The first task was to find a way to design a Dynamic INFILE Statement to read 52 weekly data sets automatically and sequentially for an entire year – rather than manually one at a time. A Google search was launched to find a resource regarding how to read multiple data sets from a folder using a Dynamic INFILE Statement. An article was found titled Using FILEVAR= To Read Multiple External Files in a DATA Step.

Here is a brief overview of what was learned from this article:

- The article explained different ways to automatically and sequentially read the content of multiple files using Dynamic INFILE Statements.
- However, the examples seemed to indicate that the statements cannot derive the value of a variable from the Filenames of the files being read and therefore could not fulfill one of the project requirements.

Happy Accident Alert 😊 – A section titled Reading All The Files From A Directory Using A Pipe:

- The PIPE command enables a communication pipeline to be created between a SAS program and the S/P/M through the OS.
- SAS can use this pipeline to send OS commands to the S/P/M to request and receive a Directory Listing of the Filenames from a folder on the S/P/M.
- Learning this information birthed the idea of using a Directory Listing (of the Filenames of the weekly data sets) to automatically create Dynamic Code to automatically extract vital variables from the content of the data sets while also deriving the value of the Load_Date variable from each Filename.
This knowledge led to 3 programs being designed to fulfill the project requirements:

- **Program 1** – Design Static Code (including the PIPE command) to request, receive, and utilize one Directory Listing (per year for 11 years) of the Filenames of the 52 weekly snapshot data sets to automatically create Dynamic Code to automatically Extract vital variables (from the data sets) and combine them with a Load_Date variable (created from the Friday date value derived from the Filenames of the data sets) to create 52 new data sets per year for 11 years.

- **Program 2** – Design Static Code to utilize the Directory Listing to automatically create Dynamic Code to automatically Append the 52 new data sets per year to create 11 yearly data sets.

- **Program 3** – Design Static Code to utilize the Directory Listing to automatically create Dynamic Code to automatically Export the 11 appended yearly data sets back to the folder on the S/P/M where the weekly snapshot data sets are stored.

Once the 3 programs are run, the automatically created Dynamic Code can be run manually by copying and pasting the Dynamic Code into another Program Node. These 3 programs automate part of the project requirements; but remember, our SAS Wish was to COMPLETELY automate this project...

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**SAS Illumination**

*Sometimes success is seeing what we already have in a new light.*

Dan Miller

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After it was determined how to design Static Code to request, receive, and utilize a Directory Listing to automatically create Dynamic Code, a very important question arose – **Is there also a way to automatically execute the Dynamic Code?** SAS Intuition spoke again, “There simply must be a way to call and execute a variable in a SAS data set containing a SAS DATA step.” Another hopeful Google search quickly led to a White Paper titled *CALL EXECUTE: A Powerful Data Management Tool.*

Here is a brief overview of what was learned from this White Paper:

- CALL EXECUTE (variable); resolves and executes the value of a variable.
- The variable can be a character variable in a data set containing SAS statements such as a DATA step.

😊 Happy Accident Alert 😊 – The CALL EXECUTE command can execute Dynamic Code automatically!

This knowledge led to SAS Illumination –

The PIPE and CALL EXECUTE commands can be used together!
The PIPE command will enable our SAS program to instantly create a communication pipeline to the S/P/M through the OS. We will use this pipeline to send OS commands to the S/P/M to request, receive, and utilize a Directory Listing to automatically create Dynamic Code which we will then execute automatically with the CALL EXECUTE command.

Combining the PIPE command with Dynamic Code and the CALL EXECUTE command enables the 3 SAS programs to automatically Extract, Append, and Export without any manual processing or intervention except for choosing the year.

As you can see from this SAS Quest, it pays to listen to SAS Intuition. Two simple Google searches led to two resources which illuminated how to fulfill the project requirements. The results of this quest enabled this project to become a very successful reality. Remember the treasure trove of SAS information waiting on the web to help you improve the quality and efficiency of your programming.

On the next leg of our journey we will walk you through a step-by-step demonstration of

The Power To Know, Create, and Execute.
THE POWER TO KNOW
Through the PIPE Command

Disclaimer: Please refer to the specific Operating System (e.g. UNIX, Windows, or z/OS) manual, Installation Configuration, and/or in-house Technical Support for further guidance in how to create the SAS code presented in this paper and presentation. Our project example details the UNIX syntax for the PIPE and CALL EXECUTE commands and the Dynamic Code. Please see the Appendix for starting point information regarding the syntax for Windows and z/OS.

The following examples highlight how to use the PIPE command to request and receive one Directory Listing of the Filenames of the 52 weekly data sets for the year 2013 from a folder on the S/P/M.

How to request and receive a Directory Listing through the PIPE command:

- This code creates a data set containing a Directory Listing of files following the file2013* pattern from the /data/MWSUG/PIPE_CALL_EXECUTE folder on the S/P/M.
- Before walking through each line of code, we will first look at the data sets contained in this folder.

```
FILENAME Inpipe PIPE 'ls /data/MWSUG/PIPE_CALL_EXECUTE/file2013*';
DATA path_list_files;
  LENGTH fpath $100;
  INFILE Inpipe TRUNCOVER;
  INPUT fpath $100.;
  ...;
RUN;
```

Here is a listing of the 7 weekly data sets being processed in our example:

- Notice how each of these data sets follow the same pattern of fileYYYYMMD.sas7bdat.
- This Filename pattern will be essential in successfully creating Dynamic Code to Extract the data sets.
Here is a partial listing of the data in the file20130104 data set:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Special Person</th>
<th>Special Number</th>
<th>Special Code</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Smiley</td>
<td>10127311</td>
<td>G</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Smiley's Son</td>
<td>10173341</td>
<td>K</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Smiley's Twin</td>
<td>10376686</td>
<td>B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Smiley's Wife</td>
<td>10927911</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Smiley's Son</td>
<td>11471884</td>
<td>E</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Smiley's Twin</td>
<td>11573691</td>
<td>G</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Smiley's Daughter</td>
<td>11975386</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- This data set contains each Special Person, Special Number, and Special Code for the employees of the Smiley Company.
- Now it is time to explore the PIPE command and learn how it can help us to Extract these data sets.

Creating a FILENAME statement containing the PIPE command:

```plaintext
FILENAME Inpipe PIPE 'ls /data/MWSUG/PIPE_CALL_EXECUTE/file2013*';
```

- The FILENAME statement assigns Inpipe as a file reference (fileref) to the communication pipeline created by the PIPE command.
- The PIPE command sends an OS command – `ls` – to the S/P/M to request a List Contents:
  ```plaintext
  'ls /data/MWSUG/PIPE_CALL_EXECUTE/file2013*
  ```
- The result is a Directory Listing received back through the pipeline by the Inpipe fileref.
- In summary, FILENAME assigns Inpipe to point to the Directory Listing via the PIPE command.

Creating a DATA step which will read and store the Directory Listing:

```plaintext
DATA path_list_files;
  LENGTH fpath $100;
```

- The DATA statement creates an output data set called path_list_files.
- The LENGTH statement assigns a length of 100 characters to a variable called fpath.
- In summary, the path_list_files data set is created to contain the 100 character fpath variable.
Preparing the Inpipe Fileref for use:

INFILE Inpipe TRUNCOVER;

- The **INFILE** statement assigns **Inpipe** (Directory Listing) to be read with the upcoming **INPUT** statement.
- The **TRUNCOVER** option tells SAS the input data may or may not be the same length.
- In summary, **INFILE** assigns **Inpipe** (Directory Listing) to be read with an **INPUT** of variable length.

The INPUT of data begins:

INPUT fpath $100.;

- The **INPUT** statement reads the **INFILE** **Inpipe** (Directory Listing) one record at a time.
- The **fpath** variable stores up to **100** characters read from each record.
- In summary, **INPUT** reads the **INFILE** **Inpipe** (Directory Listing) one record at a time and stores up to **100** characters in the **fpath** variable.

Here is how these statements look when combined with a RUN statement:

FILENAME Inpipe PIPE 'ls /data/MWSUG/PIPE_CALL_EXECUTE/file2013*';
DATA path_list_files;
LENGTH fpath $100;
INFILE Inpipe TRUNCOVER;
INPUT fpath $100.;
RUN;

Here is the output data set created using the preceding statements:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>fpath</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 /data/MWSUG/PIPE_CALL_EXECUTE/Ake20130104.sha7bdat</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 /data/MWSUG/PIPE_CALL_EXECUTE/Ake20130111.sha7bdat</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 /data/MWSUG/PIPE_CALL_EXECUTE/Ake20130118.sha7bdat</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 /data/MWSUG/PIPE_CALL_EXECUTE/Ake20130125.sha7bdat</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 /data/MWSUG/PIPE_CALL_EXECUTE/Ake20130201.sha7bdat</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 /data/MWSUG/PIPE_CALL_EXECUTE/Ake20130208.sha7bdat</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7 /data/MWSUG/PIPE_CALL_EXECUTE/Ake20130215.sha7bdat</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Next we will explore how the **fpath** variable is used to create Dynamic Code.
The following examples highlight how to create Static Code which automatically creates Dynamic Code to automatically Extract vital variables from 52 weekly data sets and combine them with a Load_Date variable (created from the Friday date value derived from the Filenames of the data sets) to create 52 new data sets.

How to Extract vital variables from 52 weekly data sets:

DATA path_list_files;
LENGTH fpath $100 fpath_date $100 fpath_line $1000;
FORMAT Load_Date date9.;
INFILE Inpipe TRUNCOVER;
INPUT fpath $100.;
IF SUBSTR(fpath,LENGTH(fpath)-8) = '.sas7bdat' THEN DO;
    Load_Date_Text = SUBSTR(fpath,35,8);
    Load_Date = MDY(INPUT(SUBSTR(Load_Date_Text,5,2),2.),
                      INPUT(SUBSTR(Load_Date_Text,7,2),2.),
                      INPUT(SUBSTR(Load_Date_Text,1,4),4.));
    fpath_date = CATS("FORMAT Load_Date date9.; Load_Date = ",
                       PUT(Load_Date,date9.),"d; ");
    fpath_line = CATS("DATA file_final \',Load_Date_Text,
                       " SET ",fpath," ",fpath_date,
                       " KEEP Special_Person Special_Number Load_Date; RUN;'");
    OUTPUT;
END;
RUN;

The previous section focused on the gray highlighted code. We will now focus on the rest of the code.

The remainder of the DATA step will use the following new variables:

LENGTH fpath_date $100 fpath_line $1000;
FORMAT Load_Date date9.;

The LENGTH statement assigns a length of 100 characters to the new fpath_date variable which will contain the Dynamic Code to create and format the Load_Date variable in the new data sets.

The LENGTH statement also assigns a length of 1000 characters to the new fpath_line variable which will contain the Dynamic Code of a complete DATA step to create the new data sets.

The FORMAT statement assigns a format of date9 (ddmonyyyy) to the new Load_Date variable.
The following statements execute code only if a SAS data set is found:

```
IF SUBSTR(fpath, LENGTH(fpath) - 8) = '.sas7bdat' THEN
  DO;
    ...;
  END;
RUN;
```

- The **IF-THEN** statement checks the `fpath` variable in each record (result of Directory Listing) to see if it contains a SAS data set by using the **SUBSTR** and **LENGTH** functions to verify that the last 8 characters in `fpath` is `.sas7bdat`.
- If `fpath` contains a SAS data set, then the statements within the **DO-END** are executed; otherwise the **DO-END** is not executed, the **RUN** statement is found, and the program goes back to the top to read the next record into `fpath`.

The new Load_Date variable is derived from the name of the data set:

```
Load_Date_Text = SUBSTR(fpath, 35, 8);
Load_Date = MDY(INPUT(SUBSTR(Load_Date_Text, 5, 2), 2.),
                    INPUT(SUBSTR(Load_Date_Text, 7, 2), 2.),
                    INPUT(SUBSTR(Load_Date_Text, 1, 4), 4.));
```

- The `fpath` variable contains the path and Filename of each data set in the following format:
  `/data/MWSUG/PIPE_CALL_EXECUTE/file20130104.sas7bdat` (fpath contents – 1st observation)
  `12345678901234567890123456789012345678901234567890123456789012345678901` (character spacing)
- The **SUBSTR** function sets `Load_Date_Text` to '20130104' – begins with character 35 of `fpath` for 8 characters.
- The **SUBSTR** function obtains the month '01', day '04', and year '2013' from `Load_Date_Text`:
  ```
  Load_Date = MDY(INPUT(SUBSTR('20130104', 5, 2), 2.),
                    INPUT(SUBSTR('20130104', 7, 2), 2.),
                    INPUT(SUBSTR('20130104', 1, 4), 4.));
  ```
- The **INPUT** function converts the character values of month, day, and year to numeric values:
  ```
  Load_Date = MDY('01', 2.), INPUT('04', 2.), INPUT('2013', 4.));
  ```
- The **MDY** function converts the numeric values of month, day, and year to a SAS date:
  ```
  Load_Date = MDY(1, 4, 2013);
  ```
- Since `Load_Date` was formatted as **date9** by the earlier **FORMAT** statement, this resolves to:
  ```
  Load_Date = '04JAN2013'd;
  ```
Once Load_Date is assigned it is used to create the 1st set of Dynamic Code:

\[
\text{fpath
date} = \text{CATS}("\text{FORMAT Load\_Date date9.}; Load\_Date = '", PUT(Load\_Date, date9.),'d; ");
\]

- The PUT function is used to convert the Load_Date from a numeric SAS date to a character representation:
  \[
  \text{fpath\_date} = \text{CATS}("\text{FORMAT Load\_Date date9.}; Load\_Date = '", '04JAN2013',"d; ");
  \]
- The CATS function concatenates what is separated by commas while removing leading and trailing spaces:
  \[
  \text{fpath\_date} = "\text{FORMAT Load\_Date date9.}; Load\_Date = '04JAN2013\'d;};
  \]
- You may be asking yourself, "Why do the FORMAT statement and the Load_Date assignment appear here since they were already included in the code discussed earlier?"
- Good question; remember, this Dynamic Code will run apart from the Static Code, so the Dynamic Code needs to be self-contained with all of the statements and syntax necessary to run on its own.

\[
\text{fpath\_line} = \text{CATS}("\text{DATA file\_final\_20130104}; \text{SET '/data/MWSUG/PIPE\_CALL\_EXECUTE/file20130104.sas7bdat'}"," ", "\text{FORMAT Load\_Date date9.}; Load\_Date = '04JAN2013\'d;", ' \text{KEEP Special\_Person Special\_Number Load\_Date; RUN;}\});
\]

- The Load_Date_Text, fpath, and fpath_date variables resolve to:
  \[
  \text{fpath\_line} = "\text{DATA file\_final\_20130104}; \text{SET '/data/MWSUG/PIPE\_CALL\_EXECUTE/file20130104.sas7bdat'}"," ", "\text{FORMAT Load\_Date date9.}; Load\_Date = '04JAN2013\'d;", ' \text{KEEP Special\_Person Special\_Number Load\_Date; RUN;}\});
  \]
- The CATS function resolves to:
  \[
  \text{fpath\_line} = "\text{DATA file\_final\_20130104}; \text{SET '/data/MWSUG/PIPE\_CALL\_EXECUTE/file20130104.sas7bdat'}"," ", "\text{FORMAT Load\_Date date9.}; Load\_Date = '04JAN2013\'d;", ' \text{KEEP Special\_Person Special\_Number Load\_Date; RUN;}\});
  \]
- The KEEP statement enables you to create the output data set with only the vital variables listed:
The first part of THE POWER TO CREATE section has walked us through the process of creating Dynamic Code to automatically extract vital variables from 52 weekly data sets and combine them with a Load_Date variable (created from the Friday date value derived from the Filenames of the data sets) to create 52 new data sets. The Extract Dynamic Code is contained in the fpath_line variable.

The OUTPUT occurs at the bottom of the IF-THEN DO-END so that the OUTPUT observation is created only if the fpath variable contains a data set.

Since the END and RUN occur immediately after the OUTPUT statement, the RUN statement causes the program to go back to the top to read the next fpath.

Here are the 3 programs displayed as Base SAS Program Nodes:

Here is 1 observation of the Dynamic Code created by the 3 programs:

**SAS Dataset:** PATH_FILE_LIST
**Variable:** fpath_line
**DATA** file_final_20130104;
**SET** '/data/MWSUG/PIPE_CALL_EXECUTE/ file20130104.sas7bdat';
**FORMAT** Load_Date date9.
Birth_Date date9.
Load_Date = '04JAN2013'd;
**KEEP** Special_Person
Special_Number
Special_Code
Load_Date;
**RUN**;
The following examples highlight how to create Static Code which automatically creates Dynamic Code to automatically **Append** the 52 new data sets to create a yearly data set.

### How to Append the 52 new data sets to create a yearly data set:

**DATA** prepare_historical_append;
  **SET** path_list_files **END**=LAST_OBS;
  **LENGTH** history_append_line $2000;
  **RETAIN** history_append_line;
  
  **IF** _N_ = 1
  **THEN** history_append_line = **CATS('DATA file_final_ ',**
  **SUBSTR(Load_Date_Text, 1, 4), '; SET ')**;
  
  history_append_line = **SUBSTR(history_append_line, 1, **
  **LENGTH(history_append_line))** ||
  **CAT(' file_final_, Load_Date_Text, ')**;
  
  **IF** LAST_OBS **THEN**
  **DO**;
  
  history_append_line = **SUBSTR(history_append_line, 1, **
  **LENGTH(history_append_line))** ||
  **' RUN;'**;
  
  **OUTPUT**;
  
  **END**;
  
**RUN**;

### Creating a DATA step that creates Dynamic Code to Append the data sets:

**DATA** prepare_historical_append;
  **SET** path_list_files **END**=LAST_OBS;
  **LENGTH** history_append_line $2000;
  **RETAIN** history_append_line;

- The **DATA** statement creates an output data set called **prepare_historical_append**.
- The **SET** statement sets **path_list_files** as the input data set for this **DATA** step.
- The **END=LAST_OBS** option sets **LAST_OBS** to True once the last observation in **path_list_files** is read.
- The **LENGTH** statement assigns a length of 2000 characters to the **history_append_line** variable.
- The **RETAIN** statement retains the value of **history_append_line** throughout the entire run of the **DATA** step.
The `history_append_line` variable is derived from the `Load_Date_Text` variable when processing the first observation:

```sql
IF _N_ = 1
  THEN history_append_line = CATS('DATA file_final_',
                                 SUBSTR(Load_Date_Text,1,4),'; SET ');
```

- The `IF-THEN` statement only executes while processing the first input observation (_N_ = 1).
- The `Load_Date_Text` variable resolves to:
  
  \[
  \text{history_append_line} = \text{CATS('DATA file_final_', SUBSTR('20130104', 1, 4), '; SET ')};
  \]

- The `SUBSTR` function resolves to '2013':
  
  \[
  \text{history_append_line} = \text{CATS('DATA file_final_', '2013', '; SET ')};
  \]

- The `CATS` function resolves to:
  
  \[
  \text{history_append_line} = 'DATA file_final_2013; SET'};
  \]

- Notice how `history_append_line` looks like the beginning of a `DATA` step.

The `history_append_line` variable is then derived from itself and `Load_Date_Text` again for all observations:

```sql
history_append_line = SUBSTR(history_append_line,1,
                                 LENGTH(history_append_line))||
                      CAT(' file_final_', Load_Date_Text, ' ');
```

- The `history_append_line` and `Load_Date_Text` variables resolve to:
  
  \[
  \text{history_append_line} = \text{SUBSTR('DATA file_final_2013; SET',1,25)}||
                               \text{CAT(' file_final_','20130104')};
  \]

- The `LENGTH` and `CAT` (concatenates but keeps spaces) functions resolve to:
  
  \[
  \text{history_append_line} = \text{SUBSTR('DATA file_final_2013; SET', 1, 25)}||
                               \text{ ' file_final_20130104 '};
  \]

- The `SUBSTR` function resolves to the way `history_append_line` looked at the end of the previous assignment statement:
  
  \[
  \text{history_append_line} = 'DATA file_final_2013; SET'|| ' file_final_20130104 ';\]

- The `||` concatenates whatever is on both sides of it while keeping the formatting intact:
  
  \[
  \text{history_append_line} = 'DATA file_final_2013; SET file_final_20130104 ';\]
The history_append_line variable is then derived from itself and Load_Date_Text a final time for the last observation:

```plaintext
history_append_line = SUBSTR(history_append_line,1,
LENGTH(history_append_line))||
CAT(' file_final_',Load_Date_Text,' ');
```

- The history_append_line always resolves to the way it looked at the end of the previous assignment statement and then concatenates with the name of the next file:

  ```plaintext
  history_append_line = 'DATA file_final_2013; SET file_final_20130104
  file_final_20130111
  ... ';
  ```

- This will continue until the last Filename is added (Assume the 02/15/2013 file is last):

  ```plaintext
  history_append_line = 'DATA file_final_2013; SET file_final_20130104
  ... file_final_20130215';
  ```

The history_append_line variable continues to be derived from itself and Load_Date_Text for all observations:

- The history_append_line always resolves to the way it looked at the end of the previous assignment statement and then concatenates with the name of the next file:

  ```plaintext
  history_append_line = 'DATA file_final_2013; SET file_final_20130104
  file_final_20130111
  ... ';
  ```

- This will continue until the last Filename is added (Assume the 02/15/2013 file is last):

  ```plaintext
  history_append_line = 'DATA file_final_2013; SET file_final_20130104
  ... file_final_20130215';
  ```

The history_append_line variable is then derived from itself and Load_Date_Text a final time for the last observation:

```plaintext
IF LAST_OBS THEN
  DO;
    history_append_line = SUBSTR(history_append_line,1,
    LENGTH(history_append_line))||'; RUN;';
  OUTPUT;
  END;
```

- Once the last observation is read, the history_append_line always resolves to the way it looked at the end of the previous assignment statement and then concatenates with '; RUN;':

  ```plaintext
  history_append_line = 'DATA file_final_2013; SET file_final_20130104
  ... file_final_20130215; RUN;';
  ```

- The OUTPUT statement is executed within IF-THEN DO-END because only one observation is needed in the output data set containing the completed history_append_line.

- Here is how the only observation appears in the prepare_historical_append data set:
The second part of **THE POWER TO CREATE** section has walked us through the process of creating Dynamic Code to automatically *Append* the 52 new data sets to create a yearly data set. The *Append Dynamic Code* is contained in the *history_append_line* variable.

Here are the 3 programs displayed as Base SAS Program Nodes:

![Base SAS Program Nodes](image)

Here is 1 observation of the Dynamic Code created by the 3 programs:

```sas
SAS Dataset: PATH_FILE_LIST
Variable: fpath_line
DATA file_final_20130104;
SET '/data/MWSUG/PIPE_CALL_EXECUTE/file20130104.sas7bdat';
FORMAT Load_Date date9.
Birth_Date date9.;
Load_Date = '04JAN2013';
KEEP Special_Person
Special_Number
Special_Code
Load_Date;
RUN;
```

```sas
SAS Dataset: prepare_historical_append
Variable: history_append_line
DATA file_final_2013;
SET file_final_20130104
file_final_20130111
file_final_20130118
file_final_20130125
file_final_20130201
file_final_20130208
file_final_20130215;
RUN;
```

To Be Illuminated
The following examples highlight how to create Static Code which automatically creates Dynamic Code to automatically **Export** the yearly data set.

**How to Export the appended yearly data set back to the S/P/M:**

```plaintext
DATA LIST_OF_SAS_DATASETS_TO_EXPORT;
   SET path_list_files;
   KEEP export_line;
   IF _N_ = 1;
   export_line = CATS("DATA '/data/MWSUG/PIPE_CALL_EXECUTE/file_all_",
                       SUBSTR(Load_Date_Text,1,4));
   export_line = SUBSTR(export_line,1,LENGTH(export_line))||
                 CATS("; SET File_final ");
   export_line = SUBSTR(export_line,1,LENGTH(export_line))||
                 CATS(SUBSTR(Load_Date_Text,1,4),'; RUN;');
RUN;
```

**Creating a DATA step that creates Dynamic Code to Export a data set:**

```plaintext
DATA LIST_OF_SAS_DATASETS_TO_EXPORT;
   SET path_list_files;
   KEEP export_line;
   IF _N_ = 1;
```

- The **DATA** statement creates an output data set called **LIST_OF_SAS_DATASETS_TO_EXPORT**.
- The **SET** statement sets **path_list_files** as the input data set for this **DATA** step.
- The **KEEP** statement enables you to create the output data set with only the **export_line** variable.
- The **IF _N_ = 1** statement executes the rest of the DATA step only while processing the first input observation (_N_ = 1).
Load_Date_Text is used to create Dynamic Code:

```
export_line = CATS("DATA '/data/MWSUG/PIPE_CALL_EXECUTE/file_all_'",
                    SUBSTR(Load_Date_Text,1,4));
export_line = SUBSTR(export_line,1,LENGTH(export_line))||
               CATS(";' SET file_final_'");
export_line = SUBSTR(export_line,1,LENGTH(export_line))||
               CATS(SUBSTR(Load_Date_Text,1,4),';' RUN;'');
RUN;
```

- The first `export_line` with the `Load_Date_Text` variable resolves to:
  
  ```
  export_line = CATS("DATA '/data/MWSUG/PIPE_CALL_EXECUTE/file_all_'",
                    SUBSTR('20130104',1,4));
  ```

- The `SUBSTR` function resolves to '2013':
  
  ```
  export_line = CATS("DATA '/data/MWSUG/PIPE_CALL_EXECUTE/file_all_'','2013');
  ```

- The `CATS` function resolves to:
  
  ```
  export_line = 'DATA '/data/MWSUG/PIPE_CALL_EXECUTE/file_all_2013';
  ```

- The second `export_line` resolves to the way it looked at the end of the previous assignment statement and then concatenates with the result of the `CATS` function:
  
  ```
  export_line = "DATA '/data/MWSUG/PIPE_CALL_EXECUTE/file_all_2013"||
               CATS(";' SET file_final_'");
  ```

- The `CATS` function resolves to and the result concatenates to:
  
  ```
  export_line="DATA '/data/MWSUG/PIPE_CALL_EXECUTE/file_all_2013'; SET file_final_"
  ```

- The third `export_line` resolves to the way it looked at the end of the previous assignment statement and then concatenates with the result of the `CATS` function:
  
  ```
  export_line = "DATA '/data/MWSUG/PIPE_CALL_EXECUTE/file_all_2013';
               SET file_final_"||CATS(SUBSTR('20130104',1,4),';' RUN;'');
  ```

- The `SUBSTR` resolves to '2013':
  
  ```
  export_line = "DATA '/data/MWSUG/PIPE_CALL_EXECUTE/file_all_2013';
               SET file_final_"||CATS('2013',';' RUN;'');
  ```

- The `CATS` function resolves to '2013'; `RUN;'`
  
  ```
  export_line = "DATA '/data/MWSUG/PIPE_CALL_EXECUTE/file_all_2013';
               SET file_final_"||'2013; RUN;';
  ```

- The final `export_line` resolves to:
  
  ```
  export_line = "DATA '/data/MWSUG/PIPE_CALL_EXECUTE/file_all_2013';
               SET file_final_2013;
               RUN;";
  ```

- Here is how the only observation appears in the `LIST_OF_SAS_DATASETS_TO_EXPORT` data set:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>export_line</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DATA '/data/MWSUG/PIPE_CALL_EXECUTE/file_all_2013'; SET file_final_2013; RUN;</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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The third part of THE POWER TO CREATE section has walked us through the process of creating Dynamic Code to automatically Export a yearly data set back to the folder on the S/P/M where the weekly snapshot data sets are stored. The Export Dynamic Code is contained in the export_line variable.

Here are the 3 programs displayed as Base SAS Program Nodes:

Here is 1 observation of the Dynamic Code created by the 3 programs:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>DATA file_final_20130104;</td>
<td>DATA file_final_2013;</td>
<td>DATA '/data/MWSUG/PIPE_CALL_EXECUTE/file_all_2013';</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SET '/data/MWSUG/PIPE_CALL_EXECUTE/file20130104.sas7bdat';</td>
<td>SET file_final_20130104 file_final_20130111 file_final_20130118 file_final_20130125 file_final_20130201 file_final_20130208 file_final_20130215;</td>
<td>SET file_final_2013;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FORMAT Load_Date date9. Birth_Date date9.;</td>
<td>RUN;</td>
<td>RUN;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Load_Date = '04JAN2013'd;</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KEEP Special_Person Special_Number Special_Code Load_Date;</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
After the Dynamic Code has been created the CALL EXECUTE command is used to execute the 3 sets of Dynamic Code automatically to Extract, Append, and Export the appended yearly data set.

**Executing the Extract Dynamic Code using the CALL EXECUTE command:**

```plaintext
DATA _NULL_;  
   SET path_list_files;  
   CALL EXECUTE(fpath_line);  
RUN;
```

**Creating a DATA step that executes Dynamic Code to Extract data sets:**

```plaintext
DATA _NULL_;  
   SET path_list_files;
```

- The DATA statement does not create an output data set because the _NULL_ option is used.
- The SET statement sets path_list_files as the input data set for this DATA step.
- Here is a partial view of the first 2 observations in the path_list_files data set:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Path</th>
<th>Path Date</th>
<th>Path Line</th>
<th>Load Date</th>
<th>Load Date Test</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>/data/MW/SUG/PRE_CALL_EXEC</td>
<td>04JAN2013</td>
<td>20130104</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>/data/MW/SUG/PRE_CALL_EXEC</td>
<td>11JAN2013</td>
<td>20130111</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The CALL EXECUTE command executes the fpath_line variable:

```sas
call execute(fpath_line);
run;
```

The CALL EXECUTE command executes the contents of the fpath_line variable in the path_list_files data set. Here is the first observation of fpath_line in the path_list_files data set:

```sas
data file_final_20130104;
  set '/data/MWSUG/PIPE_CALL_EXECUTE/file20130104.sas7bdat';
  format load_date date9. birth_date date9.;
  load_date = '04JAN2013'd;
  keep special_person special_number special_code load_date;
run;
```

Here is the result of executing the first observation of fpath_line in the path_list_files data set:

The RUN statement causes the second observation of fpath_line in the path_list_files data set to be read:

```sas
data file_final_20130111;
  set '/data/MWSUG/PIPE_CALL_EXECUTE/file20130111.sas7bdat';
  format load_date date9. birth_date date9.;
  load_date = '11JAN2013'd;
  keep special_person special_number special_code load_date;
run;
```

Here is the result of executing the second observation of fpath_line in the path_list_files data set:

The execution of fpath_line continues for each observation in the path_list_files data set.

Once the Dynamic Code has been executed to automatically Extract vital variables from the 52 weekly data sets and combine them with a Load_Date variable, the next step is to execute the Append Dynamic Code.

Executing the Append Dynamic Code using the CALL EXECUTE command:

```sas
data _null_; set prepare_historical_append;
call execute(history_append_line);
run;
```
Now that the Dynamic Code has been executed to automatically Append the 52 new data sets, the final step is to execute the Export Dynamic Code.

Executing the Export Dynamic Code using the CALL EXECUTE command:

```sas
DATA _NULL_; 
  SET LIST_OF_SAS_DATASETS_TO_EXPORT; 
  CALL EXECUTE(export_line); 
RUN;
```
Now that we have completed the process for 1 year, we need to repeat the process for the remaining 10 years for this project. How is this accomplished? We simply update the year in the PIPE command portion of the FILENAME statement in the Extract Program Node, rerun all 3 Program Nodes, and then repeat this process until each of the remaining years is complete.

Creating the Yearly data sets for each Year:

FILENAME Inpipe PIPE 'ls /data/MWSUG/PIPE_CALL_EXECUTE/file2013*';

- Update the Year in the Extract Program Node and then rerun all three Program Nodes for each year.
**CONCLUSION**

The Power To Know through the PIPE command enables The Power To Create Static Code which automatically creates Dynamic Code and leads to The Power To Execute the Dynamic Code automatically using the CALL EXECUTE command. (Try saying that statement really fast for fun 😄.)

Our presentation has shown you how 1,259 time-consuming Manual Steps are amazingly replaced with only 3 time-saving Dynamic Automated Steps. As you leave here with your newest BFF in SAS, begin thinking about how to utilize the powerful PIPE and CALL EXECUTE partnership to enhance your programming.

*It’s not what the world holds for you, it’s what YOU bring to it!*

Anne of Green Gables

It’s not what the SAS world holds for you, it’s what YOU bring to it. You are like the language itself; you are intuitive and flexible when it comes to designing your programs. As a SAS Professional, you are inquisitive, research oriented, and solution driven. Your optimistic and tenacious desire to design a quality program fuels your thoroughness and attention to detail. When you are in your SAS Zone, you are relentless in your pursuit to overcome obstacles and maximize your programming.

When you embark on your future SAS Quests, listen to your SAS Intuition and pursue blending your SAS wishes with the built-in wisdom of SAS. As you experience SAS Wis-h-dom, your research will lead you to your own Happy Accident discoveries which will improve the quality of your programming. All of us are on the journey with you; together we will continue to learn, share, grow, and have fun along the way.

*Don’t be a reservoir, be a river.*

John C. Maxwell

SAS Programming is Mind Art. SAS is a creative realm where each of you is an Artist. Seek to develop and build on your many skills and talents. Keep looking for different ways to express your God-given abilities and ideas. Don’t be a reservoir of SAS knowledge, be a river flowing outward to help and empower other people.

*Your life is like a campfire at night – You never know how many people will see it and be comforted and guided by your light.*

Claire Draper

Always remember, your contributions make a positive impact in the world; so keep exploring. You will soon discover new and creative ways to program in SAS. Come back next year to the MWSUG Conference to shed some light on the exciting things you are learning. We look forward to your teaching sessions in the future.

As we conclude our presentation, we want to introduce you to our SAS Mascot, Smiley. Smiley represents the SAS Joy which each of us experience when we find better ways to accomplish mighty and worthy deeds using SAS. The four of us hope your time with us today has expanded and enriched your SAS knowledge. You may or may not use the PIPE and/or CALL EXECUTE commands on a daily basis, but when the need arises – Oh, how powerful and valuable your relationship will be with your new BFF in SAS!

Thank You For Honoring Us With Your Participation 😊 Happy SAS Trails To You... Until We Meet Again 😊
MEET THE AUTHORS

Writing is a permanent legacy.
   John C. Maxwell

Kent Phelps (Co-Founder/President, Illuminator Coaching, Inc.) is a Senior Data Governance Analyst and has worked in IT and Data Governance since 1990. He has programmed in SAS since 2007, is a SAS Certified Professional specializing in combining and automating the best of SAS Enterprise Guide with Base SAS, and has Co-Created and Co-Led Intro To SAS EG classes. Kent has a B.S. in Electrical Engineering, has studied Transformational Leadership, Dynamic Teamwork, and Personal Growth since 1994, and is a 48 Days To The Work You Love Coach and a John Maxwell Team Coach. His hope is to encourage you to pursue your unique destiny and to equip you to navigate your journey with purpose and passion.

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************************

Kirk Paul Lafler (Founder/Senior Consultant, Software Intelligence Corporation) has programmed in SAS since 1979. He is a SAS Certified Professional, provides IT Consulting Services, is a SAScommunity.org Emeritus Advisory Board member, and trains/mentors SAS users worldwide. Kirk has authored 5 books including PROC SQL: Beyond the Basics Using SAS, Second Edition (SAS Institute 2013), has written over 500 papers and articles, has been invited to speak/train at 300-plus SAS international, regional, special-interest, local and in-house user group conferences/meetings, and has received 22 BEST Contributed Paper, Hands-On Workshop (HOW), and Poster Awards. His popular SAS Tips column Kirk’s Korner of Quick and Simple Tips and his fun SASword Puzzles appear on various SAS websites and in several SAS User Group newsletters.

We invite you to share your valued comments with us:

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😊 We Look Forward To Connecting With You In The Future 😊
Disclaimer: Please refer to the specific Operating System (e.g. UNIX, Windows, or z/OS) manual, Installation Configuration, and/or in-house Technical Support for further guidance in how to create the SAS code presented in this paper and presentation.

Our project example details the UNIX syntax for the PIPE and CALL EXECUTE commands and the Dynamic Code. This Appendix is a starting point regarding the syntax for Windows and z/OS.

### APPENDIX
PIPE and CALL EXECUTE and Dynamic Code Syntax for Windows and z/OS

**Creating the FILENAME statement on page 7:**

```
FILENAME Inpipe PIPE 'ls /data/MWSUG/PIPE_CALL_EXECUTE/file2013*';
```

- **The Windows** version of the FILENAME statement uses the `dir` OS command to create the Directory Listing while also referencing the specific drive letter and the record length of the PIPE result:
  ```
  FILENAME Inpipe PIPE 'dir "c:\data\MWSUG\PIPE_CALL_EXECUTE\file2013*" /S' lrecl=100;
  ```
- **The z/OS** version of the FILENAME statement can take different forms depending on the z/OS version and installation configuration. Here are 2 reference links as a starting point:
  - Allocating External Files to a Pipe through BatchPIPEs from SAS® 9.3 Companion for z/OS: [http://support.sas.com/documentation/cdl/en/hosto390/65144/HTML/default/viewer.htm#n0fxdtgeaxa51n1080fzebl1qx.htm](http://support.sas.com/documentation/cdl/en/hosto390/65144/HTML/default/viewer.htm#n0fxdtgeaxa51n1080fzebl1qx.htm)
  - Accessing UNIX System Services Files from SAS® 9.3 Companion for z/OS: [http://support.sas.com/documentation/cdl/en/hosto390/65144/HTML/default/viewer.htm#n001udyg5mzcb1n1hhts48m1bal1.htm](http://support.sas.com/documentation/cdl/en/hosto390/65144/HTML/default/viewer.htm#n001udyg5mzcb1n1hhts48m1bal1.htm)

**Creating the first Dynamic Code export_line on page 18:**

```
export_line = CATS("DATA '/data/MWSUG/PIPE_CALL_EXECUTE/file_all_",
```

- **The Windows** version of the export_line statement uses the specific drive letter:
  ```
  export_line = CATS("DATA 'c:\data\MWSUG\PIPE_CALL_EXECUTE\file_all_",
  ```
- **The z/OS** version of the export_line can take different forms depending on the z/OS version and installation configuration. Here are 2 reference links as a starting point:
  - Data Set Options under z/OS from SAS® 9.3 Companion for z/OS: [http://support.sas.com/documentation/cdl/en/hosto390/65144/HTML/default/viewer.htm#p1t2wshr9x099n1h967cgl23fim.htm](http://support.sas.com/documentation/cdl/en/hosto390/65144/HTML/default/viewer.htm#p1t2wshr9x099n1h967cgl23fim.htm)
Executing the first CALL EXECUTE command on page 21:

```
DATA _NULL_
  SET path_list_files;
  CALL EXECUTE(fpath_line);
RUN;
```

- The **Windows** version of the **CALL EXECUTE** command is identical in syntax to the **UNIX** version.
- The **z/OS** version of the **CALL EXECUTE** command can take different forms depending on the **z/OS** version and installation configuration even though the **CALL EXECUTE** command is considered to be a portable function in SAS. Here are 2 reference links as a starting point:
  - **CALL EXECUTE Routine from SAS® 9.3 Functions and CALL Routines: Reference:**
  - **SAS® 9.3 Companion for z/OS:**
ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

We want to thank Brian Varney and Swati Agarwal, MWSUG 2013 Black Belt SAS Section Co-Chairs, for graciously accepting our abstract and paper. We also want to express our gratitude to the MWSUG 2013 Conference Co-Chairs, George J. Hurley (Operations Chair) and Matthew Karafa (Academic Chair), the MWSUG Executive Committee, SAS Institute, and Conference Leaders for their diligent efforts in organizing and hosting this illuminating, empowering, and energizing conference. In addition, we offer our appreciation to Denise Lyon, Director Data Governance, for her inspiring leadership and empowering support in SAS; and to Mike McCullough, Senior Data Governance Analyst, for introducing Kent to SAS Enterprise Guide.

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