

TS589A

Importing DBF files to SAS Datasets

There are several ways to import DBF files into SAS.
They are as follows:

1) Using SAS/ACCESS to PC File Formats:

SAS/Core, SAS/Base and SAS/Access Interface to PC File Formats must be licensed and installed at your site.

```
*****  
Note: SAS/Access Interface to PC File Formats cannot read a DBF file created  
      In Visual Foxpro 5.0. The file would need to be saved as Foxpro version  
      2.x.  
*****
```

Using a programmatic method:

Use the following code:

```
Proc access dbms=dbf;  
Create sasuser.sales.access;  
Path='c:\sales.dbf';  
  
assign=yes;          /* The following statement is recommended. */  
                    /* Assigns SAS variables the names read above. */  
  
create sasuser.sales.view;  
select all;  
Run;  
  
Data sasuser.new;    /* Creates a new SAS dataset named sasuser.new. */  
Set sasuser.sales;  
Run;
```

Using the Import Wizard:

(The Import Wizard is only available in SAS 6.12 or later.)

- 1) Click **File → Import**
- 2) Select **DBF** from the list of file types.
- 3) Click **NEXT**.
- 4) Specify the full path to the DBF file you are trying to import into a SAS dataset.
- 5) Click **NEXT**.
- 6) Pick the Library where the dataset resides.
If library is not listed, you will have to issue a libname statement before using the Import Wizard.
- 7) Name the dataset. Use the list of datasets which reside in that library, to overwrite an existing SAS dataset or type in a new data set name.
- 8) Click **FINISH**.

2) Using Proc DBF:

Note: Not recommended because we do not support the fixes, etc.

Use the following code to import the DBF file into SAS.

```
Filename houses 'c:\houses.dbf';

Proc dbf db4=houses out=sasuser.houses; /* dbn refers to what version of DBF file */
Run; /* you are importing. */
```

3) Using SAS/ACCESS to ODBC:

- 1) SAS/CORE, SAS/BASE and SAS/ACCESS Interface to ODBC must be licensed and installed at your site.
- 2) The DBF ODBC driver must be installed and configured on your pc.
- 3) Use the following code to import the DBF file into SAS.

```
Libname sasuser 'c:\foo';

Proc SQL;
Connect to ODBC (prompt);
Create table sasuser.TEST
As select * from connection to ODBC
(select * from tablename);
disconnect from odbc;
quit;
```

- 'Prompt' will activate a pop-up window where you can choose your data source name. Alternatively, you can use 'DSN=' in the parenthesis and specify your data source name.
- 'sasuser.TEST' is the name of the SAS dataset you will create from this query.
- 'tablename' refers to the name of the DBF file.

4) Using the Data Step:

If you do not have SAS/ACCESS Interface to PC File Formats or SAS/Access Interface to ODBC licensed and installed at your site, another option to import in the DBF file would be with the Data Step. This will require that you create a valid input Statement to match the layout of the column ordering and types.

- 1) SAS/CORE and SAS/BASE must be licensed and installed at your site.
- 2) Save the DBF file as an .CSV file (comma separate file).
- 3) Use the following code to read the .CSV file into sas.

```
Filename house 'c:\house.csv';

Data sasuser.house;
Infile house dlm=', ' missover;
Input var1 var2 var3 var4;
Run;
```

5) Using Dynamic Data Exchange (DDE):

If you do not have SAS/ACCESS Interface to PC File Formats or SAS/Access Interface to ODBC licensed and installed at your site, another option to import a DBF file would be with the DDE facility. DDE is similar to the Datastep method above and requires that an input statement be written to match the layout of your DBase columns.

- 1) SAS/CORE and SAS/BASE must be licensed and installed at your site.
- 2) Invoke the DBF application and open the DBF file you wish to import.
- 3) Use the following code to read in the DBF file:

```
Filename test dde '[DDE Triplet, look below]' notab;
```

```
/* To Create the DDE triplet follow these instructions:
```

```
To setup a DDE Triplet under Microsoft Foxpro you must determine  
The DDE Triplet name. Foxpro comes with a sample program to do this.
```

```
Look under the Foxpro directory and run:
```

```
  \foxpro\goodies\foxdata\foxdata.app
```

```
This will establish a DDE connection to whatever .DBF file you pick.
```

```
If you switch back to the SAS System you can then check the DDE  
Triplet dialog and see the definition defined. */
```

```
Data test;
```

```
Infile test dlm='09'x;
```

```
Input a b $;
```

```
Run;
```

** Reference the "SAS Companion for the Microsoft Windows Environment" or the Tech Support document "TS-325" for more examples of using this method.