

# Changes and Enhancements

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## Changes and Enhancements in Version 7 and Version 8

- The ACCESS procedure has been enhanced by the addition of the UPDATE statement, which enables you to edit and update access descriptors and view descriptors. The DROP statement can now be used when you update view descriptors. See “UPDATE” on page 29.
- The base SAS IMPORT and EXPORT procedures and the Import/Export facility is provided in this document for the first time in Version 8. Both the procedures and the facility enable you to transfer data between SAS and external data sources. In some cases, a license for SAS/ACCESS software for PC File Formats is required to access a PC file format. These procedures and the facility also enable you to read and to export data to Microsoft Access files and Excel 97 files, formats that are not available through the ACCESS or DBLOAD procedures. For more information, see “Overview” on page 51.
- Variable names can be up to 32 rather than 8 characters long. However, for Version 6 compatibility, the maximum length of access and view descriptor names remains at 8 characters. When specifying SAS data sets in the DBLOAD procedure, SAS variable names are also limited to 8 characters. See *SAS Language Reference: Concepts* for more information about SAS naming conventions.
- Users running this SAS/ACCESS interface under the Windows, OS/2, and UNIX operating environments can now use the DBF or DIF procedures to access local data in these file types. Users running under OS/390 can also use the DBF procedure. See Chapter 3, “DBF and DIF Procedures,” on page 33.
- The interactive windowing interface is not supported. You can no longer create and edit access descriptors and view descriptors by using the Access Descriptor and View Descriptor windows.
- The SAS Explorer window replaces the ACCESS window and its functionality.

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## Using This Document

*SAS/ACCESS Software for PC File Formats: Reference* provides reference information about how to read data from PC files and use that data in SAS reports or applications. It also enables you to use SAS data sets to create PC files in various formats. This interface runs under Microsoft Windows and OS/2. The Import/Export facility and the IMPORT and EXPORT procedures can be used under the Microsoft Windows, OS/2, OpenVMS, and UNIX operating environments. The DBF and DIF procedures can be used under the Microsoft Windows, OS/2, and UNIX operating environments; PROC DBF can also be used under the OS/390 operating environment.

This document is intended for applications programmers and users who know how to use their PC operating environment, basic SAS commands and statements, and who are familiar with their PC file format.

*SAS/ACCESS Software for PC File Formats: Reference* is divided into two main parts:

- general information that applies to all of the PC file formats
- file-specific information for each PC file format, including the DBF, DIF, WK1, WK3, WK4, XLS 4, and XLS 5 formats.

To use this document, start with the information in Parts 1 and 2 to create files that enable you to access PC file data or to write SAS data to a PC file. Part 2 also includes examples of how to use PC file data in SAS programs. Part 3 of the document contains information about each PC file format and how to use it in the ACCESS and DBLOAD procedures. Through examples, you see how information in Parts 2 and 3 of the document are used together. Refer to the appendix in Part 4 for information about the sample data used in this document. This part also includes a glossary of terms.

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## Syntax Conventions

The following figure illustrates the syntax conventions for SAS language elements:

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PROC DATASETS <LIBRARY=libref> <MEMTYPE=(mtype-list)>
    <DETAILS | NODETAILS> <other-options>;
RENAME variable-1=new-name-1 <... variable-n=new-name-n>;

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| <p><b>1</b> SAS keywords, such as statement or procedure names, appear in bold type.</p> <p><b>2</b> Values that you must spell as they are given in the syntax appear in uppercase type.</p> <p><b>3</b> Optional arguments appear inside angle brackets(&lt;&gt;).</p> | <p><b>4</b> Mutually exclusive choices are joined with a vertical bar( ).</p> <p><b>5</b> Values that you must supply appear in italic type.</p> <p><b>6</b> Argument groups that you can repeat are indicated by an ellipsis (. . .).</p> |
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## Additional SAS Documentation

The books listed here can help you find answers to questions you might have about the SAS System and its various software products:

- *SAS Language Reference: Dictionary*
- *SAS Procedures Guide*
- *SAS Companion for the Microsoft Windows Environment*
- *SAS Companion for the OpenVMS Operating Environment*
- *SAS Companion for the OS/2 Environment*
- *SAS Companion for the OS/390 Environment*
- *SAS Companion for UNIX Environments*
- *SAS/ACCESS Software for Relational Databases: Reference*
- *SAS/ACCESS Software for Relational Databases: Reference (ODBC Chapter)*



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