CHAPTER

1

Introduction to SAS/AF Software

Overview

SAS/AF software provides a set of tools that you can use to develop applications within the SAS System. SAS/AF applications provide interactive user interfaces to all the data access, management, analysis, and presentation features of the SAS System.

SAS/AF applications are stored in SAS catalog entries. You use the BUILD procedure (or the BUILD command) in SAS/AF software to create the following types of catalog entries:

- FRAME entries, which provide visual, object-oriented components for developing applications in environments that support a graphical user interface

- PROGRAM and MENU entries, which provide character-based features for developing applications in environments where a graphical user interface is not available

- SCL entries, which store SAS Component Language (SCL) programs

- CBT and HELP entries, which provide information and assistance to application users.

Other utility entry types can also be created to support your applications.

Although SAS/AF software is required for building applications, users do not need to license or install SAS/AF software in order to run the applications. The commands and procedure that launch SAS/AF applications are available in base SAS software. Catalog entry types that provide a display run in the AF window, which supports its own set of window management commands in addition to any custom commands that your application supports.

Learning More

- For information about the syntax of the BUILD procedure and the BUILD command, see Chapter 2, "The BUILD Procedure," on page 3.

- For information about the types of catalog entries you can create with the BUILD procedure, see Chapter 3, "SAS/AF Catalog Entry Types," on page 21.

- For information about running the applications you create with the BUILD procedure, see Chapter 4, "Executing SAS/AF Applications," on page 53.

□ For information about the commands provided in the AF windows in which applications run, see Chapter 5, "AF Window Commands," on page 65.

□ For an introduction to developing FRAME entry applications with SAS/AF software, refer to *SAS Guide to Applications Development.*

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