

# Unleashing the Power of MULTILABEL Formats

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## ABSTRACT

One of the first things new SAS users appreciate about the SAS System is its Format facility, which offers a wide range of tools to portray, summarize and manage data, often without the need for complex data step coding and/or creation of extra variables in your data sets. Until recently, however, PROC FORMAT, the BASE SAS Module procedure which is used to create a range of customized formats, has not permitted users to create formats with overlapping value ranges.

Now, however, the new MULTILABEL option, added to PROC FORMAT in SAS Version 8 and enhanced in Release 9.1 now allows you to create formats with overlapping value ranges, which in turn permits an even enhanced level of reporting, data summarization and analysis with the three BASE SAS Procedures which allow their use: MEANS, SUMMARY and TABULATE. By taking advantage of the power of MULTILABEL Formats with these Procedures you can now create even more effective analyses and reports from your data while eliminating otherwise unnecessary Data Step coding.

This presentation shows the simple steps needed to create MULTILABEL Formats, and how to then specify their use with PROCs MEANS, SUMMARY and TABULATE. By attending this presentation you will see how this exciting new feature provides a wide range of easily-applied data management, reporting and summarization techniques that were previously unavailable in the SAS System.

About the Presenter: Andrew Karp is President of Sierra Information Services, a SAS Software consulting and training firm located in Northern CA. A 22-year SAS Software user, Andrew is well known in the SAS user community for both his expertise with the SAS System and his ability to convey that knowledge to others. Among other honors, he is a ten-time invited speaker at the SUGI (SAS Users Group International) conference and has given over 100 invited papers at SAS user group meetings throughout North America, as well as in the United Kingdom, the Netherlands, the People's Republic of China, Australia, and New Zealand. He is a SAS Certified Professional™ and holds both undergraduate and graduate degrees from The George Washington University in Washington, DC. Andrew can be reached via email at [andrew@sierrainformation.com](mailto:andrew@sierrainformation.com)

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