Paper CC05

Put down that Mouse!
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Abstract:
The SAS Display Manager System® is the most widely used interface in SAS®. Understanding all it has to offer allows the programmer to write code more efficiently. This paper will present one trick to spark interest in using the Enhanced Editor and its keyboard shortcuts. New users and seasoned pros can all benefit from this trick.

Introduction:
In accordance with good programming practice; at the end of every program all temporary data sets created in the program should be deleted. This can be a very time consuming process if the program is complicated and produces many different data sets. Because this can be such an annoying task, it often gets left out, thus filling up the work directory and causing SAS to run slower. In this paper I will present a trick to speed this process.

Setup:
After finishing a program, follow these steps:

PROC DATASETS MT=data LIB=work ;
QUIT;

This prints, in the LOG, a list of datasets in the work directory.

The datasets are in a list, but not one that we could normally copy into our editor. (At this point we should realize that typing them in by hand is out of the question!) By pressing and holding ALT, and highlighting with the mouse, you will see that you can highlight without the bounds of the lines. With this trick, we can highlight the list of datasets and copy (CTRL+C) them.
We then move to the Enhanced Editor window (F5) type DELETE after the PROC statement and paste (CTRL+V) our copied dataset names.

```
PROC DATASETS MT=data LIB=work;
    DELETE ADS
    ALLDATA
    ANGIO
    CK
    CONVERT
    DEMOGA
    DEMOGB
    ENROL
    EVENTS30
    GRP1
    GRP2
    INITHEP
    MAXCK
    FRIEND
    QUARTS
    STRES
    _FINAL
    _PGBRK
;QUIT;
```

This code will now run, but it is not aesthetically pleasing enough. The datasets are all written in capital letters and are all in a list, one below each other. Also, having the datasets one underneath each other takes up too much room. I would rather have them next to each other.

**Keyboard Macros:**

Now for the tricky bit; we are going to record a keyboard macro. So select Tools=>Keyboard Macros=>Record new Macro.
It would be a good idea to practice what you want to record before actually trying to record it.

Let’s start:

SHIFT+END - Highlights the entire word

```
PROC DATASETS RT=data LIB=work;
   DELETE ads;
   ALLDATA
   ANGIO
   CR
   CONFED
   DEMOGA
   DEMOGB
   ENROL
   EVENTS30
   GRP1
   GRP2
   INITGEP
   MAXCK
   FRIEND
   QUARTS
   STRES
   _FINAL
   _FORK
;
QUIT;
```

CTRL+SHIFT+L - Lowercases the word

```
PROC DATASETS RT=data LIB=work;
   DELETE ads;
   ALLDATA
   ANGIO
   CR
   CONFED
   DEMOGA
   DEMOGB
   ENROL
   EVENTS30
   GRP1
   GRP2
   INITGEP
   MAXCK
   FRIEND
   QUARTS
   STRES
   _FINAL
   _FORK
;
QUIT;
```
RIGHT SPACE DELETE - Go to the end of the word, add a space, and bring up the next word from the list.

Then go back to TOOLS=>Keyboard Macros=>Stop Recording.

Now we have to give it some sort of name, like list and more importantly click assign keys.

Click on the shortcut key field and press the key, or combination of keys you want to use to call it.
I choose CTRL+W, because it is not assigned to anything. Then click Assign and OK.

We are now ready to execute our keyboard macro. Move the cursor to the first position of the first dataset name in the list and hit CTRL+W. Continue pressing CTRL+W until all names are in a pretty list.

```sas
PROC DATASETS NT-data LIB-work;
    DELETE ads alldata anglo ck convert demoga demogo enrol events30 gpri gpri2 initthep makewk priend quarts stress final pgbbrk;
QUIT;
```

Your keyboard macro is saved with your profile, and will be available every time you open SAS.

**Conclusion:**
Basic knowledge of keyboard shortcuts and keyboard macros will make it easier for programmers to create neat, easy to follow code. These macros prove to be infinitely useful for all levels of programmer. Only the programmer’s imagination and laziness can dictate just how useful these shortcuts can be.

**Contact Information:**
You comments and questions are very much encouraged.

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