

BOOK REVIEW

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Professional SAS Programming Logic

Author: Rick Aster
Publisher: Breakfast
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"For professional programmers and serious students of programming, this book provides detailed coverage of the SAS language and the programming process. The first half of the book emphasizes DATA step programming. The second half covers the SAS environment, routines, macro language, and selective features of various procedures. A 250-word glossary defines the most fundamental terms used in discussing SAS programming, and notes throughout the book describe the differences in usage of some words and terms. This book covers version 8, with only a general discussion of the different features of Version 6."

This book is somewhere between a SAS Reference and Guide Manual without being either one. Given the topic, SAS, where would you begin to discuss this ??? This book was not intended for the Beginner nor Novice SAS user. Some examples and their corresponding notes were difficult to follow, especially in the narrative style used throughout the book. I much prefer having an example with embedded footnotes on one page while its description and narrative is developed on an opposite page for easy referencing and lookup. I found the flow of material to be confusing, and sometimes illogical in terms of its placement in the scheme of discussion. Given the title, I was assuming more discussion would be given to programming logic, style, techniques, error handling, etc. There was very little mentioned on these topics.

There is no doubt that Rick Aster knows his material concerning the SAS Software, and is known as an expert by many SAS professionals. However, I believe trying to cover the SAS Software in one book is almost an impossibility, and it is my opinion Rick's book demonstrates a grand attempt at doing so.

It is my opinion your money would be better spent on a SAS Reference or Guide Manual which you do not currently possess.