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Automatic Unit Testing of SAS Programs with SASUnit

10 October, 2008 - 17:07 — AndreasMangold

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Software testing is indispensable but time-consuming. The concept of unit testing implies that testing should start as early as possible during software development and that tests themselves should be implemented as executable pieces of source code. As a result, tests can be repeated anytime, and negative side effects of software changes can be spotted in a fast and easy way.

This article presents a unit testing framework for SAS programs, SASUnit, available for free. SASUnit is used for the development, execution and documentation of tests for SAS programs. SASUnit test scenarios extend the specification of user requirements in a formal way and developers can leverage SASUnit for automatic and standardized documentation of test results.

In a SASUnit test scenario, you allocate static test data, call the program under test and then call assertion macros in order to compare actual with expected outcome. Comparison results are stored and used later to prepare the documentation.

Unit testing is widely used in software engineering in order to assure software quality in complex systems. When we standardize and reuse SAS programs and especially SAS macros, unit testing is badly needed and the SAS system lacks those capabilities.

That was why we at [HMS Analytical Software](#) developed SASUnit for use in our own projects. Our objective for putting it under the GPL license eventually was to encourage other SAS users to adopt and to improve it. SASUnit can be used to test SAS macros and SAS programs. Testing of Stored Processes and DI-jobs after code generation is also possible.

Download SASUnit from [SourceForge](#), where you also can find documentation and support options.

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Kommentare

SASUnit on SourceForge

27 April, 2010 - 00:42 — AndreasMangold

A SASUnit project has been started on [SourceForge](#). Let's join our efforts there to improve it.

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