The Future of SAS® Enterprise Guide (EG) - An Informal Session

- New modern look
- Tabbed views with many layout options
- Program without projects or process flows
- Integration points with SAS® Studio
• EG needs a face-lift – let’s face it
• Although a rich-client the goal is for it to look similar to other SAS apps; part of the SAS family.
• Not only visual but also interactions
• QUESTION: Does this look familiar to you?
• Current EG is limited in its pane and tab layout – For example you can’t stack panes the way you want.

• Future:
  • Lots of pane flexibility - rearrange, float, stack, dock on left and right
• Current EG – very limited tab layout

• Future:
  • When we say multiple tabs, we mean unlimited tabs – similar to a browser experience
• Layout tabs:
  • Horizontally, vertically
  • Tabs side-by-side layout (1st screenshot). You can open 4 datasets side-by-side for example

• Within a program (.sas) tab, you can also rearrange its tabs (2nd screenshot). Maybe you want to see the log on the right and watch it stream?

• It’s the Goldilocks way -- find the perfect layout that works for you
• Ability to tear off tabs – very useful if you have more than one monitor
• We want to hear from you about things that you wish were in EG
• For example, we have been hearing about how important the project tree is to people and how they would like to add more functionality to it. For example,
  • Last time the project was run
  • Type-a-head filtering to help manage large projects
  • See at a glance the status of a node
  • More run options such as run from this node – directly from the project
  • Ability to exclude/include nodes on the fly as you run different variations
• A big change – the option to use a project or not
• 1st screenshot shows current EG – Project tree + process flow – as you work with
  items they are automatically added to a project/process flow

• 2nd screenshot shows no project is being used – a program is open but has no ties to a
  project. You can work in the .sas file and save it directly to your file system.
• ANIMATION – these animations represent how people would like to work in EG – there are three distinct groups of people

• There are the people that LOVE the way EG currently works.

• They love the way that EG automatically adds files that they work with into a project and a process flow.
• ANIMATION

• There are some users who while they like the “concept” of a project, they would like to be able to add files to a project/process flow when they need to, as opposed to EG doing it for them.
• **ANIMATION**

• And then there are the people who will never use projects or process flows. These are pure programmers who are not interested in projects/process flows; they just want to code.
• Current EG – if you create a new program that program is automatically added to a project/process flow.

• The next three slides runs thru an ANIMATION:
  1. User moves to the New menu item to open a new program (same as current EG)
• **ANIMATION 2: User selects program (same as current EG)**
• ANIMATION 3: Shows that a program has opened, yet the project/process flow has not changed. In fact the user can hide the project pane and never even see it. (big change from current EG)
• This slide illustrates the concept of being able to build a project when they want to organize or manage a bunch of files

• 1st graphic shows a user selecting a few files in the Server Files pane

• 2nd graphic – Illustrates that the files have been added to the project – the user can also add process flows to a project and then determine which files to add to a process flow
Currently we are struggling with how to introduce this option as we want those users who are used to EG and the way it works now to feel comfortable. Moving the cheese is always a risky proposition so we don’t want to introduce too much change at once.

One of the ideas we’re playing with is having “2 modes” for the EG workspace. 1) Work the way it currently does (default)  2) I want to only use projects when I want to (or not at all)

QUESTIONS:

Do you feel ok with the default being the way EG currently works?

Would you like some indicator, in the UI, to indicate what mode you’re in (for example, in the slide example there is an icon to the left of the status bar that would indicate the mode)?

Where would you expect to turn that mode on? Preferences? Somewhere in the UI as shown in the slide?

Do you think you’ll switch between the modes in one session?
• Position Studio and EG as first-and-foremost programming interfaces (IDEs), but that we also have convenient point-and-click interfaces.

• Point-and-click interfaces are:
  • Good introduction to SAS features
  • Convenient for non-coders and novice coders
  • Great way for advanced coders to get code that they don’t always remember the syntax for
  • Learning tools
Feedback & Questions

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