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Encoding your WRDS Password

SAS offers a built-in password encoding process that allows for easy obfuscating of your WRDS password for situations where you would otherwise need to store your password in cleartext -- this includes PC-SAS, R, Python, and MATLAB. Note that this does **not** include the website. Encoding your WRDS password in this manner is primarily useful for situations where you need to store access credentials in a flat file (R, Python) or directly within a connection script (PC-SAS, MATLAB).

This document will first cover how to encode your WRDS password and then give an example of how to use that encoded password for each connection type.

For more information on SAS' password encoding procedure, please consult the SAS PWENCODE Documentation

(<http://support.sas.com/documentation/cdl/en/proc/67327/HTML/default/viewer.htm#n0dc6in0v7nfain1f2whl6f5x6i>)

How to Encode your WRDS Password

To use the built-in SAS password encoding tool, use the SAS PROC PWENCODE procedure as follows:

1. Connect to the WRDS Cloud: `ssh my_username@wrds-cloud.wharton.upenn.edu`
2. Start an interactive grid job: `qssh`
3. You will be assigned to an interactive node; start SAS (text-based): `sas -nodms`
4. Once SAS has started, enter the following at the SAS prompt and press enter:

```
PROC PWENCODE in='my_password'; run;
```

Where 'my_password' is your WRDS password. Make sure you include the quotes as indicated.

5. You will be presented with an encoded password that looks like this:

```
{SAS002}DBCC5712369DE1C65B19864C1564FB850F398DCF
```

6. Copy the entire string, including "{SAS002}" and quit SAS with the command `endsas;`

You may then use this encoded password anywhere you would normally need to present your password in cleartext. Some common applications are presented in the next section.

Using your Encoded Password

PC-SAS

In a standard PC-SAS connection to WRDS, PC-SAS will prompt you for your username and password each time you connect. Now that you've encoded your password, you can use the following connection string in PC-SAS to connect to the WRDS Cloud without needing to manually enter your username or password:

```
%let wrds=wrds-cloud.wharton.upenn.edu 4016;
options comamid=TCP remote=WRDS;
signon username=my_username password="{SAS002}DBCC5712369DE1C65B19864C1564FB850F398DCF";
```

Where 'my_username' is your WRDS username. Note that the encoded password above must be enclosed in quotation marks as shown. For more information, please see our PC-SAS Documentation ([/wrds/support/Accessing%20and%20Manipulating%20the%20Data/_003PCSAS%20Connect/index.cfm](https://wrds-web.wharton.upenn.edu/wrds/support/Accessing%20and%20Manipulating%20the%20Data/_003PCSAS%20Connect/index.cfm)).

R & RStudio

R & RStudio connections to WRDS do not prompt for credentials, but instead require that you supply your username and password directly in your `~/.Rprofile` file. Once you have encoded your WRDS password, your `~/.Rprofile` file should include the following:

```
user <- "my_username"
pass <- '{SAS002}DBCC5712369DE1C65B19864C1564FB850F398DCF'
```

Note that there is much more to this file than indicated above. For full instructions concerning connecting to WRDS via R, including a detailed look at the `~/.Rprofile` file, please see our R & RStudio Documentation (/wrds/support/Accessing%20and%20Manipulating%20the%20Data/_007R%20Programming/index.cfm).

Python & iPython

Python connections to WRDS require that your credentials be present in the file `~/.wrdsauthrc`. Once you have encoded your WRDS password, you can enter it in `~/.wrdsauthrc` like so:

```
[credentials]
username=my_username
password={SAS002}DBCC5712369DE1C65B19864C1564FB850F398DCF
```

Future connections to WRDS within iPython using `import wrds` will sign you in automatically. For more information, please see our Python Documentation (/wrds/support/Accessing%20and%20Manipulating%20the%20Data/_004Python%20Programming/_001Using%20Python%20with%20WRDS.cfm).

MATLAB

MATLAB connections to WRDS require that you provide your WRDS username and password directly in the connection string. In our MATLAB documentation, we created a program, `WRDS_Connect` that contains all necessary parameters (including credentials) for connecting to WRDS. Now that you have encoded your WRDS password, you can include it in `WRDS_Connect.m` like so:

```
WRDS=database(' ','my_username','{SAS002}DBCC5712369DE1C65B19864C1564FB850F398DCF','com.sas.net.sharenet.ShareNetDriver','jdbc:sharenet://wrds-cloud.wharton.upenn.edu:8551/');
```

Where 'my_username' is your WRDS username. Note that the above should all be on a single line. Note that there is much more to `WRDS_Connect.m` than listed above. For full instructions concerning connecting to WRDS via MATLAB, including a detailed look at the 'WRDS_Connect.m' file, please see our MATLAB documentation (/wrds/support/Accessing%20and%20Manipulating%20the%20Data/_009MATLAB%20Programming/index.cfm).

Changing your Encoded Password

Whenever you change your WRDS password -- for example through the website using the Forgot my Username or Password tool -- you will need to use the above procedure to encode your new password, as the old encoded password will stop working. Therefore, be sure to remember to repeat this encoding procedure whenever you change your WRDS password.



(<http://www.wharton.upenn.edu>)

About WRDS (<https://wrds-web.wharton.upenn.edu/wrds/about/index.cfm>)

3 Ways to use WRDS (https://wrds-web.wharton.upenn.edu/wrds/about/three_ways_to_use_WI)

WRDS FAQs (<https://wrds-web.wharton.upenn.edu/wrds/about/WRDSFAQs.cfm>)
WRDS News (<https://wrds-web.wharton.upenn.edu/wrds/news/index.cfm>)

Account Types on WRDS (<https://wrds-web.wharton.upenn.edu/wrds/about/AccountTypes.cfm>)
Terms of Use (<https://wrds-web.wharton.upenn.edu/wrds/about/terms.cfm>)

Account Preferences (<https://wrds-web.wharton.upenn.edu/wrds/mywrds/preferences.cfm>)
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