



Usage Note 8395: How to reorder the variables in a SAS® data set

Details About Rate It

Any of the following statements can be used to change the order of the variables in a SAS data set:

```
ATTRIB
ARRAY
FORMAT
INFORMAT
LENGTH
RETAIN
```

In order for any of these statements to have the desired effect, they must be placed before a SET, MERGE, or UPDATE statement in the DATA step. All of these statements are declarative statements which are used in building the Program Data Vector (PDV) during the compilation phase of the DATA step.

Note that only the variables whose positions are relevant need to be listed in the above statements. Variables not listed in these statements retain their same positional order following the listed variables.

The RETAIN statement is most often used to reorder variables because no other variable attribute specifications are required. The RETAIN statement has no effect on retaining values of existing variables being read from the data set.

For example, there are six variables in data set ONE in the positional order of A, B, C, D, E, and F. If the new order needs to be A, E, C, D, B, and F, then the following DATA step reorders the variables in that order:

```
data two;
  retain a e c d b;
  set one;
run;
```

As noted, the variable F is left off the RETAIN statement since the order of variable F should not change. After running the above DATA step, the variables in data set ONE are in the order of A, E, C, D, B and F.

Operating System and Release Information

Product Family	Product	System	SAS Release	
			Reported	Fixed*
SAS System	Base SAS	Microsoft® Windows® for 64-Bit Itanium-based Systems		
		Microsoft Windows Server 2003 Datacenter 64-bit Edition		
		Microsoft Windows Server 2003 Enterprise 64-bit Edition		
		Microsoft Windows XP 64-bit Edition		
		Microsoft® Windows® for x64		
		OS/2		
		Microsoft Windows 8 Enterprise 32-bit		
		Microsoft Windows 8 Enterprise x64		
		Microsoft Windows 8 Pro 32-bit		
		z/OS		
		z/OS 64-bit		
		OpenVMS VAX		
		Microsoft Windows 8 Pro x64		
		64-bit Enabled Solaris		
		ABI+ for Intel Architecture		
		AIX		
		HP-UX		
		HP-UX IPF		
		IRIX		
		Linux		
		Linux for x64		
		Linux on Itanium		
		OpenVMS Alpha		
		OpenVMS on HP Integrity		

	Solaris		
	Solaris for x64		
	Tru64 UNIX		
	64-bit Enabled HP-UX		
	Windows Vista for x64		
	64-bit Enabled AIX		
	Windows Vista		
	Windows 7 Ultimate x64		
	Windows Millennium Edition (Me)		
	Windows 7 Ultimate 32 bit		
	Windows 7 Professional x64		
	Windows 7 Home Premium x64		
	Windows 7 Professional 32 bit		
	Windows 7 Home Premium 32 bit		
	Windows 7 Enterprise x64		
	Microsoft Windows XP Professional		
	Windows 7 Enterprise 32 bit		
	Microsoft Windows Server 2012 Std		
	Microsoft Windows Server 2012 R2 Std		
	Microsoft Windows Server 2012 R2 Datacenter		
	Microsoft Windows Server 2008 for x64		
	Microsoft Windows Server 2012 Datacenter		
	Microsoft Windows Server 2008 R2		
	Microsoft Windows Server 2003 for x64		
	Microsoft Windows Server 2008		
	Microsoft Windows Server 2003 Standard Edition		
	Microsoft Windows Server 2003 Enterprise Edition		
	Microsoft Windows Server 2003 Datacenter Edition		
	Microsoft Windows 2000 Professional		
	Microsoft Windows NT Workstation		
	Microsoft Windows 2000 Server		
	Microsoft Windows 2000 Datacenter Server		
	Microsoft Windows 95/98		
	Microsoft Windows 2000 Advanced Server		
	Microsoft Windows 8.1 Pro 32-bit		
	Microsoft Windows 8.1 Pro		
	Microsoft Windows 8.1 Enterprise 32-bit		
	Microsoft Windows 8.1 Enterprise x64		

* For software releases that are not yet generally available, the Fixed Release is the software release in which the problem is planned to be fixed.

Type: Usage Note

Priority:

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