Tip #1 – 3 Methods of Commenting Out Unused Code.

In SAS there are several common ways to comment out code that is not being used. The first two are rather well-known and straightforward.

a. Method #1: Using an asterisk to comment out one line of code.

```
data lab;
    set libcrt.normlab2;
     if lbtestcd='CA';
     *if lbtestcd='GLUCOSE';
run;
```

b. Method #2: Using /* and */ to comment out sections of code.

```
data lab;
    set libcrt.normlab2;
        /*if lbtestcd='CA' then do;
            lbtest=trim(left(put(lbtestcd,lab.)));
        end;*/
run;
```

A problem occurs when you want to comment out a larger section of code. In particular, it is difficult to comment out a larger section of code that include multiple occurrences of /* and */. In that case, put the section of code in a macro and then don't call the macro.

c. Method #3: Create %macro comment and don't call the macro.

```
data lab;
  set libcrt.normlab2;

  %macro comment;
  /*staceyp – 5/11/06 – don't use lab format for LBTEST until format is ready*/
  /*if lbtestcd='CA' then do;
    lbtest=trim(left(put(lbtestcd,lab.)));
  end;*/
  %mend;

  /*Use raw codes for LBTEST value*/
  if lbtestcd ='CA' then do;
    lbtest=lbtestcd;
  end;
run;
```

Tip #2 – Tricking Your Automatic SAS Log-checker With User Defined Warnings

My project team utilizes a UNIX script that operates as an automatic log checker to search the SAS log for unitialized variables, errors and warnings, etc. Sometimes we want to create our own user-defined log warnings using PUT statements to catch data problems:

Example 1

```
data lab;
    set libcrt.normlab2;

    /*Send warnings to the LOG where data is missing*/
    if lbtestcd=’’ then PUT “WARNING:”  subjid= visit= “is missing LBTESTCD.”;

run;
```

If we were to use the above code, the automatic log-checker would flag the code itself even if the condition weren’t true because it searches for the text string “WARNING”. The solution is to separate the text of “WARNING” so that it will only resolve to “WARNING” if the condition is true:

Example 2

```
data lab;
    set libcrt.normlab2;

    /*Send warnings to the LOG where data is missing*/
    if lbtestcd=’’ then PUT “WAR” “NING:  ”  subjid= visit= “is missing LBTESTCD.”

run;
```

In the above case, the PUT statement will only resolve if LBTESTCD is missing so the log-checker will not erroneously flag text from the code that is not actually a warning. Printed to the log from the second example:

```
WARNING:  subjid=1004 visit=Visit 1 is missing LBTESTCD.
```

Questions?

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