

Using .dbf file in SAS and SPSS¹

Files with the extension of .dbf are (usually) files that are usable by the software dBase. Many spreadsheets can create .dbf files. SAS on the UNIX can read .dbf files, but SPSS cannot. But, SPSS can read exported SAS files, so, with an extra couple of steps, a .dbf file can be read by SPSS.

We recommend that you create a directory on /tmp2 and use it for files that you create in this process. The directory /tmp2 is not backed up, and files that are more than 48 hours old are erased from it. It is a good place to store files that are needed temporarily. Also, SAS has difficulty using systems files in directories that have both version 7 and 6 systems files. By creating a directory for this process, you won't encounter that problem.

The items in bold need to be modified so that they will work with your file.

```
* /csda/help/sas/dbfunix.sas ;
* The following program can was used to create ;
* a SAS system from a Dbase V file ;
* When converting files, it is always a good idea;
* to check means before an after to make sure that;
* all went well;

filename file1 '/tmp2/example.dbf' ;
libname mylib '/tmp2' ;
options compress = yes linesize = 72 ;
proc dbf db5= file1 ;

data mylib.example; set ;
proc means;
proc contents ;

** If you want to create an SPSS systems file ;
** from the .dbf file, first an exported file ;
** must be created. SPSS cannot read SAS systems;
** files, but can read export files created by SAS.;

* /csda/help/sas/sasspss1.sas ;
LIBNAME SASDATA '/tmp2' ;
LIBNAME SASSPSS XPORT '/tmp2/example.xpt' ;
PROC COPY IN=SASDATA OUT=SASSPSS; SELECT example ;

endsas ;
** The following SPSS program will create the
** SPSS systems file.
*****
* /csda/help/spss/sasspss2.spss
* SECOND STEP IN CONVERTING SAS FILE TO SPSS
* USE SPSS TO "GET SAS" WITH A THE
* SAS EXPORT FILE CREATED ABOVE.

GET SAS DATA = 'example.xpt'
SAVE OUTFILE = 'example.spssfile'
DESC VARS=ALL
```

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