

Using IBM System/360/370/390 Data Types in a Non-Mainframe Environment.

By Francis J. Kelley

In general, exchanging data between dissimilar computing environments is relatively uncomplicated. Standard techniques, such as FTP (File Transfer Protocol), and more sophisticated methods make the exchange relatively straightforward. A major exception is with binary data. When this is encountered, special instructions are needed to insure the data is untouched by either the host or client machine. This is not so much difficult as it is confusing. Once the data has successfully been received by the new machine what is to be done with it? SAS[®] Transport files and catalogs may be read in their new environment by specifying the XPORT engine or with Proc CIMPORT (depending upon the type of file), but in the absence a special program to handle the binary data, a special program will have to be written. A major source of binary files have been the IBM mainframe computers (typically running MVS), that have been at the heart of many computing operations since the introduction of System/360. With the rapid growth of non-mainframe systems (typically running UNIX or Windows NT), it has been necessary to read and use legacy data in these new environments. The introduction of Version 6 of the SAS System brought with it number of INFORMATS and FORMATS to deal with the mainframe data types in non-mainframe environments. Many (though not all) of these are prefaced with "S370". This paper will examine using some of these these INFORMATs to read mainframe data.

Author Contact Information.

Francis Joseph Kelley
UCNS Client Services
Computer Services Annex
University of Georgia
Athens, GA 30602-1911
706.542.5359
jkelly@arches.uga.edu