Abstract
One's initial reconnaissance of the SAS world can be confusing and daunting. Whether you're a programming novice or a seasoned veteran of other languages, the scope of the SAS System, its mix of low-level coding and drag-and-drop "vertical" products rightly leads to many questions. Key among these is "what's most important, and how do I start?" This presentation presents an overview of the different components of the SAS System. Among the items it identifies for each component are: its function, the type and complexity of programming it requires, and how it is typically used in the academic or corporate workplace. Since the Base SAS component is, as the name suggests, at the core of all SAS applications, we place special emphasis on the nature of Base SAS processing, focusing on how the DATA step, procedures, and output rendering features work.