Introduction

In late January of 1989, release 6.6 of MXG software became available in production. Along with this new release, SAS Institute offered all MXG customers a free copy of the CPE Starter Set, a menu-driven application written with SAS/AF software to facilitate generating graphs and reports from the system measurement data collected by MXG. This presentation covered the new features in MXG and some of SAS Institute's future plans for further enhancements to the CPE Starter Set.

Brief Description of MXG

MXG Software, from Merrill Consultants, is a collection of SAS programs to convert measurement data from a wide variety of sources into a single SAS data library, called the Performance Data Base or PDB. From the PDB, the data can be combined in comprehensive reports and graphics. These programs include samples of standard production jobs that can be used as is by many sites, or tailored via exits or by combining multiple programs for specific needs. There are also programs for quick ad-hoc or one-time analyses. MXG processes standard measurement data from MVS, VM, and DOS/VSE systems, including data from the most widely-used system products and data base management systems. Users can add other measurement data to their MXG system by writing SAS programs to decode the records.

New features of MXG Release 6.6

MXG release 6.6 contains many updates in the following areas: IBM enhancements to existing data sources, new types of measurement data, enhanced DBMS support, etc., as outlined below.

IBM changes and enhancements:

- Changes documented for MVS/ESA. In some cases, these changes could not be tested, as actual measurement data was not available but errors should be minimal.
- Changes for PR/SM. The RMF type 70 record changes under PR/SM, and information about all partitions is available. MXG now creates a separate data set containing information about PR/SM partitions.
- New network data. NPM now produces the SMF type 28 record, and MXG decodes this record into 28 different data sets.
- VM/SP Release 6 data is supported.
- VM/XA Monitor data is also supported.
Enhanced DBMS support

- MXG now decodes most of the subtypes of the DB2 type 102 trace record.
- New reports on DB2 information are available, including statistic summary, accounting detail and summary, system parameter, and lock reports.
- The logic of processing IMS transaction data has been enhanced, resulting in better information on wait-for-input and message-switching transactions under IMS 2.1.

MXG release 6.6 also includes macros and sample programs to assist the user in creating a long-term data base to use for trending and capacity planning.

The CPE Starter Set

The CPE Starter Set was developed in the European office of SAS Institute in Heidelberg, West Germany. It was written using SAS/AF software and can be used by any site with base SAS software. Sites with SAS/GRAPH software can use the starter set to generate color graphs. Plans for future enhancements to the Starter Set include:

- Providing an interface for the user to specify his plan for long term maintenance and summarization so that tasks that need to be done periodically (e.g., weekly, monthly) can be automated.
- Add more reports on availability analysis for networks.
- Add more detailed reports on subsystems such as CICS, IMS, and DB2.
- Create a user report interface so that a user program can be easily incorporated into the Starter Set menus and take advantage of its data selection facilities.

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