

Enterprise Guide environment

SAS users beginning to learn Enterprise Guide often go through a paradigm shift experienced by programmers who switched from the simple DOS interface to early versions of Microsoft Windows.

First, Enterprise Guide is a graphical, window-based environment that offers quite a few bells and whistles. It comes with numerous useful tools to boost your productivity.

Secondly and perhaps more importantly, the regular SAS environment was designed to help users write SAS programs whereas Enterprise Guide provides tools for the entire data management-analysis-reporting cycle.

Enterprise Guide projects and tasks

Since Enterprise Guide's objectives are broader than those of the regular SAS environment, it comes with a new vocabulary that includes terms you may not be familiar with, for example, *projects* and *tasks*.

Enterprise Guide projects

.....
An Enterprise Guide project is similar to a Windows folder.

An Enterprise Guide project helps you organize your data sets, SAS programs, output and supporting documentation. A project walks and talks a lot like a folder in the Microsoft Windows environment. It is a collection of data files, programs and many other things related to a certain... project you are working on.

An Enterprise Guide project can include multiple data sets, programs you created to manipulate or analyze these data, output you produced and notes you wrote. All of these files are neatly organized and saved with the project so that you or anybody else who might work on your project in the future can easily review the work you have done.

Enterprise Guide tasks

.....
An Enterprise Guide task is similar to a SAS macro (but a lot more fun to work with).

An Enterprise Guide task can be thought of as a user-friendly SAS macro. Just like a SAS macro, a task takes certain parameters, generates SAS code and creates output or data sets. The definitive advantage of Enterprise Guide tasks is that they feature attractive point-and-click interfaces and are a lot easier to figure out and use than a typical SAS macro.

Enterprise Guide tasks are very similar to interactive templates (known as *wizards*) you will find in Microsoft Office programs. You can use a wizard to create a document template in Word or a chart in Excel. Likewise, an Enterprise Guide task is a wizard that asks you questions (sometimes lots of questions) and uses the answers to generate data sets, listings or summaries.