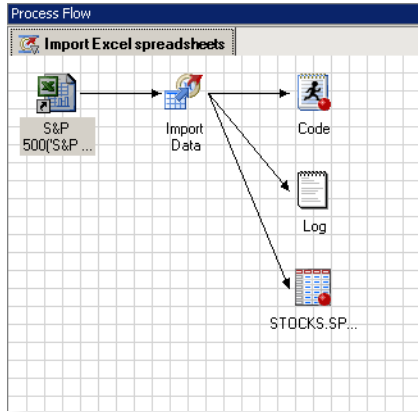


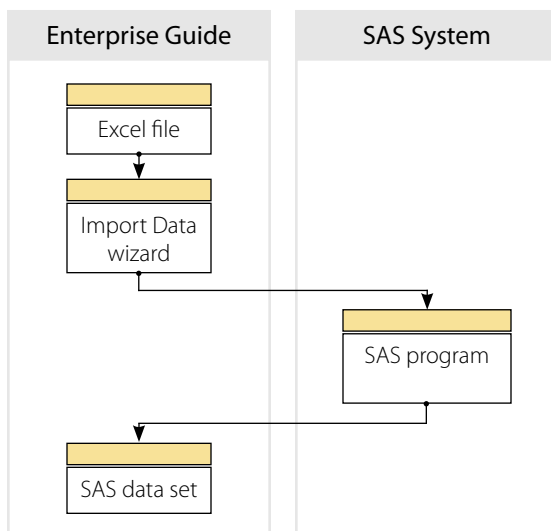
Examples of Enterprise Guide projects and tasks

Importing an Excel spreadsheet



The screen shot at left illustrates main features of Enterprise Guide projects. I created this project to convert an Excel file into a SAS data set.

Within this or any other project, files are represented by icons that are connected by lines. The lines help you visualize the links between related files. The Excel file is connected to an Enterprise Guide task (Import Data) to show that the task imported this file. The Import Data task is in turn connected to three other icons representing the resulting SAS data set, SAS program built by the task and associated log file.



Import Data task

An important, if not central, component of the described Enterprise Guide project is the Import Data task. This is a built-in task (it comes with Enterprise Guide) that facilitates the process of converting non-SAS data into a SAS format. The task is very powerful and can handle Excel spreadsheets, web pages (HTML format), Access databases and many other types of data files. You will learn more about the Import Data task in Chapter 2.

It is instructive to review what exactly the Import Data task does to convert a non-SAS data file, for example, an Excel spreadsheet, into a SAS data set. As shown in the diagram at left, the Import Data task first launches a wizard to walk you through the conversion process. It uses the gathered information to create a SAS program and submits it to the SAS System running on your desktop or a remote SAS server. Once the program has been executed, the task retrieves the resulting SAS data set and includes in your project. Most of this magic is done behind the scenes. All you need to do is to run the Import Data task.

[Food for thought]

The diagram above reveals an important thing about the general Enterprise Guide philosophy. Enterprise Guide has not been developed to replace the SAS System and SAS programming but rather to provide an interface that helps you automate routine tasks and increase your productivity.