

How can I replace characters in a string in SAS? Can you provide some examples?

Authored by
stats writer

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To replace characters in a string in SAS, one can use the "TRANSLATE" function. This function allows the user to specify the characters to be replaced and the characters to replace them with. For example, if one wants to replace all instances of "a" with "b" in a string, the syntax would be: TRANSLATE(string, 'a', 'b'). Additionally, the "TRANSLATE" function can also be used to remove characters by replacing them with a blank space. Overall, the "TRANSLATE" function provides a simple and efficient way to manipulate strings in SAS.

Replace Characters in a String in SAS (With Examples)

You can use the `tranwrd()` function to replace characters in a string in SAS.

Here are the two most common ways to use this function:

Method 1: Replace Characters in String with New Characters

```
data new_data;  
set original_data;  
new_variable = tranwrd(old_variable, "OldString",  
"NewString");  
run;
```

Method 2: Replace Characters in String with Blanks

```
data new_data;  
set original_data;
```

```
new_variable = tranwrd(old_variable, "OldString", "");  
run;
```

The following examples show how to use each method with the following dataset in SAS:

```
/*create dataset*/  
data original_data;  
input team $1-20;  
datalines;  
Angry Bees  
Angry Hornets  
Wild Mustangs  
Kind Panthers  
Kind Cobras  
Wild Cheetahs  
Wild Aardvarks  
;  
run;
```

```
/*view dataset*/  
proc printdata=original_data;
```

Obs	team
1	Angry Bees
2	Angry Hornets
3	Wild Mustangs
4	Kind Panthers
5	Kind Cobras
6	Wild Cheetahs
7	Wild Aardvarks

Example 1: Replace Characters in String with New Characters

The following code shows how to replace the word "Wild" in the team variable with the word "Fast":

```
/*replace "Wild" with "Fast" in team variable*/  
data new_data;  
set original_data;  
new_team = tranwrd(team, "Wild", "Fast");  
run;  
  
/*view new dataset*/  
proc printdata=new_data;
```

Obs	team	new_team
1	Angry Bees	Angry Bees
2	Angry Hornets	Angry Hornets
3	Wild Mustangs	Fast Mustangs
4	Kind Panthers	Kind Panthers
5	Kind Cobras	Kind Cobras
6	Wild Cheetahs	Fast Cheetahs
7	Wild Aardvarks	Fast Aardvarks

Notice that each team that had "Wild" in the name now has the word "Fast" in the name instead.

Any team that did not have "Wild" in the name simply kept their original name.

Example 2: Replace Characters in String with Blanks

The following code shows how to replace the word "Wild" in the team variable with a blank:

```
/*replace "Wild" with a blank in team variable*/  
data new_data;  
set original_data;  
new_team = tranwrd(team, "Wild", "");  
run;  
  
/*view new dataset*/
```

```
proc printdata=new_data;
```

Obs	team	new_team
1	Angry Bees	Angry Bees
2	Angry Hornets	Angry Hornets
3	Wild Mustangs	Mustangs
4	Kind Panthers	Kind Panthers
5	Kind Cobras	Kind Cobras
6	Wild Cheetahs	Cheetahs
7	Wild Aardvarks	Aardvarks

Notice that any team that had "Wild" in the name simply had the word "Wild" replaced with a blank.

Additional Resources

The following tutorials explain how to perform other common tasks in SAS: