

How can I utilize the ANYALPHA function in SAS?

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The ANYALPHA function in SAS is a useful tool for identifying and manipulating strings of text that contain any alphabetic characters. It can be utilized in SAS programming to perform various tasks such as data cleaning, data validation, and data transformation. By using this function, users can easily identify and extract specific portions of text that contain alphabetic characters, making it easier to manipulate and analyze data. Overall, the ANYALPHA function is an essential tool for data management and can greatly enhance the efficiency and accuracy of SAS programming.

Use the ANYALPHA Function in SAS

You can use the ANYALPHA function in SAS to return the position of the first alphabetic character in a given string.

This function uses the following basic syntax:

ANYALPHA(expression,)

where:

expression: The string to search
start (optional): The starting position to search from.

The following example shows how to use this function in practice.

Example: Using the ANYALPHA Function in SAS

Suppose we have the following dataset in SAS that contains information about various employees at some

company:

```
/*create dataset*/  
data my_data;  
input employeeID $ sales;  
datalines;  
0054A 23  
0009A 38  
0018B 40  
09H30 12  
04429 65  
B1300 90  
B1700 75  
04498 35  
0Y009 40  
C6500 23  
;  
run;  
  
/*view dataset*/  
proc printdata=my_data;
```

Obs	employeeID	sales
1	0054A	23
2	0009A	38
3	0018B	40
4	09H30	12
5	04429	65
6	B1300	90
7	B1700	75
8	04498	35
9	0Y009	40
10	C6500	23

We can use the ANYALPHA function to search for the position of the first alphabetic character in the employeeID column:

```
/*create new dataset*/  
data new_data;  
set my_data;  
firstAlphaChar = anyalpha(employeeID);  
run;  
  
/*view new dataset*/  
proc printdata=new_data;
```

Obs	employeeID	sales	firstAlphaChar
1	0054A	23	5
2	0009A	38	5
3	0018B	40	5
4	09H30	12	3
5	04429	65	0
6	B1300	90	1
7	B1700	75	1
8	04498	35	0
9	0Y009	40	2
10	C6500	23	1

The new column called firstAlphaChar displays the position of the first occurrence of any alphabetical character in the employeeID column.

For example, the first alphabetical character in the employee ID of row 1 occurs in the 5th position.

If there are no alphabetical characters for a given employee ID, then a value of 0 is returned.

We can also use the start argument within the ANYALPHA function to specify a starting position to search from.

/*create new dataset*/

```
data new_data;  
set my_data;  
firstAlphaChar = anyalpha(employeeID, 2);  
run;  
  
/*view new dataset*/  
proc printdata=new_data;
```

Obs	employeeID	sales	firstAlphaChar
1	0054A	23	5
2	0009A	38	5
3	0018B	40	5
4	09H30	12	3
5	04429	65	0
6	B1300	90	0
7	B1700	75	0
8	04498	35	0
9	0Y009	40	2
10	C6500	23	0

Notice that employeeID values that only contain an alphabetical character in the first position now receive a value of 0 in the firstAlphaChar column since the search for alphabetical characters now starts at position 2.

The following tutorials explain how to use other

common functions in SAS:

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