

PCKG: Managing SAS Macro Libraries

Development of standard SAS macro libraries is a continuous exercise in feature development, maintenance, logistics and version control that can make periodic release of macro library versions a complex activity. The PCKG macros were developed to enable easy control, administration and use of macro libraries used in the reporting of Clinical Trials. The PCKG features add simple version control allowing multiple active versions, traceability, impact analysis, archiving and rudimentary library configuration.

Summary

When developing a standard SAS macro library for reporting a Clinical Trial, it became apparent that version control of the library was essential. It may be required that some trials use the latest library version, while an unspecified number of trials will require that a specific version of the library would be used.

PCKG, pronounced PACKAGE, was developed to provide an easy mechanism to specify which macro libraries are used in the clinical trial report and, more specifically, what version. At the same time, we are able to document what macro libraries and associated versions are "loaded" for a program. The entire configuration aspect allows both traceability and simple efficient impact analysis.

The PCKG macros essentially control SASAUTOS such that you do not have to continuously edit SAS configuration file or your autoexec or use multiple %include in your program code. Currently, only directory paths are supported, but future versions of the PCKG macro library will include support for file references and macro catalogs.

The PCKG macros are available through pckg.sourceforge.net under Apache license with the aim to have version 1.0 release during May 2010.