

A Macro Tool to Find and/or Split Variable Text String Greater Than 200 Characters for Regulatory Submission Datasets

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Abstract: All submission datasets must comply with CDISC guidelines. One of the challenging tasks in following CDISC guidelines is variable text string in a submission dataset should not exceed 200 characters. If this scenario occurs in general observation class domains, the first 200 characters are stored in parent domain variable and other part of the text to be stored in supplemental qualifiers dataset as per CDISC standards. In case of TSVAL and COVAL the first 200 characters are stored in the parent domain variable, and rest of the text to be stored in additional variables (eg: COVAL1, COVAL2...) with each new variable text length less than or equal to 200.

It is most common in clinical trials, collecting data from subjects and/or trial summary parameter value (TSVAL) exceeds 200 characters. In fact, it is tedious and cumbersome process for a programmer to search each dataset in a library for the variables with text value greater than 200 characters. If so, split them into additional variables without breaking the word, in a readable manner and complying CDISC standards. This complicated task can be done swiftly using the macro tool FINDSPLIT (by just passing two parameters) given in this paper.

Introduction: It is the FDA requirement that clinical trial submission datasets must comply with CDISC standards. One of the CDISC requirements for the submission datasets is the variable text should not exceed 200 characters, but it is most common for sponsor collecting some additional data with text greater than 200 characters in CRF and/or trial summary parameter value (TSVAL) with text string >200. Typically numerous datasets are present in a given library, and each dataset contains tens of variables. To find out each variable with value length greater than 200 characters is tedious and time consuming process for programmer within the library. However, sometimes it can be overlooked by the programmer causing data truncation in submission datasets.

Even after identifying the variables with value length greater than 200 characters in each dataset of a specific library, it is a challenging task to split them into additional variables without breaking the word in a readable manner and complying CDISC standards.

In order to overcome these challenges, created a macro tool FINDSPLIT.

Advantages of the Macro Tool FINDSPLIT are:

- It is very easy to use (just a couple of parameters to be passed).
- Finds the variables in datasets with text string greater than 200 characters in a given specific library irrespective of number of datasets.
- Provides the summary in html window.
- If any variable with text string greater than 200 characters in any dataset within a specific library, split them into additional variables.
- Splitting occurs in a readable manner and complies with CDISC standards for submission purpose.
- It saves a lot of programmer's precious time and expedites the submission activities.

Tips for FINDSPLIT Macro Execution:

- Make sure that the dataset names in your library should not be same as given below.

`_TEMPLEN1, _TEMPLEN2, _TEMPORARY_INDSN_CONTENTS,
_TEMPORARY_VAR_LEN_DSN, _TEMPCONT1, _TEMPLEN_DSN,
_TEMPORARY_VAR_NOLEN_DSN, SASHELPVCOLUMN`

If so the macro stops executing, and will be notified in log as a WARNING message.

- Macro stops executing if any of the keyword parameters value is missing and will be notified in log as a WARNING message.
- Keyword parameter SPLIT should have a value of either Y or N.
- Macro stops executing and will be notified in log as a WARNING message, when keyword parameter SPLIT has a value of Y and the following variables preexist in your dataset: X, LENGTHA.

Mechanism of FINDSPLIT Macro Tool:

Keyword Parameter	Parameter Value	Description
libnme	The library name in which your datasets are stored (eg: WORK, Raw...)	Eg: %findsplit (libnme=work, split=)
split	When keyword parameter value is N (Possible values are Y, N only)	Variable value length information in each dataset with more than 200 characters within the specified library will be given in

		html window. Eg: %findsplit (libnme=work, split=N)
split	When keyword parameter value is Y (Possible values are Y, N only)	(i) Variable value length information in each dataset with more than 200 characters within specified library will be given in html window. (ii) Stores the variable long text value into additional variables in a readable way with each new variable length less than or equal to 200. The scope of this process is, all datasets within a specified library %findsplit (libnme=work, split=Y)

Table 1. Mechanistic aspects of the macro tool FINDSPLIT.

FINDSPLIT Macro Code:

```
%macro findsplit (libnme=, split=) ;

%if &libnme= %then %do;
    %put WARNING: The Name of the Library to be Assigned for the Keyword Parameter LIBNME
to Execute this Macro;
    %abort cancel;
%end;

%if &split= %then %do;
    %put WARNING: Value N to be Assigned to the Keyword Parameter split: if you want to
find only the Variable Length > 200 in each dataset in %upcase(&libnme) library;
    %put WARNING: Value Y to be Assigned to the Keyword Parameter split: if you want to find
Variable Length > 200 in each dataset in %upcase(&libnme) library and Split them into
multiple Variables;
    %put WARNING: Otherwise the macro findsplit STOPS EXECUTING.;
    %abort cancel ;
%end;
```

```

%macro lenfind ;

%if %sysfunc(exist(&libnme..sashelpvcolumn)) eq 1 %then %do;
%put WARNING: In %upcase(&libnme) Library, Datasets name should not be identical with the
following name: SASHELPVCOLUMN;
%abort cancel;%end;

data sashelpvcolumn;
    set sashelp.vcolumn;
    if upcase (libname) eq "%upcase(&libnme)" ;
    if upcase(memname) in ("_TEMPCONT1", "_TEMPLEN1", "_TEMPLEN2", "_TEMPLEN_DSN",
        "_TEMPORARY_VAR_LEN_DSN", "_TEMPORARY_VAR_NOLEN_DSN",
        "_TEMPORARY_INDSN_CONTENTS") then chak_var=1;
    else chak_var=0;
run;

proc sort data=sashelpvcolumn nodupkey;
    by chak_var;
run;

data _null_;
    set sashelpvcolumn;
    if chak_var eq 0 then call symput("samename", "NO");
    else call symput("samename", "YES");
run;
%if &samename eq YES %then %do;
    %put WARNING: In %upcase(&libnme) Library, Datasets name should not be identical with
the following names: _TEMPCONT1,_TEMPLEN1,_TEMPLEN2, _TEMPLEN_DSN,
    _TEMPORARY_VAR_LEN_DSN, _TEMPORARY_VAR_NOLEN_DSN, _TEMPORARY_INDSN_CONTENTS. So the macro
findsplit stops executing. ;
    %abort cancel;
%end;

%local dsncount maxlen;
proc contents data=&libnme.._all_ out=_TEMPcont1 noprint;
run;

proc sql noprint number;
    create table _TEMPlen1 as
    select distinct(memname), name, LIBNAME
    from _TEMPcont1
    where type eq 2 and length gt 200;
    select count (distinct memname ) into : dsncount from _TEMPlen1;
quit;

%do i=1 %to &dsncount; %local dsn&i varcount&i; %end;

proc sql noprint;

```

```

        select distinct(memname) into : dsn1-: dsn%sysfunc(compress(&dsncount)) from
TEMPLEN1;
        select count (memname) into : varcount1- : varcount%sysfunc(compress(&dsncount)) from
TEMPLEN1 group by memname;
quit;

data _TEMPLEN2;
    set _TEMPLEN1;
    by memname;
    if first.memname then cat+1;
    if first.memname then varord=. ;
    varord+1;
    call symput("varord"||strip(put(cat, best.))||"_"||strip(put(varord, best.)),
strip(name) );
run;

%do i= 1 %to &dsncount;
    %do j= 1 %to &&varcount&i;
        proc sql noprint;
            select max(length ( &&varord&i._&j)) into: maxlen
            from &libnme..&&dsn&i;
        quit;
        %if &maxlen > 200 %then %do;
            data _TEMPLEN_DSN;
                length dsnlib dsn variable max_length_var $200;

                dsnlib="&libnme";
                dsn="&&dsn&i";
                variable=" &&VARORD&i._&j.";
                max_length_var="%sysfunc(compress(&maxlen))";
                keep dsnlib dsn variable max_length_var;
            run;
            proc append base=_temporary_var_len_dsn data=_TEMPLEN_DSN;
            run;
            quit;
        %end;
    %end;
%end;

%if %sysfunc(exist(_temporary_var_len_dsn)) eq 1 %then %do;
    ods listing close;
    ods html ;
        title1 "Below is the Variable Information With Length Greater than 200
in %upcase(&libnme) Library Datasets";
        proc print data=_temporary_var_len_dsn split="~~" NOOBS;
            label dsnlib="Library~ Name" dsn="Dataset~ Name"
variable="Variable~Name" max_length_var="Variable~Maximum Length" ;
        run;
    ods html close;

```

```

ods listing;
%end;

%else %do;
    data _temporary_var_nolen_dsn;
        Result= "None of the variable in the %upcase(&libnme) Library Datasets with
Length Greater Than 200 ";
    run;
    ods listing close;
        ods html ;
        proc print data=_temporary_var_nolen_dsn noobs;

            run;
    ods html close;
    ods listing;
%end;
title1 "";
proc datasets lib=work memtype=data nolist;
    delete _temporary_var_nolen_dsn _TEMPCONT1 _TEMPLN1 _TEMPLN2 _TEMPLN_DSN
    sashelpvcolumn;
quit;
%mend lenfind;

%macro splitvar (aval=, indsn=);

%local var1 maxlen x;
proc contents data=&indsn noprint out=_temporary_indsn_contents (keep=name);
run;

data _temporary_indsn_contents;
    set _temporary_indsn_contents;
    if upcase(name) in ( "LENGTHA", "X") then chk_var= 1;
    else if upcase(name) not in ( "LENGTHA", "X") then chk_var=0;
run;

proc sort data=_temporary_indsn_contents nodupkey;
    by chk_var;
run;

data _null_;
    set _temporary_indsn_contents;
    if chk_var eq 0 then call symput ("samevarname", "NO");
    else call symput ("samevarname", "YES");

run;

proc datasets lib=work memtype=data nolist;
    delete _temporary_indsn_contents ;
quit;

```

```

%if &samevarname eq YES %then %do;
    %put WARNING: %upcase(&INDSN) DATASET HAS THE FOLLOWING VARIABLE NAME/NAMES
X, LENGTHA. SO THE MACRO findsplit STOPS EXECUTING.;
    %abort cancel;
%end;
proc sql noprint;
    select max (length(&aval)) into: maxlen
    from &indsn;
quit;

%let var1= %sysfunc(compress(%sysfunc(ceil(%sysevalf(%sysfunc(divide(&maxlen, 200))+3)))));

proc sql noprint;
    alter table &indsn modify &aval char (%sysevalf(%sysfunc(compress(&maxlen)) +4));
quit;

data &indsn;
    set &indsn;
    if lengthn(&aval) gt 200 then &aval=strip(&aval)||" ###";
run;

data &indsn;
    set &indsn;
    lengtha=lengthn(&aval);
    array varx (*) $200 &aval.1 - &aval&var1;

    do i=1 to dim(varx);
        if i = 1 then do ;varx(i)= substr(&aval, 1, ifn(index(reverse(substr(&aval, 1, 200)), "
") ne 0 and index(reverse(substr(&aval, 1, 200)), " .") ne 0 ,
( 200- min(index(reverse(substr(&aval, 1, 200)), " "),
index(reverse(substr(&aval, 1, 200)), " ."))),
( 200- max(index(reverse(substr(&aval, 1, 200)), " "),
index(reverse(substr(&aval, 1, 200)), " .")) ) );
            x=sum(x, length(varx(i)));
        end;
        if i gt 1 and x< lengtha then do;
            varx(i)= substr(&aval, x+1, ifn(index(reverse(substr(&aval,
x+1,min(lengtha-x-1, 200))), " ") ne 0 and index(reverse(substr(&aval, x+1, min(lengtha-x-1,
200))), " .") ne 0 ,
( min(lengtha-x-1, 200) - min(index(reverse(substr(&aval, x+1,min(lengtha-x-1,
200))), " "), index(reverse(substr(&aval, x+1,min(lengtha-x-1, 200))), " ."))),
( min(lengtha-x, 200)- max(index(reverse(substr(&aval, x+1,min(lengtha-x-1,
200))), " "), index(reverse(substr(&aval, x+1,min(lengtha-x-1, 200))), " .")) ) );
            x=sum(x, length(varx(i)));
            if x eq lengtha then x=x+1;
            if varx(i) = "###" then call missing(varx(i));
        end;
    end;

```

```

end;
end;
drop i x ;
run;

%do i=1 %to &var1 ;
    proc sql noprint;
        select (max(lengthn(&aval.&i))) into: x
        from &indsn;
    quit;
    data &indsn;
        set &indsn;
        &aval.&i=left (&aval.&i);
        rename &aval.&i = &aval.%sysfunc( compress(%eval (&i.-1)));

    run;
    %if &x eq 0 %then %do;
        data &indsn;
            set &indsn;
            drop &aval.%sysfunc( compress(%eval (&i.-1)));
    run;
    %end;
%end;

data &indsn;
    set &indsn;
    drop &aval lengtha;
    rename &aval.0=&aval;
run;

%mend splitvar;

%local totite;

%lenfind;

%if %sysfunc(exist(_temporary_var_len_dsn)) eq 1 and %upcase(&split) eq N %then %do;
    proc datasets lib=work memtype=data nolist;
        delete _temporary_var_len_dsn ;
    quit;
%end;

%if %sysfunc(exist(_temporary_var_len_dsn)) eq 1 and %upcase(&split) eq Y %then %do;
    proc sql noprint;
        select count(*) into : totite from _temporary_var_len_dsn;
    quit;

    %do m=1 %to &totite; %local dsnc&m varct&m ; %end;
    proc sql noprint;

```



```

select dsn into: dsnc1 -: dsnc%sysfunc(compress(&totite)) from
_temporary_var_len_dsn;
select variable into: varct1 -: varct%sysfunc(compress(&totite)) from
_temporary_var_len_dsn;
quit;

proc datasets lib=work memtype=data nolist;
delete _temporary_var_len_dsn ;
quit;

%do f=1 %to &totite;
  %splitvar (aval=&&varct&f, indsn=&libme..&&dsnc&f);
%end;

%end;

%findsplit (libme=work, split=N);

%findsplit (libme=work, split=Y);

```

CONCLUSION:

Using the macro tool FINDSPLIT, length of the variable with text string greater than 200 characters can be identified and/or split into additional variables in a readable way complying CDISC standards. The scope of FINDSPLIT macro tool is for all datasets within specified library.

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