

Macros

How can I get details of a macro variable name / value written to the LOG?

It can be beneficial to write into the LOG values of a macro variable name and the stored value, particularly for LOCAL macro variables created inside a macro programme definition.

There has always been a shorthand method for writing dataset name / value pairs in to the LOG using the `variable_name=` syntax:

```
data _null_ ;  
    set sashelp.class (obs= 2) ;  
    put name= ;  
run ;
```

giving a LOG containing the following:

```
Name=Alfred  
Name=Alice
```

To write out individual name / value pairs in the macro processor required additional syntax, but since SAS version 9.3, adding an = after the ampersand will achieve the desired effect:

```
%macro countwords(text) ;  
    %let wordcount = %sysfunc(countw(&text)) ;  
    %put text = &text ; *** Additional syntax form *** ;  
    %put &=wordcount ; *** Shorthand notation *** ;  
%mend countwords ;  
  
%countwords(Pink Chameleon)
```

as can be seen in the LOG:

```
text = Pink Chameleon  
WORDCOUNT=2
```

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