

## Macros

# Can I get SAS to create pop-up message boxes in Windows?

Using Display Manager commands allow you to create pop-up boxes which enable you to issue bespoke messages to the user.

Create a 'utility' macro program which will be used to generate the message box:

```
%macro msgbox(msg) ;  
  %local sq ;  
  %let msg = %sysfunc(compress(&msg,%str('%'))) ;  
  %let sq = %bquote(%sysfunc(byte(39))) ;  
  dm "postmessage &sq.&msg.&sq." ;  
%mend msgbox ;
```

The first %LET statement removes any quotation marks from the submitted message as both will be used in the Display Manager command to be submitted. The second %LET generates a macro-quoted single quotation mark which is then placed before and after the message to be submitted.

The macro program can then be called to create interactive messages:

```
%msgbox(Your code has run. Click OK to continue.)
```

To better see this in action use the macro to generate messages at the beginning and end of a program:

```
%macro biglong ;  
  %msgbox(This code runs for a long time. Do not issue any commands until you see the Code Completed message.)  
  %do i = 1 %to 500 ;  
    putlog 'Nothing to see here...' ;  
    dm 'cle log' ;  
  %end ;  
  %msgbox(Code completed successfully.)  
%mend biglong ;
```

```
%biglong
```

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