

DATA Step

How can I avoid the message: "WARNING: The quoted string currently being processed has become more than 262 characters long. You may have unbalanced quotation marks."?

The maximum length of a character string in the Language of SAS is 32,767 characters, however when issuing an instruction containing a long quoted string the WARNING message may appear in the LOG. The following statement uses the ODBC Driver to assign an Excel Workbook as a data library in a long string literal:

```
libname myxl odbc noprompt = 'Driver              = Microsoft Excel Drive
r (*.xls, *.xlsx, *.xlsm, *.xlsb) ;
                                Threads            = 3 ;
                                ReadOnly            = 1 ;
                                PageTimeout         = 5 ;
                                MaxScanRows        = 8 ;
                                MaxBufferSize       = 2048 ;
                                Fil                 = excel 12.0 ;
                                DefaultDir          = C:\ ;
                                DBQ                 = C:\Results\Report.xls
' ;
```

The LOG includes the WARNING message, however the instruction is completed successfully:

```
1      libname myxl odbc noprompt = 'Driver              = Microsoft Excel
Driver (*.xls, *.xlsx,
1      ! *.xlsm, *.xlsb) ;
2                                Threads            = 3 ;
3                                ReadOnly            = 1 ;
4                                PageTimeout         = 5 ;
5                                MaxScanRows        = 8 ;
WARNING: The quoted string currently being processed has become more t
han 262 characters long.
        You may have unbalanced quotation marks.
6                                MaxBufferSize       = 2048 ;
7                                Fil                 = excel 12.0 ;
8                                DefaultDir          = C:\ ;
9                                DBQ                 = C:\Results\Repor
t.xls' ;
```

It is generally bad practice to have WARNING messages in your LOG and code should be amended to eliminate these. In this instance however the code is not at fault.

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Since Version 9, there is a Global System Option options noquotelenmax ; which will suppress the WARNING message:

```
1  options noquotelenmax ;
2
3  libname myxl odbc noprompt = 'Driver          = Microsoft Excel
Driver (*.xls, *.xlsx,
3  ! *.xlsm, *.xlsb) ;
4
5          Threads          = 3 ;
6          ReadOnly         = 1 ;
7          PageTimeout      = 5 ;
8          MaxScanRows      = 8 ;
9          MaxBufferSize    = 2048 ;
10         Fil               = excel 12.0 ;
11         DefaultDir       = C:\ ;
12         DBQ               = C:\Results\Repor
t.xls' ;
```

Unique solution ID: #1023

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