

Connect with SAS Professionals Around the World with LinkedIn and sasCommunity.org

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Abstract

Accelerate your career and professional development with LinkedIn and sasCommunity.org. Establish and manage a professional network of trusted contacts, colleagues and experts. These exciting social networking and collaborative online communities enable users to connect with millions of SAS users worldwide, anytime and anywhere.


This paper explores exciting features found in both virtual communities. Topics include creating a profile and social network content, developing a network of friends and colleagues, joining special-interest groups, accessing a Wiki-based web site where anyone can add or change content on any page on the web site, sharing biographical information between both communities using a built-in widget, exchanging ideas in Bloggers Corner, viewing scheduled and unscheduled events, using a built-in search facility to search for desired wiki-content, collaborating on projects and file sharing, reading and responding to specific forum topics, and much more.

Introduction

SAS users have a powerful social networking application with more than 40 million professionals in LinkedIn and a "virtual" website in sasCommunity.org where they can collaborate with other users anywhere in the world; access content; learn about upcoming events, forums and user group conferences; and discuss anything and everything that is related to SAS software, from SAS users to SAS users.

LinkedIn Social Networking

LinkedIn is a powerful contact and relationship management application boasting more than 40 million professionals worldwide. Professionals control their identity online while staying informed by exchanging information, ideas and opportunities with like-minded individuals. Joining LinkedIn, creating a profile and connecting with professionals around the world is free. It also provides access to a directory of groups sharing a common experience, interest, affiliation or goal. Figure 1 and 2 illustrates sample profiles.



The image shows a sample LinkedIn profile for Kirk Paul Lafler. At the top, his name is followed by a 'you' icon. Below his name is his title: 'Senior Consultant, Trainer and Author at Software Intelligence Corporation', and his location: 'Greater San Diego Area | Information Technology and Services'. To the right is a small headshot of a man in a suit. Below this header is a table-like structure with sections: 'Current' (Senior SAS® Consultant, Trainer and Author at Software Intelligence Corporation), 'Past' (Contributing Editor at Enterprise Systems Journal, Senior SAS Consultant at Amex - Phoenix, Systems Analyst, Systems Tester and Technical Writer at Management Analysis Consultants (MAC)), 'Education' (University of Miami - School of Business, The George Washington University, University of Miami - School of Business), 'Recommendations' (3 people have recommended Kirk Paul), 'Connections' (413 connections), 'Websites' (sasCommunity.org, SQL Planet, Wapedia), and 'Public Profile' (http://www.linkedin.com/in/kirkpaulafler).

Current	• Senior SAS® Consultant, Trainer and Author at Software Intelligence Corporation
Past	• Contributing Editor at Enterprise Systems Journal • Senior SAS Consultant at Amex - Phoenix • Systems Analyst, Systems Tester and Technical Writer at Management Analysis Consultants (MAC) see all...
Education	• University of Miami - School of Business • The George Washington University • University of Miami - School of Business
Recommendations	3 people have recommended Kirk Paul
Connections	413 connections
Websites	• sasCommunity.org • SQL Planet • Wapedia
Public Profile	http://www.linkedin.com/in/kirkpaulafler

Figure 1. Sample LinkedIn Profile



Figure 2. Sample LinkedIn Profile

The sasCommunity.org Main Page

To get the most from sasCommunity as well as the numerous features within, you'll want to become familiar with the Main Page, shown in Figure 3. The Main Page is the primary interface that users see as they access and interact with sasCommunity.org. The first thing you will notice about the main page, besides the beautiful graphics, is that it is organized into a number of parts: 1) on the left side is a grouping of hyperlinked keywords related to the main menu, page activity, getting started, search, and toolbox; 2) at the very top-right are two hyperlinks, Log in and Create account; 3) at the top are a grouping of special tabs related to articles, discussions, view source, and history; 4) in the body portion are the Bloggers' Corner and Forums; and 5) at the bottom of the body portion are a number of icons related to joining sasCommunity, getting involved, Sasopedia, events and user groups.

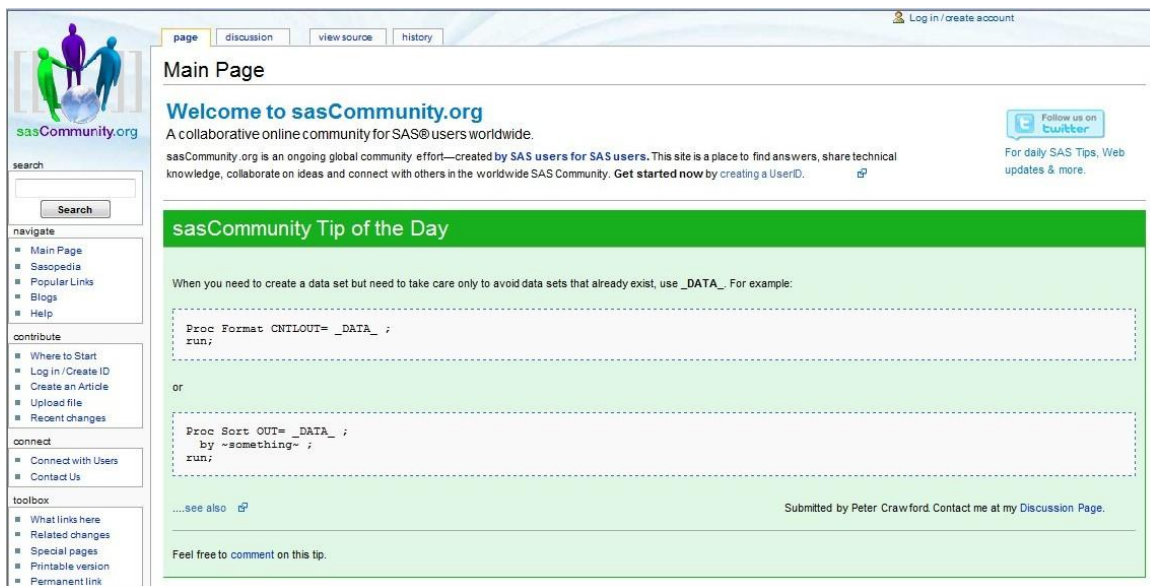


Figure 3. sasCommunity.org Front Page

Joining sasCommunity – Creating an Account

At some point during your online experience, and particularly before you are permitted to contribute to sasCommunity, you will need to create an account. To create an account you will need to click the “**log in / create account**” hyperlink located at the top-right of the Main Page. This will automatically display the Log in / create account special page, see Figure 4. Click the “**Create an account**” hyperlink to proceed. The Log in / create account page will automatically display.



Figure 4. Log in / create account special page

With the Create account page displayed, you are now ready to enter a unique Username, password, E-mail address, and optional Real name. Once this information is entered, click the **Create account** button, see Figure 5. Note: Although an e-mail address is required to be entered, an entry for Real name is optional and can be left blank. A password is your secret sequence of typed characters and is required for accessing your account. Anyone who knows your password can sign on to your account and could potentially cause a world of havoc such as deleting mail messages, sending bogus messages that look like they are coming from you, post messages on public forums that appear to be coming from you, and so on. Also, don't choose a password that is too obvious or too easy to guess. Because a password is so important, you should really select one with the utmost care.

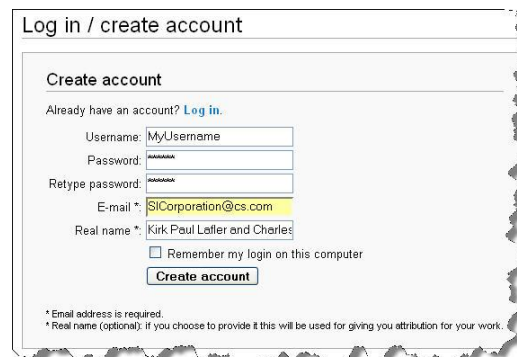


Figure 5. Create account page

If your account is successfully created, a special Welcome message will display indicating that your account has been created, see Figure 6. You can then click the **Return to Main Page** hyperlink to display the Main Page.




Figure 6. Your account has been created page

As part of the verification process, an e-mail containing a confirmation code is automatically sent to the e-mail address you provided during the account creation process. Before you can activate e-mail activities on sasCommunity you will need to open the link displayed in the e-mail by clicking the listed hyperlink, see Figure 7.



Figure 7. Confirmation E-mail message

After clicking the hyperlink displayed in the e-mail, a confirmation page will automatically display indicating that the account belongs to you. As soon as this confirmation page displays sasCommunity e-mail features will be enabled, see Figure 8.



Figure 8. Confirm E-mail address page

Blogger's Corner

Blogger's Corner displays a list of Blogs or articles defined by SAS users. You can access Blogger's Corner from the Main Page by clicking the **"Blogs"** keyword hyperlink under the Main Menu category. Or, click the hyperlink, Visit **Bloggers' Corner** to see what your sasCommunity.org colleagues are blogging about..., located in the Blogger's Corner section of the Main Page. Once clicked, the Blogger's Corner page appears, see Figure 9.

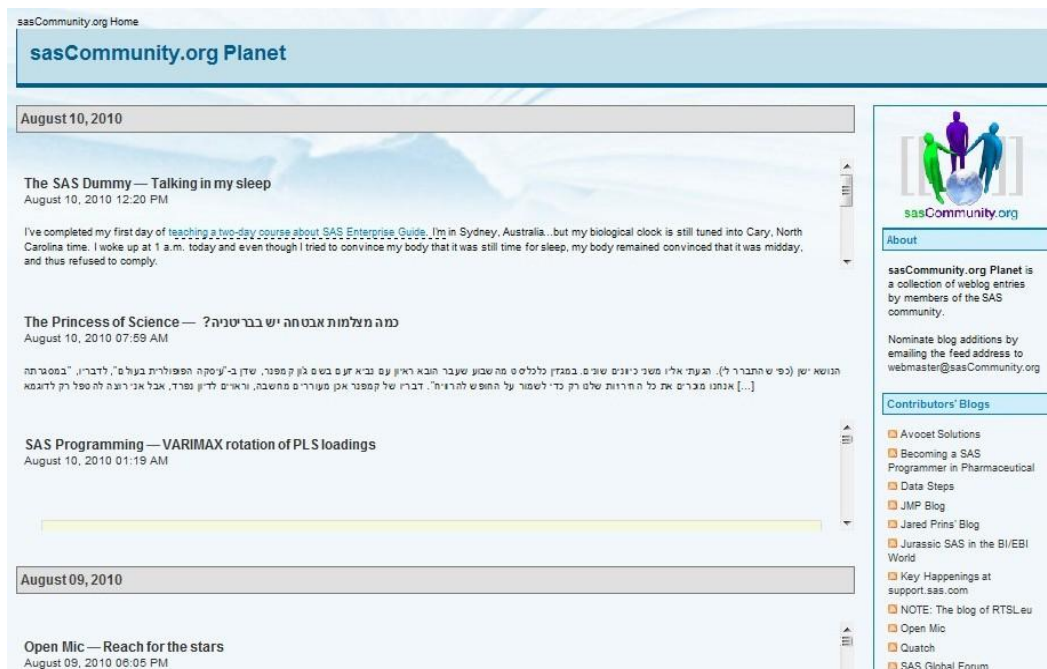



Figure 9. Blogger's Corner page

Accessing a blog is as easy as point-and-click. For example, click “**SAS Global Forum**” from the list of Contributors Blogs in the right panel to display the blog for SAS Global Forum, see Figure 10. Once the blog is accessed (and you are logged in), you will be able to participate in the discussion associated with that blog by clicking the ‘discussion’ tab located at the top of the page.

Blogs | SAS Global Forum




Thursday, July 15, 2010

The Neon Sign is On / Call for Papers Open



Supporting SAS Global Forum is a year-round effort, but for me, the opening of the Call for Papers is basically the start of the upcoming conference. The section chairs have been selected, and they've posted what they are looking for in their sections.

You'll need to submit your abstract and a working draft of your proposed paper or poster by following a simple submission process. And there's a helpful FAQ that's worth reading. The deadline for contributed submission abstracts and working drafts is **Monday, October 25, 2010**.

Last year we had over 500 submissions. Why submit a paper? There are benefits to you, your organization, and the SAS community itself. Plus, your boss is more likely to send you to the conference if your paper gets accepted. Right?

Why not put the conference dates on your calendar now? It's Monday (yes, Monday) April 4 – Thursday April 7, 2011, at Caesars Palace, Las Vegas, Nevada.

Posted by Michael H. Smith in Pre-conference Planning at 14:34 | Comments (0) | Trackbacks (0)

Defined tags for this entry: Call for Papers, paper submission FAQ, paper submission process, section chairs, sections

ABOUT THIS BLOG

Welcome to the SAS Global Forum blog. Peek behind the scenes to find out what's going on. From pre-conference planning to on-site coverage and post-conference wrap-ups, we'll cover it all in writing and on video.

SAS Global Forum 2010 will be held April 11 - 14, 2010 in Seattle, WA.

CALENDAR

August '10

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

QUICKSEARCH

ARCHIVES

Monday, June 14, 2010

WITWIIWW “SGF?”



Need a translation? Here you go: *What In The World Is Wrong With “SGF?”*

Figure 10. SAS Global Forum Blog page

To post a comment to the blog posting, click the ‘Comment’ hyperlink (and log into your account) located at the top of the blog page. With the Comment page displayed, you will be able to view and post a response (or comment) to the blog message, see Figure 11.

Add Comment

Name

Email

Homepage

In reply to [Top level]

Comment

Enclosing asterisks marks text as bold (*word*), underscore are made via word.

Standard emoticons like :-) and :-) are converted to images.

E-Mail addresses will not be displayed and will only be used for E-Mail notifications

To prevent automated Bots from commentspamming, please enter the string you see in the image below in the appropriate input box. Your comment will only be submitted if the strings match. Please ensure that your browser supports and accepts cookies, or your comment cannot be verified correctly.

9 A I N P Enter the string from the spam-prevention image above:

☐ Remember Information?

☐ Subscribe to this entry

Figure 11. SAS Global Forum comment page

Exploring Popular Links

sasCommunity.org provides a number of popular links for users to access and explore. Click the “**Popular Links**” keyword from the hyperlinks located at the left of the main page to display the Popular Links page, see Figure 12. This listing of popular links is organized as a collection of frequently accessed pages for ease of use.

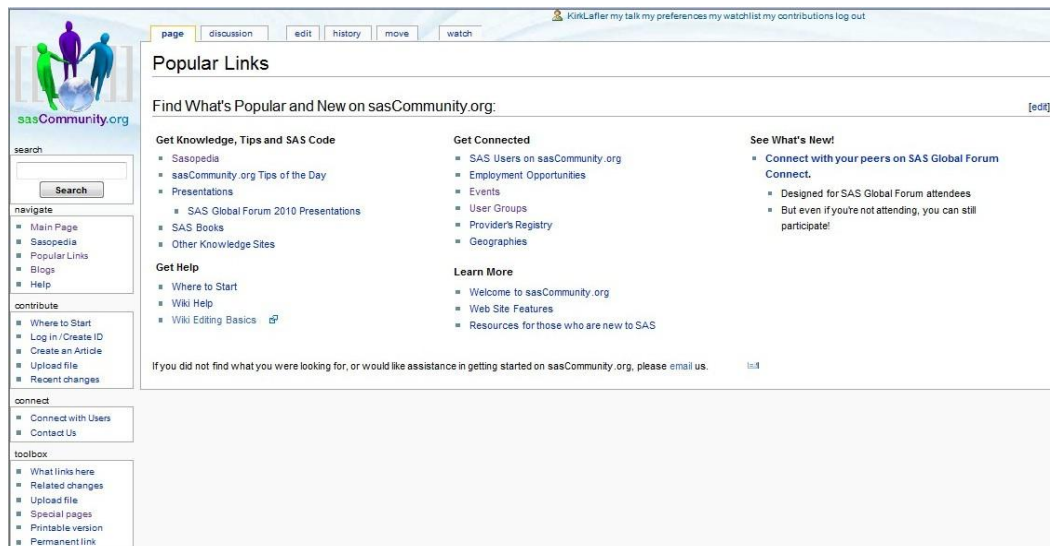


Figure 12. Popular Links page

Exploring Upcoming Events

SAS users have a convenient way to find out about upcoming events including user group meetings, conferences, training classes, webcasts, and other interesting events relevant to the user community. Click the “**Events**” keyword hyperlink under the Main Menu category to display the Events page, see Figure 13.

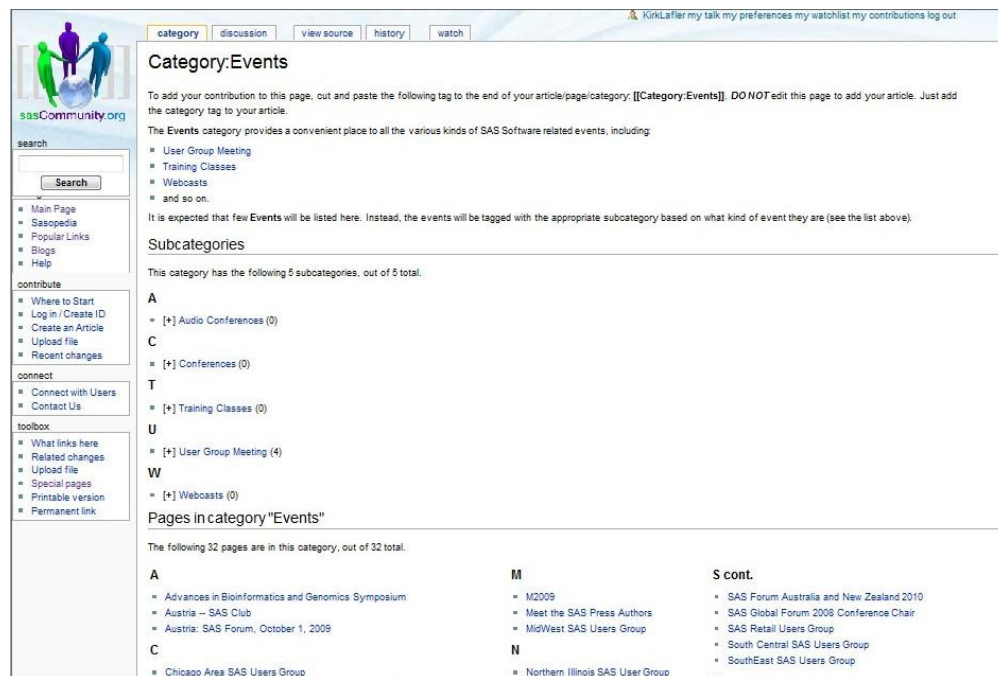


Figure 13. Events page

Using the Sasopedia

The Sasopedia is the place where users can access factual information and tips on using the SAS software. To access this fact-based resource, click the “**Sasopedia**” keyword hyperlink under the Popular Links category to display the Sasopedia page, see Figure 14. Although Sasopedia is currently being reorganized, it displays the following categories: 1) Language Elements, 2) Procedures, 3) Products, and 4) Topic for user convenience.



Figure 14. Sasopedia page

Staying Connected with User Groups

Users can access the latest goings-on with in-house, local, regional, and SAS Global Forum anytime, and anywhere. To access this fact-based resource, click the “**User Groups**” keyword hyperlink under the Popular Links category to display the User Groups page, see Figure 15.

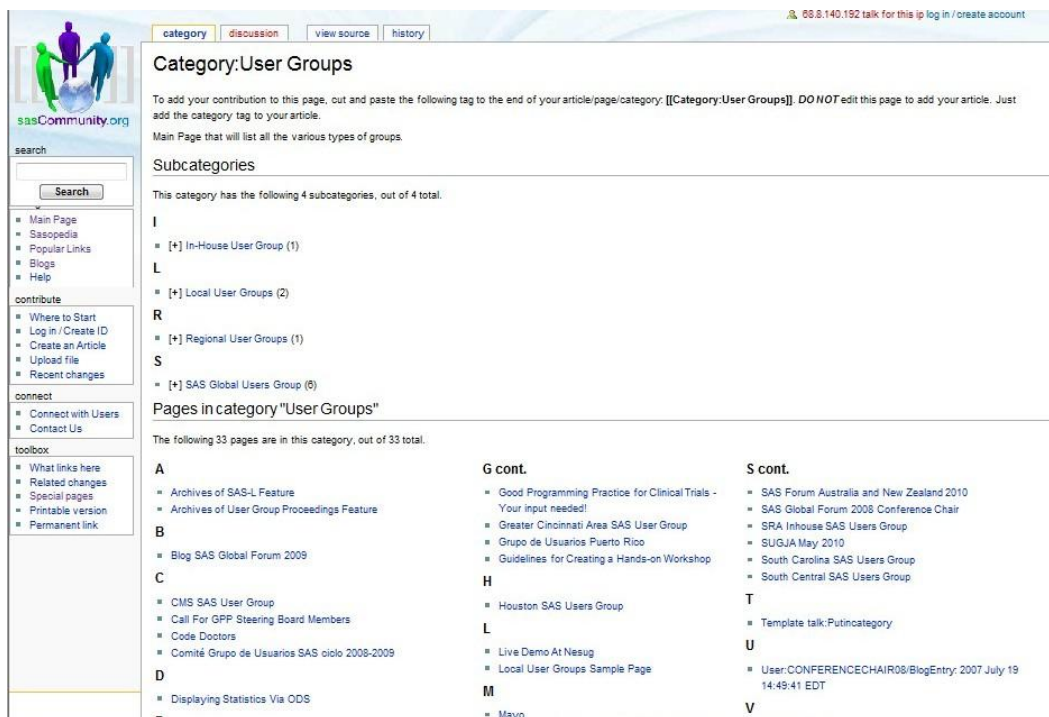


Figure 15. sasCommunity User Groups page

Using a Wiki

sasCommunity uses Wikimedia software to improve the overall user experience while using the virtual community. Wiki features include: a consistent look and feel with navigation bars and short-cuts, file upload capabilities, mathematical formulas using LaTeX syntax, automatic image resizing, maintain and create a watchlist to track changes to articles, show changes using side-by-side diffs, ability to link to individual sections, support of subpages, comprehensive editing capabilities, support of discussion pages, comprehensive backend database-driven and cookie-based support, permission and security capabilities, and comprehensive full text search and query capabilities. For additional information about a Wiki and its capabilities, you are referred to the following URL http://meta.wikimedia.org/wiki/Help#Feature_list, see Figure 16.

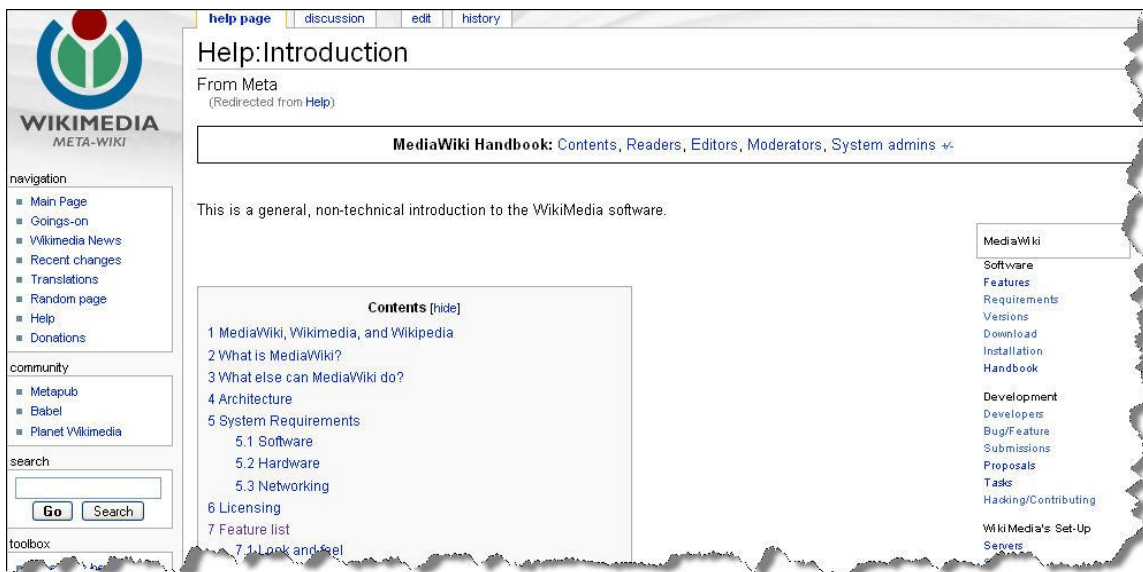


Figure 16. Wikimedia website

Using the Search Feature

The built-in search feature lets you search topics on anything SAS, and/or SAS-related topics. In the Search dialog box, located on the left side of the Main Page, character-string information can be entered, and either the **Go** or **Search** buttons clicked. For example, say you are searching for anything 'consulting' as illustrated in Figure 17.



Figure 17. Search dialog box

Results matching the user-supplied character-string 'consulting' are automatically displayed and grouped as Article title matches and Page text matches. A partial listing of results for 'consulting' is displayed in Figure 18.

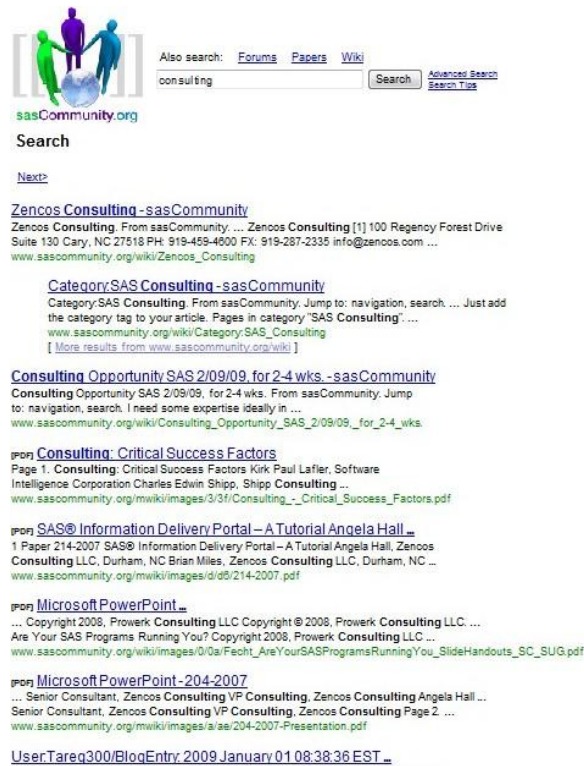


Figure 18. Page text matches for 'consulting'

Logging-out of a Session

Our quick tour of sasCommunity.org would not be complete without showing you how to log out (or sign out) of the virtual community. Although you probably have already guessed how to do this, we thought we would complete our tour and show you how anyway. Logging-out of a session requires you to click the **Log out** hyperlink that is located at the very top of any page in sasCommunity.org. Once clicked, the following Log out page displays as illustrated in Figure 19.

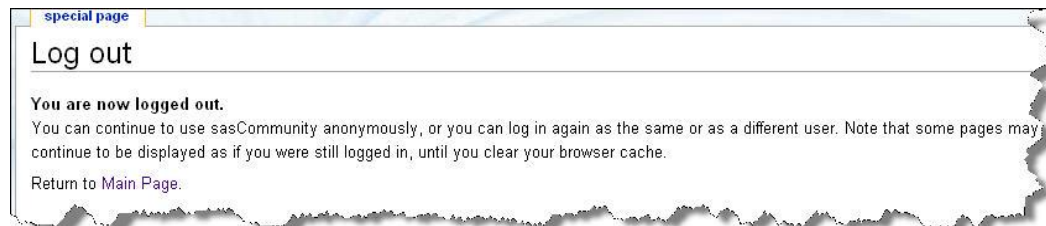


Figure 19. Log out page

Conclusion

With the features found in LinkedIn and the comprehensive content in sasCommunity.org, users have amazing social network and content applications for connecting with SAS professionals worldwide. Those already participating are finding it to be a great resource for social networking, collaboration, tips, code examples, user group and webcast events, forums, and much more. The Wiki technology fosters user participation. As described at the annual 2007 SAS Global Forum (SGF), sasCommunity.org is a resource for all users, not just at one event. sasCommunity.org should prosper well into the future as organizations experience declining travel budgets and technological advances occur in the area of Internet access. Here's your chance to make the most of this virtual user community – explore, learn and share.

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Charles Edwin Shipp is a programmer, consultant and author, and has been using the SAS and JMP software since 1979. He has written more than one hundred articles been and been an invited speaker at more than one hundred International, regional, local, and special-interest SAS user group conferences and events. Charles is the co-author of the popular Books by Users (BBU) book, *Quick Results with SAS/GRAPH Software*. Currently, Charles is involved as an eBook author, as a sasCommunity.org Advisory Board member, LinkedIn user, consultant, and web development.

Kirk Paul Lafler is consultant and founder of Software Intelligence Corporation and has been using SAS since 1979. Kirk provides IT consulting services and training to SAS users around the world. As a SAS Certified Professional, Kirk has written four books including *PROC SQL: Beyond the Basics Using SAS*, and more than four hundred peer-reviewed articles. He has also been an Invited speaker and trainer at more than three hundred SAS International, regional, local, and special-interest user group conferences and meetings throughout North America. His popular SAS Tips column, "Kirk's Korner of Quick and Simple Tips", appears regularly in several SAS User Group newsletters and Web sites, and his fun-filled SASword Puzzles is featured in SAScommunity.org.

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