2024 Spring Session 1: CCSQ D&A Leadership Introduction

Date: Wednesday, 5/15 1:00-2:00 pm ET
Leadership Intro: Kenneth Howard
Testimonials: Grant Hughes & Jennifer Rockell & Rebecca Rothbard

1. **Q- Do you mean that SAS Viya Decommission will be December 2024, rather than 2025?**
   A- The CCSQ SAS Viya Decommission date is Wednesday, December 31, 2025.

2. **Q- Can you please clarify, does SAS Viya go away completely in February, or just the support?**
   A- Standard support ends in February 2025 per SAS and the CCSQ SAS Viya Decommission is December 2025.

3. **Q- How about the CMS SAS Enterprise Guide (EG) Enterprise Business Intelligence (EBI)?**
   A- We do not have any information on that effort currently.

4. **Q- Will the current Data & Analytics Confluence site go dark at some point?**
   A- Yes. Training materials, FAQs, general content are already on the Portal, and are being updated regularly. Anything that is accessible in Portal today was archived on the Confluence pages on Friday, April 26th. Once the remaining Confluence pages are migrated over, they will be archived on Confluence.

5. **Q- Can we import a SAS dataset into DataFrame using Pandas now? It cannot be done before.**
   A- There are some issues with Pandas and the read_sas function to handle the utf-8 encoding datasets that are created with SAS Viya. We have been able to use Pandas with the SAS7BDAT package to read SAS datasets into a Pandas DataFrame.

6. **Q- It sounds as though CMS will purchase the extended support through December 2025. Did I hear this correctly?**
   A- That is correct.

7. **Q- Will xlsxwriter be installed in the Databricks environment for everyone to utilize?**
   A- The xlsxwriter package comes pre-installed on all compute clusters.

8. **Q- Can we install Python modules?**
   A- Yes, the slide deck will be shared on our Confluence space after the event.
   Here are two other helpful resources for DataComPy:
   https://www.capitalone.com/tech/open-source/datacompy-open-source-dataframe-

comparisons/
https://www.geeksforgeeks.org/compare-pandas-dataframes-using-datacompy/

9. **Q- Did I hear Data Validation and Audit (DVA) team had resources for helping understand differences between Python and SAS?**
A- The DVA team partnered with Quality Data and Analytics Services (QDAS) when questions came up. They also discovered other resources for themselves.

10. **Q- As Jenny mentioned in the session, I also look forward to learning more tips for moving data to/from the workbench. Particularly how best to save formatted datasets from Python/R to the workbench like SAS data sets. Is there an estimate for when these resources will be available?**
A- We will be putting together office hours specific to these exact things and creating additional material such as best practices, knowledge-based articles, micro training videos, and shared code moving forward.

11. **Q- Do you have an idea of when these office hours will begin?**
A- They will be starting up within the next few weeks.

12. **Q- I am currently querying data from Quality Improvement and Evaluation System (QIES) and Internet Quality Improvement and Evaluation System (iQIES) and do not have access to Databricks yet. Is there a targeted time when I will receive the access? Without having access to Databricks for this camp, I am unable to open any of the notebooks pertaining to the application.**
A- You can request a role now if your organization has been onboarded.

13. **Q- Will there be any discussion about the impacts to the environment projected between February 2025 and December 2025 within Viya? I assume there will be work to get fully onto Databricks within that time, but knowing the implications on the Viya usage would be helpful, too.**
A- We are waiting to hear back from SAS on the Extended Support. That means more assistive tools will come online and more coding support as well.