SAS on 64b Ubuntu Linux

This was contributed by a colleague from UCI, Harry Mangalam.

Having spent 3 days debugging this, I thought I might make it easier for others who might run into it.

SAS 9.2 uses Java for at least some of its plotting routines (minimally the ‘ods graphics’).

The 64b version of SAS still uses the 32b version of Java and officially only supports SUSE and RHEL as a platform. For a variety of reasons, I run it on Ubuntu Intrepid, which meant that I got a flurry of "we do not support that platform’ replies from SAS technical support when I tried to figure out why it was failing with “ERROR: Cannot load Java Runtime Engine”

The short version is that in order to support the 32b version of Java, the 32b compatibility libs are required. You can install them on a Ubuntu platform with:

sudo apt-get install apt-get install ia32-libs ia32-sun-java5-bin\
sun-java5-jre libc6-i386 lib32gcc1 lib32z1 lib32stdc++6 lib32asound2\
lib32ncurses5

(if you’re going to use a direct-from-Sun JRE, omit the packages with ‘java’ in the names.).

I installed Sun’s latest 1.5 JRE (jre1.5.0_21) in the same SAS root as their supplied JRE (jre1.5.0_12). It seemed to work with SAS’s JRE, but it threw a few “Locking assertion failure” errors. Using Sun’s JRE, it ran without errors.

It also needs the environment vars set to tell SAS where to find things:

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 # convenience shortcutexport SASPATH=/where/you/rooted/SAS-x86_64/9.2# following is required to
```

SAS tech support spent 3 days insisting that it was the wrong Java sub-version number that was the problem.

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