# SAS and Epi Info Comparison

[SAS](http://www.sas.com/) and [Epi Info](http://www.cdc.gov/epiinfo) were compared across seven broad categories: users, purpose, strategic plan alignment, capabilities, computing platforms, (social) networking, and educational support.

**Conclusion**: Epi Info is a subset of SAS within each of these categories, and Epi Info would not adequately support the overall public health program and science mission of the agency.

| Category | SAS | Epi Info |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Users | Intended Users | [Communications, Education, Government, Health Care Providers, Health Insurance, Life Sciences](http://www.sas.com/technologies/analytics) (~2600 at CDC) | [Physicians, nurses, epidemiologists, and other public health workers lacking a background in information technology](http://wwwn.cdc.gov/epiinfo/) (~ 600 of 2600 CDC SAS users) |
| Purpose | Purpose | [An integrated environment for predictive and descriptive modeling, data mining, text analytics, forecasting, optimization, simulation, and experimental design for collection, classification, analysis, and interpretation of data](http://www.sas.com/technologies/analytics) | [Simple tools for rapid creation of data collection instruments and data analysis, visualization, and reporting using epidemiologic methods](http://wwwn.cdc.gov/epiinfo/) |
| CDC IT Strategic Plan | Tools and capabilities to model, analyze, and graphically address complex scientific challenges for CDC scientists | Strong | Weak |
|  | Implement and integrate science with public health program execution for a comprehensive approach to operations (e.g., LIMS, laboratory automation and networking, and biocomputing) | Strong | Weak |
|  | IT tools for knowledge sharing, creation, communication, and delivery of health information and interventions | Strong | Weak |
| Capability | [Big Data: Data collection and management, Data analytics, E-science collaboration environments](http://www.whitehouse.gov/administration/eop/ostp/pcast) | Yes | No |
|  | Database Connectivity | Strong (n=22) | Weak ([n=3](http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm5749a5.htm?s_cid=mm5749a5_e)) |
|  | Business Intelligence | Strong | Weak |
|  | CDC Research Data Center Support | Yes | No |
|  | Data collection, advanced statistical analyses, GIS mapping capability | Strong | Moderate-to-weak |
|  | Analytical Tools: Exploratory, Custom, or Customizable | Strong | Moderate-to-weak |
| Platforms | Server (CSP/Grid Computing, Windows, Unix) | Yes | No |
|  | Desktop (Windows, Apple) | Both | Windows |
|  | Formal User Certifications | Yes | No |
| Source: CDC unpublished data | Academic Course Offerings and Degree Coursework (K-12, Higher Education) | Yes | No |
| Networking | Social Network | [Yes](http://www.sasprofessionals.net/) | [Yes](http://www.phconnect.org/group/epiinfo/forum) |
|  | [Web sites devoted to analyzing Popularity of Data Analysis Software](http://r4stats.com/popularity) | Yes | No |
|  | Google PageRank (1-10) | High ([8](http://www.sas.com/)) | Moderately High ([7](http://wwwn.cdc.gov/epiinfo/)) |
|  | Code Sharing | [Yes](http://www.google.com/cse/home?cx=007793750397377442821%3Abfb2mscvfze) | [Yes](http://www.openepi.com/OE2.3/Menu/OpenEpiMenu.htm) |

Source: CDC unpublished data