

copy — Copy file from disk or URL

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Syntax

`copy` *filename*₁ *filename*₂ [*, options*]

*filename*₁ may be a filename or a URL. *filename*₂ may be the name of a file or a directory. If *filename*₂ is a directory name, *filename*₁ will be copied to that directory. *filename*₂ may *not* be a URL.

Note: Double quotes may be used to enclose the filenames, and the quotes must be used if the filename contains embedded blanks.

<i>options</i>	Description
<code>public</code>	make <i>filename</i> ₂ readable by all
<code>text</code>	interpret <i>filename</i> ₁ as text file and translate to native text format
<code>replace</code>	may overwrite <i>filename</i> ₂

`replace` does not appear in the dialog box.

Description

`copy` copies *filename*₁ to *filename*₂.

Options

`public` specifies that *filename*₂ be readable by everyone; otherwise, the file will be created according to the default permissions of your operating system.

`text` specifies that *filename*₁ be interpreted as a text file and be translated to the native form of text files on your computer. Computers differ on how end-of-line is recorded: Unix systems record one line-feed character, Windows computers record a carriage-return/line-feed combination, and Mac computers record just a carriage return. `text` specifies that *filename*₁ be examined to determine how it has end-of-line recorded and that the line-end characters be switched to whatever is appropriate for your computer when the copy is made.

There is no reason to specify `text` when copying a file already on your computer to a different location because the file would already be in your computer's format.

Do not specify `text` unless you know that the file is a text file; if the file is binary and you specify `text`, the copy will be useless. Most word processors produce binary files, not text files. The term *text*, as it is used here, specifies a particular ASCII way of recording textual information.

When other parts of Stata read text files, they do not care how lines are terminated, so there is no reason to translate end-of-line characters on that score. You specify `text` because you may want to look at the file with other software.

The following option is available with `copy` but is not shown in the dialog box:

`replace` specifies that *filename*₂ be replaced if it already exists.

Remarks and examples

Examples:

Windows:

```
. copy orig.dta newcopy.dta
. copy mydir\orig.dta .
. copy orig.dta ../..
. copy "my document" "copy of document"
. copy ..\mydir\doc.txt document\doc.tex
. copy http://www.stata.com/examples/simple.dta simple.dta
. copy http://www.stata.com/examples/simple.txt simple.txt, text
```

Mac and Unix:

```
. copy orig.dta newcopy.dta
. copy mydir/orig.dta .
. copy orig.dta ../..
. copy "my document" "copy of document"
. copy ../mydir/doc.txt document/doc.tex
. copy http://www.stata.com/examples/simple.dta simple.dta
. copy http://www.stata.com/examples/simple.txt simple.txt, text
```

Also see

- [D] **cd** — Change directory
- [D] **dir** — Display filenames
- [D] **erase** — Erase a disk file
- [D] **mkdir** — Create directory
- [D] **rmdir** — Remove directory
- [D] **shell** — Temporarily invoke operating system
- [D] **type** — Display contents of a file
- [U] **11.6 Filenaming conventions**