Title

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dir — Display filenames

Description

`dir` and `ls`—they work the same way—list the names of files in the specified directory; the names of the commands come from names popular on Unix and Windows computers.

Quick start

List the names of all files in the current directory using Stata for Windows

```
dir
```

As above, but for Mac or Unix

```
ls
```

List Stata datasets in the current directory using Stata for Windows

```
dir *.dta
```

As above, but for Mac or Unix

```
ls *.dta
```

List dataset name for all `.dta` in the `C:\` directory using Stata for Windows

```
dir C:\*.dta
```

List dataset name for all `.dta` files in the home directory using Stata for Mac or Unix

```
ls ~/*.dta
```

Syntax

{`dir`|`ls`} [`"`][*filespec*][`"`] [, `wide`]

filespec is any valid Mac, Unix, or Windows file path or file specification (see **[U] 11.6 Filenaming conventions**) and may include '`*`' to indicate any string of characters.

Note: Double quotes must be used to enclose *filespec* if the name contains spaces.

Option

`wide` under Mac and Windows produces an effect similar to specifying `/W` with the DOS `dir` command—it compresses the resulting listing by placing more than one filename on a line. Under Unix, it produces the same effect as typing `ls -F -C`. Without the `wide` option, `ls` is equivalent to typing `ls -F -l`.

Remarks and examples

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Mac and Unix: The only difference between the Stata and Unix `ls` commands is that piping through the `more`(1) or `pg`(1) filter is unnecessary—Stata always pauses when the screen is full.

Windows: Other than minor differences in presentation format, there is only one difference between the Stata and DOS `dir` commands: the DOS `/P` option is unnecessary, because Stata always pauses when the screen is full.

▷ Example 1

If you use Stata for Windows and wish to obtain a list of all your Stata-format data files, type

```
. dir *.dta
   3.9k   7/07/15 13:51  auto.dta
   0.6k   8/04/15 10:40  cancer.dta
   3.5k   7/06/08 17:06  census.dta
   3.4k   1/25/08  9:20  hsng.dta
   0.3k   1/26/08 16:54  kva.dta
   0.7k   4/27/11 11:39  sysage.dta
   0.5k   5/09/07  2:56  systolic.dta
  10.3k   7/13/08  8:37  Household Survey.dta
```

You could also include the `wide` option:

```
. dir *.dta, wide
   3.9k auto.dta             0.6k cancer.dta           3.5k census.dta
   3.4k hsng.dta             0.3k kva.dta              0.7k sysage.dta
   0.5k systolic.dta        10.3k Household Survey.dta
```

Unix users will find it more natural to type

```
. ls *.dta
-rw-r-----  1 roger     2868 Mar  4 15:34 highway.dta
-rw-r-----  1 roger      941 Apr  5 09:43 hoyle.dta
-rw-r-----  1 roger    19312 May 14 10:36 p1.dta
-rw-r-----  1 roger    11838 Apr 11 13:26 p2.dta
```

but they could type `dir` if they preferred. Mac users may also type either command.

```
. dir *.dta
-rw-r-----  1 roger     2868 Mar  4 15:34 highway.dta
-rw-r-----  1 roger      941 Apr  5 09:43 hoyle.dta
-rw-r-----  1 roger    19312 May 14 10:36 p1.dta
-rw-r-----  1 roger    11838 Apr 11 13:26 p2.dta
```

◁

❑ Technical note

There is an extended macro function named `dir` which allows you to obtain a list of files in a macro for later processing. See *Macro extended functions for filenames and file paths* in [P] **macro**.

❑

Also see

[D] **cd** — Change directory

[D] **copy** — Copy file from disk or URL

[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**