Title

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window fopen — Display open/save dialog box

Description Syntax Remarks and examples Also see

Description

`window fopen` and `window fsave` allow Stata programmers to use standard **File** > **Open...** and **File** > **Save** dialog boxes in their programs.

Syntax

`window` { `fopen` | `fsave` } *macroname* "*title*" "*filter*" [*extension*]

Remarks and examples

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`window fopen` and `window fsave` call forth the operating system's standard **File** > **Open...** and **File** > **Save** dialog boxes. The commands do not themselves open or save any files; they merely obtain from the user the name of the file to be opened or saved and return it to you. The filename returned is guaranteed to be valid and includes the full path.

The filename is returned in the global macro *macroname*. In addition, if *macroname* is defined at the outset, its contents will be used to fill in the default filename selection.

title is displayed as the title of the dialog.

filter must be specified. One possible specification is `""`, meaning no filter. Alternatively, *filter* consists of pairs of descriptions and wildcard file selection strings separated by '`|`', such as

```
"Stata Graphs|*.gph|All Files|*.*"
```

Stata uses the filter to restrict the files the user sees. The above example allows the user either to see Stata graph files or to see all files. The dialog will display a drop-down list from which the user can select a file type (extension). The first item of each pair (`Stata Graphs` and `All Files`) will be listed as the choices in the drop-down list. The second item of each pair restricts the files displayed in the dialog box to those that match the wildcard description. For instance, if the user selects `Stata Graphs` from the list box, only files with extension `.gph` will be displayed in the file dialog box.

Finally, *extension* is optional. It may contain a string of characters to be added to the end of filenames by default. For example, if the *extension* were specified as `xyz`, and the user typed a filename of `abc` in the file dialog box, `abc.xyz` would be returned in *macroname*.

In Windows, the default *extension* is ignored if a *filter* other than `*.*` is in effect. For example, if the user's current filter is `*.gph`, the default extension will be `.gph`, regardless of the *extension* specified.

Because Windows allows long filenames, *extension* can lead to unexpected results. For example, if *extension* were specified as `xyz` and the user typed a filename of `abc.def`, Windows would append `.xyz` before returning the filename to Stata, so the resulting filename is `abc.def.xyz`. Windows users should be aware that if they want to specify an extension different from the default, they must enter a filename in the file dialog box enclosed in double quotes: `"abc.def"`. This applies to all programs, not just Stata.

If the user presses the **Cancel** button on the file dialog, `window fopen` and `window fsave` set *macroname* to be empty and exit with a return code of 601. Programmers should use the `capture` command (see [P] **capture**) to prevent the 601 return code from appearing to the user.

```
──────────────────────────────────────────── begin dtaview.ado ───
program dtaview
        version 14.1
        capture window fopen D_dta "Select a dataset to use:" /*
                */ "Stata Data (*.dta)|*.dta|All Files (*.*)|*.*" dta
        if _rc==0 {
                display "User chose $D_dta as the filename."
                use "$D_dta"
        }
end
──────────────────────────────────────────── end dtaview.ado ─────
```

Also see

[P] **window programming** — Programming menus and windows

[P] **window stopbox** — Display message box