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[M-5] Manual entry	Function	Purpose
Console output		
printf()	<code>printf()</code> <code>sprintf()</code>	display display into string
errprintf()	<code>errprintf()</code>	display error message
display()	<code>display()</code>	display text interpreting SMCL
displayas()	<code>displayas()</code>	set whether output is displayed
displayflush()	<code>displayflush()</code>	flush terminal output buffer
liststruct()	<code>liststruct()</code>	list structure's contents
more()	<code>more()</code> <code>setmore()</code> <code>setmoreonexit()</code>	create <code>—more—</code> condition query or set more on or off set more on or off on exit
File directories		
direxists()	<code>direxists()</code>	whether directory exists
dir()	<code>dir()</code>	file list
chdir()	<code>pwd()</code> <code>chdir()</code> <code>mkdir()</code> <code>rmdir()</code>	obtain current working directory change current working directory make new directory remove directory
File management		
findfile()	<code>findfile()</code>	find file
fileexists()	<code>fileexists()</code>	whether file exists
cat()	<code>cat()</code>	read file into string matrix
unlink()	<code>unlink()</code>	erase file
adosubdir()	<code>adosubdir()</code>	obtain ado-subdirectory for file
issamefile()	<code>issamefile()</code>	whether two file paths point to the same file

File I/O

fopen()	fopen()	open file
	fclose()	close file
	fget()	read line of text file
	fgetnl()	same, but include newline character
	fread()	read <i>k</i> bytes of binary file
	fput()	write line into text file
	fwrite()	write <i>k</i> bytes into binary file
	fgetmatrix()	read matrix
	fputmatrix()	write matrix
	fstatus()	status of last I/O command
	ftell()	report location in file
	fseek()	seek to location in file
	ftruncate()	truncate file at current position
ferrortext()	ferrortext()	error text of file error code
	freturncode()	return code of file error code
bufio()	bufio()	initialize buffer
	bufbyteorder()	reset (specify) byte order
	bufmissingvalue()	reset (specify) missing-value encoding
	bufput()	copy into buffer
	bufget()	copy from buffer
	fbufput()	copy into and write buffer
	fbufget()	read and copy from buffer
	bufbfmtlen()	utility routine
	bufbfmtisnum()	utility routine
xl()	xl()	Excel file I/O class
_docx*()	_docx*()	generate Office Open XML file
Pdf*()	Pdf*()	create a PDF file

Filename & path manipulation

<code>pathjoin()</code>	<code>pathjoin()</code>	join paths
	<code>pathsplit()</code>	split paths
	<code>pathbasename()</code>	path basename
	<code>pathsuffix()</code>	file suffix
	<code>pathrmsuffix()</code>	remove file suffix
	<code>pathisurl()</code>	whether path is URL
	<code>pathisabs()</code>	whether path is absolute
	<code>pathasciisuffix()</code>	whether file is text
	<code>pathstatastatusuffix()</code>	whether file is Stata
	<code>pathlist()</code>	process path list
	<code>pathsubsysdir()</code>	substitute for system directories
	<code>pathsearchlist()</code>	path list to search for file
	<code>pathresolve()</code>	resolve a relative path
	<code>pathgetparent()</code>	get the parent path

Description

The above functions have to do with

1. Displaying output at the terminal.
2. Reading and writing data in a file.

Remarks and examples

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To display the contents of a scalar, vector, or matrix, it is sufficient merely to code the identity of the scalar, vector, or matrix:

```
: x
      1      2      3      4
1   .1369840784   .643220668   .5578016951   .6047949435
```

You can follow this approach even in programs:

```
function example()
{
    ...
    "i am about to calculate the result"
    ...
    "the result is"
    b
}
```

On the other hand, `display()` and `printf()` (see [M-5] [display\(\)](#) and [M-5] [printf\(\)](#)) will allow you to exercise more control over how the output looks.

Changing the subject: you will find that many I/O functions come in two varieties: with and without an underscore in front of the name, such as `_fopen()` and `fopen()`. As always, functions that begin with an underscore are generally silent about their work and return flags indicating their success or failure. Functions that omit the underscore abort and issue the appropriate error message when things go wrong.

Reference

Gould, W. W. 2009. [Mata Matters: File processing](#). *Stata Journal* 9: 599–620.

Also see

[M-4] [Intro](#) — Categorical guide to Mata functions

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