<div style="border:1px solid black; padding:8px;">

copy — Copy file from disk or URL

</div>

Description

copy copies an existing file to a file with a new name.

Quick start

Copy `mydata.dta` from `C:\myfolder` to `C:\otherfolder`

    copy c:\myfolder\mydata.dta c:\otherfolder\

Same as above, but change dataset name to `newdata.dta`

    copy c:\myfolder\mydata.dta c:\otherfolder\newdata.dta

Same as above, but replace `newdata.dta` if it exists

    copy c:\myfolder\mydata.dta c:\otherfolder\newdata.dta, replace

Copy web-based Stata example dataset `fullauto.dta` to the current working directory

    copy https://www.stata-press.com/data/r19/fullauto.dta myauto.dta

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.

options	Description
public	make $filename_2$ readable by all
text	interpret $filename_1$ as text file and translate to native text format
replace	may overwrite $filename_2$

replace does not appear in the dialog box.

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 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 https://www.stata.com/examples/simple.dta simple.dta
. copy https://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 https://www.stata.com/examples/simple.dta simple.dta
. copy https://www.stata.com/examples/simple.txt simple.txt, text
```

Also see