

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.

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

[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**

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