

copy — Copy file from disk or URL

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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\`

As above, but change dataset name to `newdata.dta`
`copy c:\myfolder\mydata.dta c:\otherfolder\newdata.dta`

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/r16/fullauto.dta myauto.dta`

Syntax

`copy filename1 filename2 [, options]`

filename₁ may be a filename or a URL. *filename₂* may be the name of a file or a directory. If *filename₂* is a directory name, *filename₁* will be copied to that directory. *filename₂* 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
<code>public</code>	make <i>filename₂</i> readable by all
<code>text</code>	interpret <i>filename₁</i> as text file and translate to native text format
<code>replace</code>	may overwrite <i>filename₂</i>

`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

[stata.com](https://www.stata.com)

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](#)