type — Display contents of a file

Description

type lists the contents of a file stored on disk. This command is similar to the Windows type command and the Unix more(1) or pg(1) commands.

In Stata for Mac and Stata for Unix, cat is a synonym for type.

On all platforms, Stata understands a leading "~" as an abbreviation for the home directory.

Quick start

Display contents of myfile.txt in the Results window

type myfile.txt

Same as above, but display myfile.txt saved in ~\mydir\mysubdir using Stata for Windows

type ~\mydir\mysubdir\myfile.txt

Same as above, but using Stata for Mac or Unix

type ~/mydir/mysubdir/myfile.txt

Display contents of my file.txt

type "my file.txt"

Display the first 20 lines of myfile.txt

type myfile.txt, lines(20)

Syntax

type ["] *filename* ["] [, *options*]

Note: Double quotes must be used to enclose *filename* if the name contains blanks.

options	Description
asis	show file as is; default is to display files with suffix .smcl or .sthlp as SMCL
smcl	display file as SMCL; default for files with suffix .smcl or .sthlp
showtabs	display tabs as <T> rather than being expanded
starbang	list lines in the file that begin with "*!"
lines(#)	list first # lines

Options

asis specifies that the file be shown exactly as it is. The default is to display files with the suffix .smcl or .sthlp as SMCL, meaning that the SMCL directives are interpreted and properly rendered. Thus type can be used to look at files created by the log using command.

smcl specifies that the file be displayed as SMCL, meaning that the SMCL directives are interpreted and properly rendered. This is the default for files with the suffix .smcl or .sthlp.

showtabs requests that any tabs be displayed as <T> rather than being expanded.

starbang lists only the lines in the specified file that begin with the characters "*!". Such comment lines are typically used to indicate the version number of ado-files, class files, etc. starbang may not be used with SMCL files.

lines(#) lists the first # lines of a file. lines() is ignored if the file is displayed as SMCL or if # is less than or equal to 0.

Remarks and examples

▷ Example 1

We have raw data containing the level of Lake Victoria Nyanza and the number of sunspots during the years 1902–1921 stored in a file called sunspots.raw. We want to read this dataset into Stata by using infile, but we cannot remember the order in which we entered the variables. We can find out by using the type command:

```
. type sunspots.raw
1902 -10    5    1903   13 24    1904   18 42
1905  15   63    1906   29 54    1907   21 62
1908  10   49    1909    8 44    1910    1 19
1911  -7    6    1912  -11  4    1913   -3  1
1914  -2   10    1915    4 47    1916   15 57
1917  35  104    1918   27 81    1919    8 64
1920   3   38    1921   -5 25
```

Looking at this output, we now remember that the variables are entered year, level, and number of sunspots. We can read this dataset by typing infile year level spots using sunspots.

If we wanted to see the tabs in sunspots.raw, we could type

```
. type sunspots.raw, showtabs
1902 -10    5<T>1903   13 24<T>1904   18 42
1905  15   63<T>1906   29 54<T>1907   21 62
1908  10   49<T>1909    8 44<T>1910    1 19
1911  -7    6<T>1912  -11  4<T>1913   -3  1
1914  -2   10<T>1915    4 47<T>1916   15 57
1917  35  104<T>1918   27 81<T>1919    8 64
1920   3   38<T>1921   -5 25
```

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▷ Example 2

In a previous Stata session, we typed `log using myres` and created `myres.smcl`, containing our results. We can use `type` to list the log:

```
. type myres.smcl

      name:  <unnamed>
       log:  /work/joe/dof/myres.smcl
  log type:  smcl
 opened on:  20 Jan 2025, 15:37:48

. use lbw
(Hosmer & Lemeshow data)

. logistic low age lwt i.race smoke ptl ht ui

Logistic regression                            Number of obs   =         189
                                               LR chi2(8)      =       33.22
                                               Prob > chi2     =      0.0001
Log likelihood =   -100.724                    Pseudo R2       =      0.1416
  (output omitted)

. estat gof
Logistic model for low, goodness-of-fit test

  (output omitted)

. log close
      name:  <unnamed>
       log:  /work/joe/dof/myres.smcl
  log type:  smcl
 closed on:  20 Jan 2025, 15:38:30
```

We could also use `view` to look at the log; see [R] **view**.

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Also see

[D] **cd** — Change directory

[D] **copy** — Copy file from disk or URL

[D] **dir** — Display filenames

[D] **erase** — Erase a disk file

[D] **mkdir** — Create directory

[D] **rmdir** — Remove directory

[D] **shell** — Temporarily invoke operating system

[P] **viewsource** — View source code

[R] **translate** — Print and translate logs

[R] **view** — View files and logs

[U] **11.6 Filenaming conventions**