

Description

db opens the dialog box for the specified command. Programmers who wish to allow the launching of dialogs from a help file, see [P] [smcl](#) for information on the `dialog SMCL` directive.

`set maxdb` sets the maximum number of dialog boxes whose contents are remembered from one invocation to the next during a session. The default value of `maxdb` is 50.

Syntax

Syntax for db

```
db commandname
```

For programmers

```
db commandname [ , message(string) debug dryrun ]
```

Set system parameter

```
set maxdb # [ , permanently ]
```

where # must be between 5 and 1,000.

Options

`message(string)` specifies that *string* be passed to the dialog box, where it can be referred to from the `__MESSAGE STRING` property.

`debug` specifies that the underlying dialog box be loaded with debug messaging turned on.

`dryrun` specifies that, rather than launching the dialog, db show the commands it would issue to launch the dialog.

`permanently` specifies that, in addition to making the change right now, the `maxdb` setting be remembered and become the default setting when you invoke Stata.

Remarks and examples

The usual way to launch a dialog is to open the **Data, Graphics, or Statistics** menu and to make your selection from there. When you know the name of the command that you want to run, however, db provides a way to invoke the dialog from the command line.

db follows the same abbreviation rules that Stata's command-line interface follows. So, to launch the dialog for `regress`, you can type

```
. db regress
```

or

```
. db reg
```

Say that you use the dialog box for `regress`, either by selecting **Statistics > Linear models and related > Linear regression** or by typing

```
. db regress
```

You fit a regression.

Much later during the session, you return to the `regress` dialog box. It will have the contents as you left them if 1) you have not typed `clear all` between the first and second invocations; 2) you have not typed `discard` between the two invocations; and 3) you have not used more than 50 different dialog boxes—regardless of how many times you have used each—between the first and second invocations of `regress`. If you use 51 or more, the contents of the `regress` dialog box will be forgotten.

`set maxdb` determines how many different dialog boxes are remembered. A dialog box takes, on average, about 20 KB of memory, so the 50 default corresponds to allowing dialog boxes to consume about 1 MB of memory.

Also see

[\[R\] query](#) — Display system parameters

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