

Description

Remarks and examples

Quick start

Acknowledgments

Syntax

References

Options

Also see

## Description

`ssc` works with packages (and files) from the Statistical Software Components (SSC) Archive, which is often called the Boston College Archive and is provided by <http://repec.org>.

The SSC has become the premier Stata download site for community-contributed software on the web. `ssc` provides a convenient interface to the resources available there. For example, on Statalist (see <https://www.statalist.org/>), users will often write

The program can be found by typing `ssc install newprogramname`.

Typing that would load everything associated with `newprogramname`, including the help files.

If you are searching for what is available, type `ssc new` and `ssc hot`, and see [R] [search](#). `search` searches the SSC and other places, too. `search` provides a GUI interface from which programs can be installed, including the programs at the SSC Archive.

You can uninstall particular packages by using `ssc uninstall`. For the packages that you keep, see [R] [ado update](#) for an automated way of keeping those packages up to date.

## Command overview

`ssc new` summarizes the packages made available or updated recently. Output is presented in the Stata Viewer, and from there you may click to find out more about individual packages or to install them.

`ssc hot` lists the most popular packages—popular based on a moving average of the number of downloads in the past three months. By default, 10 packages are listed.

`ssc describe pkgname` describes, but does not install, the specified package. Use `search` to find packages; see [R] [search](#). If you know the package name but do not know the exact spelling, type `ssc describe` followed by one letter, a–z or \_ (underscore), to list all the packages starting with that letter.

`ssc install pkgname` installs the specified package. You do not have to describe a package before installing it. (You may also install a package by using `net install`; see [R] [net](#).)

`ssc uninstall pkgname` removes the previously installed package from your computer. It does not matter how the package was installed. (`ssc uninstall` is a synonym for `ado uninstall`, so either may be used to installed any package.)

`ssc type filename` types a specific file stored at SSC. `ssc cat` is a synonym for `ssc type`, which may appeal to those familiar with Unix.

`ssc copy filename` copies a specific file stored at SSC to your computer. By default, the file is copied to the current directory, but you can use options to change this. `ssc copy` is a rarely used alternative to `ssc install ...`, `all`. `ssc cp` is a synonym for `ssc copy`.

## Quick start

Describe mycommand at SSC

```
ssc describe mycommand
```

Install mycommand from SSC

```
ssc install mycommand
```

Same as above, but replace previously installed version of mycommand

```
ssc install mycommand, replace
```

See a summary of all new and recently updated packages on SSC

```
ssc new
```

See a summary of the 10 most popular SSC packages

```
ssc hot
```

Same as above, but see the top 25 packages

```
ssc hot, n(25)
```

## Syntax

*Summary of packages most recently added or updated at SSC*

```
ssc new [ , saving(filename[ , replace]) type ]
```

*Summary of most popular packages at SSC*

```
ssc hot [ , n(#) author(name) ]
```

*Describe a specified package at SSC*

```
ssc describe { pkgname | letter } [ , saving(filename[ , replace]) ]
```

*Install a specified package from SSC*

```
ssc install pkgname [ , all replace ]
```

*Uninstall from your computer a previously installed package from SSC*

```
ssc uninstall pkgname
```

*Type a specific file stored at SSC*

```
ssc type filename [ , asis ]
```

*Copy a specific file from SSC to your computer*

```
ssc copy filename [ , plus personal replace public binary ]
```

where *letter* in ssc describe is a–z or \_.

## Options

Options are presented under the following headings:

*Options for use with ssc new*  
*Options for use with ssc hot*  
*Option for use with ssc describe*  
*Options for use with ssc install*  
*Option for use with ssc type*  
*Options for use with ssc copy*

### Options for use with ssc new

`saving(filename[, replace])` specifies that the “what’s new” summary be saved in *filename*. If *filename* is specified without a suffix, *filename.smcl* is assumed. If `saving()` is not specified, `saving(ssc_results.smcl)` is assumed.

`type` specifies that the “what’s new” results be displayed in the Results window rather than in the Viewer.

### Options for use with ssc hot

`n(#)` specifies the number of packages to list; `n(10)` is the default. Specify `n(.)` to list all packages in order of popularity.

`author(name)` lists the 10 most popular packages by the specified author. If `n(#)` is also specified, the top # packages are listed.

### Option for use with ssc describe

`saving(filename[, replace])` specifies that, in addition to the description’s being displayed on your screen, it be saved in the specified file.

If *filename* is specified without an extension, `.smcl` will be assumed, and the file will be saved as a SMCL file.

If *filename* is specified with an extension, no default extension is added. If the extension is `.log`, the file will be stored as a text file.

If `replace` is specified, *filename* is replaced if it already exists.

### Options for use with ssc install

`all` specifies that any ancillary files associated with the package be downloaded to your current directory, in addition to the program and help files being installed. Ancillary files are files that do not end in `.ado` or `.sthlp` and typically contain datasets or examples of the use of the new command.

You can find out which files are associated with the package by typing `ssc describe pkgname` before or after installing. If you install without using the `all` option and then want the ancillary files, you can `ssc install` again.

`replace` specifies that any files being downloaded that already exist on your computer be replaced by the downloaded files. If `replace` is not specified and any files already exist, none of the files from the package is downloaded or installed.

It is better not to specify the `replace` option and wait to see if there is a problem. If there is a problem, it is usually better to uninstall the old package by using `ssc uninstall` or `ado uninstall` (which are, in fact, the same command).

## Option for use with `ssc type`

`asis` affects how files with the suffixes `.smcl` and `.sthlp` are displayed. The default is to interpret SMCL directives the file might contain. `asis` specifies that the file be displayed in raw, uninterpreted form.

## Options for use with `ssc copy`

`plus` specifies that the file be copied to the PLUS directory, the directory where community-contributed additions are installed. Typing `sysdir` will display the identity of the PLUS directory on your computer; see [P] [sysdir](#).

`personal` specifies that the file be copied to your PERSONAL directory as reported by `sysdir`; see [P] [sysdir](#).

If neither `plus` nor `personal` is specified, the default is to copy the file to the current directory.

`replace` specifies that, if the file already exists on your computer, the new file replace it.

`public` specifies that the new file be made readable by everyone; otherwise, the file will be created according to the default permission you have set with your operating system.

`binary` specifies that the file being copied is a binary file and that it is to be copied as is. The default is to assume that the file is a text file and change the end-of-line characters to those appropriate for your computer/operating system.

## Remarks and examples

Users can add new features to Stata, and some users choose to make new features that they have written available to others via the web. The files that comprise a new feature are called a package, and a package usually consists of one or more `ado`-files and help files. The `net` command (see [R] [net](#)) makes it reasonably easy to install and uninstall packages regardless of where they are on the web. One site, the SSC, has become particularly popular as a repository for additions to Stata. Command `ssc` is an easier to use version of `net` designed especially for the SSC.

Many packages are available at the SSC. Packages have names, such as `oaxaca`, `estout`, or `egenmore`. At SSC, capitalization is not significant, so `Oaxaca`, `ESTOUT`, and `EGENmore` are ways of writing the same package names.

When you type

```
. ssc install oaxaca
```

the files associated with the package are downloaded and installed on your computer. Package names usually correspond to the names of the command being added to Stata, so one would expect that installing the package `oaxaca` will add command `oaxaca` to Stata on your computer, and expect that typing `help oaxaca` will provide the documentation. That is the situation here, but that is not always so. Before or after installing a package, type `ssc describe pkgname` to obtain the details.

## ► Example 1

`ssc new` summarizes the packages most recently made available or updated. Output is presented in the Viewer, from which you may click on a package name to find out more or install it. Try it for yourself! Type `ssc new` in the Command window.

`ssc hot` provides a list of the most popular packages at SSC.

```
. ssc hot
```

### **Top 10 packages at SSC**

	Feb 2025		
Rank	# hits	Package	Author(s)
1	87128.6	estout	Ben Jann
2	83967.2	outreg2	Roy Wada
3	68888.4	reghdfe	Sergio Correia
4	67323.3	winsor2	Yujun Lian
5	64700.7	asdoc	Attaullah Shah
6	44584.0	ftools	Sergio Correia
7	33506.2	ivreg210	Christopher F Baum, Mark E Schaffer, Steven Stillman
8	31413.5	ivreg2	Christopher F Baum, Steven Stillman, Mark E Schaffer
9	30169.0	sum2docx	Chuntao Li, Yuan Xue
10	29850.2	ivreg29	Steven Stillman, Mark E Schaffer, Christopher F Baum

(Click on package name for description)

Use the `n(#)` option to change the number of packages listed:

```
. ssc hot, n(20)
```

### **Top 20 packages at SSC**

	Feb 2025		
Rank	# hits	Package	Author(s)
1	87128.6	estout	Ben Jann
2	83967.2	outreg2	Roy Wada
3	68888.4	reghdfe	Sergio Correia
4	67323.3	winsor2	Yujun Lian
5	64700.7	asdoc	Attaullah Shah
6	44584.0	ftools	Sergio Correia
7	33506.2	ivreg210	Christopher F Baum, Mark E Schaffer, Steven Stillman
(output omitted)			
13	24392.7	reg2docx	Chuntao Li, Yuan Xue
14	24301.4	ranktest	Mark E Schaffer, Frank Kleibergen, Frank Windmeijer
15	19663.5	logout	Roy Wada
16	19206.2	xtivreg2	Mark E Schaffer
17	18736.3	carryforward	David Kantor
18	18441.5	psmatch2	Barbara Sianesi, Edwin Leuven
19	14388.0	rangestat	Robert Picard, Nicholas J. Cox, Roberto Ferrer
20	13768.0	distinct	Gary Longton, Nicholas J. Cox

(Click on package name for description)

The author (*name*) option allows you to list the most popular packages by a specific person:

```
. ssc hot, author(baum)
```

#### Top 10 packages at SSC by author Baum

Rank	Feb 2025 # hits	Package	Author(s)
7	33506.2	ivreg210	Christopher F Baum, Mark E Schaffer, Steven Stillman
8	31413.5	ivreg2	Christopher F Baum, Steven Stillman, Mark E Schaffer
(output omitted)			

(Click on package name for description)

`ssc describe pkgname` describes, but does not install, the specified package. You must already know the name of the package. See [R] [search](#) for assistance in searching for packages. Sometimes you know the package name, but you do not know the exact spelling. Then, you can type `ssc describe` followed by one letter, a–z or `_`, to list all the packages starting with that letter; even so, using `search` is better.

```
. ssc describe i
```

```
http://fmwww.bc.edu/repec/bocode/i/  
(no title)
```

PACKAGES you could **-not describe-**:

(output omitted)

ivreg2	module for extended instrumental variables/2SLS and GMM estimation
ivreg210	module for extended instrumental variables/2SLS and GMM estimation (v10)
ivreg28	module for extended instrumental variables/2SLS and GMM estimation (v8)
ivreg29	module for extended instrumental variables/2SLS and GMM estimation (v9)
ivreg2h	module to perform instrumental variables estimation using heteroskedasticity-based instruments
ivreg2hdfe	module to estimate an Instrumental Variable Linear Regression Model with two High Dimensional Fixed Effects
ivreg2m	module to identify treatment-effects estimates with potentially misreported and endogenous program participation
ivreg_ss	module to compute confidence intervals, standard errors, and p-values in an IV regression in which the excluded instrumental variable has a shift-share structure
ivreghdfe	module for extended instrumental variable regressions with multiple levels of fixed effects
ivregress2	module to export first and second-stage results similar to ivregress

(output omitted)

(type **ssc describe *pkgname*** for more information on *pkgname*)

The default setting for the `saving()` option is for the output to be saved with the `.smcl` extension. You could also save the file with a `log` extension, and in this case, the file would be stored as a text file. For example, we could type

```
. ssc describe i, saving(i.index)
```

or the following:

```
. ssc describe ivreg2, saving(ivreg2.log)
```

`ssc install pkgname` installs the specified package. You do not have to describe a package before installing it. There are ways of installing packages other than `ssc install`, such as `net`; see [R] [net](#). It does not matter how a package is installed. For instance, a package can be installed using `net` and still be uninstalled using `ssc`.

```
. ssc install ivreg2
checking ivreg2 consistency and verifying not already installed...
installing into C:\ado\plus\...
installation complete.
```

`ssc uninstall pkgname` removes the specified, previously installed package from your computer. You can uninstall immediately after installation or at any time in the future. (Technical note: `ssc uninstall` is a synonym for `ado uninstall`, so it can uninstall any installed package, not just packages obtained from the SSC.)

```
. ssc uninstall ivreg2
package ivreg2 from http://fmwww.bc.edu/repec/bocode/i
'IVREG2': module for extended instrumental variables/2SLS and GMM
estimation
(package uninstalled)
```

`ssc type filename` types a specific file stored at the SSC. Although not shown in the syntax diagram, `ssc cat` is a synonym for `ssc type`, which may appeal to those familiar with Unix. To view only the `ivreg2` help file from the `ivreg2` package, you would type

```
. ssc type ivreg2.sthlp
```

---

```
help for ivreg2
```

---

**Extended instrumental variables/2SLS, GMM and AC/HAC, LIML and k-class regression**

Full syntax  
(output omitted)

`ssc copy filename` copies a specific file stored at the SSC to your computer. By default, the file is copied to the current directory, but you can use options to change this. `ssc copy` is a rarely used alternative to `ssc install ...`, `all`. `ssc cp` is a synonym for `ssc copy`.

```
. ssc copy ivreg2.ado
(file ivreg2.ado copied to current directory)
```



For more details on the SSC Archive and for information on how to submit your own programs to the SSC, see <http://repec.org/bocode/s/sscsubmit.html>.

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Baum maintains the Stata-related files stored at the SSC Archive. We thank him for this contribution to the Stata community.

## References

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- Newson, R. B. 2022. [Stata tip 147: Porting downloaded packages between machines](#). *Stata Journal* 22: 996–997.

## Also see

- [\[R\] ado update](#) — Update community-contributed packages
- [\[R\] net](#) — Install and manage community-contributed additions from the internet
- [\[R\] search](#) — Search Stata documentation and other resources
- [\[R\] sj](#) — Stata Journal installation instructions
- [\[P\] sysdir](#) — Query and set system directories

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