

Title: Date and Time Tags for Filenames in Winxx

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I receive several (ir)regular deliveries of data files for the on-going development of a panel data set. Both the delivering agency systems and the targets of our research group change over time -- by the hour and/or by the year. I need to be able to identify from the filenames which Stata .dta files were created with which .do files leaving which .log files. I need to be able to verify that the created file hasn't been inadvertently changed. I use the Stata shell facility and DOS rename to attach an ado generated global macro date-tag and global macro hour-minute-tag and obtain, for example:

```
datetimetag_20010212_1343.do  
datetimetag_20010212_1343.log  
datetimetab_20010212_1343.dta
```

.do, .ados, .hlps and .log files follow. For complex jobs many files can be tagged. Baring miscreants who set back the computer clock, if an inadvertently changed data file is created, it will have a date-time in Windows Explorer different from the attached tag. This procedure is the most useful tool I have. I encourage anyone who wants to ado-ize it or write Mac or unix conversions.

```
----- begin datetimetag.do -----  
cap log close  
log using datetimetag.log,replace  
*2/12/2001HEG datetimetag.do demonstrates global tags & shell rename  
set more off  
version 7.0  
* ----- create silly dataset  
clear  
input junk  
  3  
  4  
  7  
end  
notes: silly dataset for datetimetag demonstration  
  
* ----- closeout & rename with date & time tags  
local jobname datetimetag  
datetag  
hrmintag  
  
!copy `jobname'.do tempdo  
!rename tempdo "`jobname'_"$datetag_"$hrmintag".do  
  
save `jobname', replace  
!rename "`jobname'.dta "`jobname'_"$datetag_"$hrmintag".dta  
  
log close  
!rename "`jobname'.log "`jobname'_"$datetag_"$hrmintag".log  
exit  
-----end datetimetag.do -----
```



```
----- begin datetimetag_20010212_1343.log -----  
-----  
      log: C:\temp\efs_Stata_abstract\datetimetag.log  
      log type: text  
      opened on: 12 Feb 2001, 13:43:31  
  
. *2/12/2001HEG datetimetag.do demonstrates global tags & shell rename  
. set more off  
  
. version 7.0  
  
. * ----- create silly dataset  
. clear  
  
. input junk  
  
      junk  
      1. 3  
      2. 4  
      3. 7  
      4. end  
  
. notes: silly dataset for datetimetag demonstration  
  
. * ----- closeout & rename with date & time tags  
. local jobname datetimetag  
  
. datetag  
  
. hrmintag  
  
. !copy `jobname'.do tempdo  
  
. !rename tempdo "`jobname'"_"$datetag"_"$hrmintag".do  
  
. save `jobname', replace  
(note: file datetimetag.dta not found)  
file datetimetag.dta saved  
  
. !rename "`jobname'".dta "`jobname'"_"$datetag"_"$hrmintag".dta  
  
. log close  
      log: C:\temp\efs_Stata_abstract\datetimetag.log  
      log type: text  
      closed on: 12 Feb 2001, 13:43:34  
----- end datetimetag_20010212_1343.log -----
```