Adolists: A New Concept for Stata

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Motivation

I wanted a tool to

1) create a list of installed user ados, switch systems (or upgrade Stata) and easily install the ados on the new system (possibly after editing the list)

2) create thematic lists of user ados that can be shared and easily installed and uninstalled

=> bringing structure into the SSC Archive and other download sites

Examples:
- 41 User Ados Everyone Should Know
- The Collected Works of Nicholas J. Cox, A–H
- lists on data management, graphics, time-series analysis, income inequality, etc., etc.
New command

- New command called adolist to manage (create, install, uninstall) lists of ado packages.

- The command uses meta data only (package names and URLs). The actual contents of the packages is not included in the package lists.

- Heavy use of Mata is made. Therefore, Stata 9 or newer is required.

- adolist goes deep into the system and, e.g., parses Stata’s user ado track file.

Syntax

Describe a package list

    adolist describe pk1 [, from(path) ssc ado ... ]

Install a package list

    adolist install pk1 [, from(path) ssc replace ... ]

Update an installed package list

    adolist update pk1 [, ... ]

Uninstall a package list

    adolist uninstall pk1 [, ... ]

List installed package lists

    adolist [dir] [, ... ]
Syntax (continued)

create a package list

adolist store pk1 [, store_options ]
adolist store [packages] using pk1 [, store_options ]
adolist list [packages] [, store_options ]

store_options               description
help                        produce a help file
title(str)                  include a title
description(str)            include a description
author(str)                 identify package list author
path(str)                   specify package list URL
replace                     overwrite existing files
...                         ...

Example

Package list containing programs for the decomposition of wage differentials. The list is called wagegap and is located at net/w (could also be an URL).

Describe the package list:

    adolist describe wagegap, from(net/w)
    <run>

Install the packages in the list:

    adolist install wagegap, from(net/w)
    <run>

See what's installed:

    adolist dir
    <run>
do_example do/1.ihlp, nor

    adolist describe wagegap, from(net/w)

Package list: wagegap
Source file: wagegap.pkl
Help File: wagegap.ihlp
From: D:\Home\NASUG07\adolist\net\w

Wage gap decomposition packages
This package list comprises ado packages used for the decomposition of
wage or income differentials and related problems.
Ben Jann, ETH Zurich, jann@soz.gess.ethz.ch

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Package</th>
<th>From</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>oaxaca</td>
<td>D:\Home\NASUG07\adolist\net/o</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>decomp</td>
<td>D:\Home\NASUG07\adolist\net/d</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>jmpierce2</td>
<td>D:\Home\NASUG07\adolist\net/j</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>smithwelch</td>
<td>D:\Home\NASUG07\adolist\net/s</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

end of do-file

end of do-file

. do_example do/2.ihlp, nor

    adolist install wagegap, from(net/w)
checking oaxaca consistency and verifying not already installed...
installing into D:\Home\NASUG07\adolist\ado\plus/... installation complete.
checking decomp consistency and verifying not already installed...
installing into D:\Home\NASUG07\adolist\ado\plus/... installation complete.
checking jmpierce2 consistency and verifying not already installed...
installing into D:\Home\NASUG07\adolist\ado\plus/... installation complete.
checking smithwelch consistency and verifying not already installed...
installing into D:\Home\NASUG07\adolist\ado\plus/... installation complete.

end of do-file
Example (continued)

Add another package list called `blinderoxaca`, located at `net/b`.

```
ado list describe blinderoxaca, from(net/b) <run>
ado list install blinderoxaca, from(net/b)
ado list
```

Uninstall a list:
```
ado list uninstall wagegap <run>
```

**ado list** is smart and only removes packages that are not part of another installed package list.

Updating is possible too (download newest versions, add new packages, remove discontinued).
end of do-file

. do_example do/4.hlp, nor

    adolist describe blinderoxaca, from(net/b)

Package list: blinderoxaca
Source file: blinderoxaca.pkg
Help file: blinderoxaca.hlp
From: D:\home\NASUG07\adolist\net\b

Blinder-Oaxaca decomposition packages
This package list comprises ado packages implementing the so-called Blinder-Oaxaca decomposition.
Ben Jann, ETH Zurich, jann@soz.gess.ethz.ch

Package From
[ D I ] oaxaca D:/Home/NASUG07/adolist/net/o
[ D I ] decomp D:/Home/NASUG07/adolist/net/d

end of do-file

. do_example do/5.hlp, nor

    adolist install blinderoxaca, from(net/b)
checking oaxaca consistency and verifying not already installed... all files already exist and are up to date.
checking decomp consistency and verifying not already installed... all files already exist and are up to date.

    adolist

Package list From
[ D U X ] blinderoxaca D:\Home\NASUG07\adolist\net\b
[ D U X ] wagegap D:\Home\NASUG07\adolist\net\w

end of do-file

.
Creating a package list file from installed packages; first check what's around:

```
adolist list
<run>
```

Store the package list to a file and also produce a help file:

```
adolist store using mystuff, help replace
<run>
```

Add other packages, etc.:

```
adolist store
    oaxaca_decomp "gdecomp SSC <title>" ///
        using mystuff, ///
            help replace nosort ///
            path(SSC) author(Ben Jann) ///
            title(A bunch of ados)
<run>
```
end of do-file
.
do_example do/7.hlp, nor
.
    adolist list
*! Stata package list 14aug2007
decomp.pkg D:\Home\NASUG07\adolist\net\d
oxaca.pkg D:\Home\NASUG07\adolist\net\o
.
end of do-file
.

.
do_example do/8.hlp, nor
.
    adolist store using mystuff, help replace
(mystuff.pkg) created; containing 2 packages
(mystuff.hlp) created
.
end of do-file
.


*! Stata package list 14aug2007
decomp.pkg D:\Home\NASUG07\adolist\net\d
oaxaca.pkg D:\Home\NASUG07\adolist\net\o

help mystuff also see: adolist

Title

mystuff — Package list

Packages

decomp module to compute decompositions of earnings gaps
oaxaca module to compute decompositions of outcome
differentials

Package list source file

mystuff.pkg

Also see

Online: ado, adoupdate, ssc, sj, stb; adolist (if installed)
help mystuff also see: adolist

Title

mystuff — A bunch of ados

Installation

Type

.adolist install mystuff, ssc

to install all packages in the list. adolist is required. To install adolist, type

.ssc install adolist

Packages

oaxaca module to compute decompositions of outcome differentials
decomp module to compute decompositions of earnings gaps
gdecomp <title>

Summary

- adolist makes it easy to handle package lists, I believe.

- My hope is that people will pick it up and create lists and post them on SSC. This would tidy up the archive a bit.

- However: I should not have held this talk because providing such functionality would really be Stata Corp’s business.

This stuff is too low in the system to be done by users. In fact, my suggestion would be to renew and generalize the existing .net- technology. For example, it would be useful to be able to include references to other packages (dependencies) in package definitions.