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# Command Reference: StartLog()

## (Re)start the log file

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The `StartLog()` command (re)starts the log file. It is useful to insert this command as the first command in a log file, in order to persistently record the results of processing. A useful standard is to name the log file the same as the commands file, with an additional `.log` extension. A date or date/time can optionally be added to the log file name.

The following dialog is used to edit the command and illustrates the syntax for the command.

**Edit StartLog() command**

(Re)start the log file. This is useful when it is desirable to have a log file saved for a commands file.

A blank log file name will restart the current file.

The log file can be specified using a full or relative path (relative to the working directory).

The working directory is: C:\Develop\TSTool\_SourceBuild\TSTool\test\regression\UserManualExamples\TestCases\CommandReference\StartLog

The Browse button can be used to select an existing file to overwrite.

Specifying a suffix for the file will insert the suffix before the "log" file extension.

Log file:

Suffix:   Suffix for log file (blank=none).

Command:

StartLog

**StartLog() Command Editor**

The command syntax is as follows:

```
StartLog(Parameter=Value,...)
```

### Command Parameters

Parameter	Description	Default
LogFile	The name of the log file to write surrounded by double quotes. The extension of <i>.log</i> will automatically be added, if not specified.	If not specified, the existing file will be restarted.
Suffix	<p>Indicates that a suffix will be added before the <i>.log</i> extension, one of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Date – add a date suffix of the form YYYYMMDD.</li> <li>▪ DateTime – add a date/time suffix of the form YYYYMMDD_HHMMSS.</li> </ul> <p>This is useful for automatically archiving logs corresponding to commands files, to allow checking the output at a later time.</p>	Do not add the suffix.

A sample command file to process State of Colorado HydroBase data is as follows (the Add ( ) command will generate an error because the units of the time series are incompatible):

```
StartLog(LogFile="Example_StartLog.log")
# 06753400 - LONETREE CREEK AT CARR, CO.
06753400.USGS.Streamflow.Month~HydroBase
# 1179 - BYERS 5 ENE
1179.NOAA.Precip.Month~HydroBase
Add(TSID="06753400.USGS.Streamflow.Month",AddTSLIST=AllTS,HandleMissingHow
="IgnoreMissing")
```