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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: J:\CDSS\develop\Apps\StateDMI\test\StateDMI\_RG\_Verification\rgtw\TSTool  
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:

Command: 

```
startLog(LogFile="StateCU_02_Precip.TSTool.log",Suffix="Date")
```

startLog

**startLog() Command Editor**

The command syntax is as follows:

```
startLog(param=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 commands file is as follows:

```
startLog(LogFile="StateCU_02_Precip.TSTool.log",Suffix="Date")
```