In the first section of this course we loaded a dataset into Stata and looked at the various variables. In this section, we will be looking at datasets more closely. Specifically, we will learn how to create a new dataset inside Stata, how to important a dataset from a spreadsheet program such as Excel, and how to save the dataset. In order to do this, it is important to understand that Stata sees the data that you create as a table, which is to say a bunch of rows and columns, where each row represents an observation and each column represents a variable. This visual representation is intuitive and it makes it easier for the user to manipulate the data. Since the rows are the observations, each row has a number, and since the columns represent the variables, each column has a name.

Before creating a dataset however, you will need to navigate to the folder where you want to store your progress. As we discussed in the previous section, folders help us organize our work and also make it easier to access files. Accessing files stored in the working directory makes our life much easier. My folder is located on the desktop, so I will navigate there using the following command:

cd "C:\Users\mozahemna.UNIVERSITY\Desktop\Introduction to Stata\Section 2"

Now I am ready to create my dataset.