

There are a lot of commands that come pre-installed on Stata. From time to time, new commands become available, where the purpose of these commands is to make life easier than it already was. In order to allow us to be able to use the most recent commands, Stata allows us to install new commands from the internet. One thing that you should routinely do is update your version of Stata. This is extremely easy to do, and it is also very important to do. When you update Stata, you get access to new features, bugs are corrected, and new entries are added to the search database. As we saw in the previous lecture, Stata has a very powerful search command. By updating Stata, you will make sure that the results returned by the search command are also up to date. Like most Stata commands, the command for updating your version is very intuitive. Type the following:

update

What this command does is that it gives you information about the update status of your Stata version. The output tells you when did you last update Stata. The output is also telling us that if we wanted to see if there are any updates available, we should run the following command:

update query

Sometimes you have wait a bit for the result to get back, depending on your internet speed. The output of this command will tell us whether there are any updates that we need to install. If this is the case, the output will recommend that you type:

update all

In the previous lecture, we saw how we can install new commands. Now, we will be looking at a very powerful, and very useful command, and it is the **net** command. Let us once again ask Stata to search the topic normality test using the command:

search normality test

We get the same output that we got last time. Now, instead of clicking on the blue link for the Chen-Shapiro test, what I want to do is to show you how to use the **net** command to get information about the package. Note that the test is in journal issue 12 volume 3. Go to the command prompt and type the following:

net sj 12-3

What this command does is that it tells Stata to use the internet to get information about issue 12 volume 3 of the Stata Journal. The output shows us all the packages that were discussed in that particular issue. If we wanted information about a particular package, we could use the **net describe** command. For example, run the following:

net describe st0264

The output is exactly what we saw in the last lecture when you clicked on the blue link. Stata also tells us that if we want to install this package we have to type **net install st0264**. If I try to do this, Stata tells me that the package is already installed in my version, so there is no need to install it again.

Let us try to install another package:

```
net describe st0268
```

```
net install st0268
```

We see that since I don't have this package installed, Stata has successfully installed it. Since I really don't need this package, I will uninstall it using the following:

```
net uninstall st0268
```

Stata has now removed the package. There are also a lot of resources other than the Stata Journal. For example, Stata Press constantly published books that contain a lot of helpful packages and commands. One of the most important packages is called "SPost" and it is used to study categorical data. To install this package, you can type the following:

```
net from http://www.indiana.edu/~jslsoc/stata/
```

```
net install spost13_ado
```

You can also do the same thing but using the following single command:

```
net install spost13_ado, from(http://www.indiana.edu/~jslsoc/stata)
```

As you can see, to install a package over the internet, you need to do two things. First, you need to tell Stata the location of the package. Second, you need to tell Stata to install the package. You can either do this in two steps, by using the **net from** command and then by using the **net install** command. Another option is to use the single command **net install** with the option **from**. Both ways work so you can use which ever you are more comfortable with.

The reason why I am showing you how to use the net command is that when you use Stata books or access Stata resources by searching the web, you will notice that there are a lot of great user generated commands that you can install by using this tool. These packages are not exclusively commands. There are packages that you install in order to make your graphs look nicer for example.

Although the **net** command is easy to use, there is an even easier way to install user generated packages. While the **net** commands allows us to download package from the website to which we direct it using the **from** option, one website has proved to be more useful than all others, and that is the Statistical Software Components archive (SSC). Whenever you want to download a package from there, you do not need to provide Stata with the web address. Instead, you can use the **ssc** command which works just like the **net** command but directs Stata towards the SSC archive. The following command installs a package called "estout":

```
ssc install estout
```

As you can see, because we used the **ssc** command, Stata knows where to go to. There is no need to specific a web address. A very nice and useful feature of this command is that it also allows you to check out the latest packages on the SSC archive. If you type the following for example:

ssc new

You will get a list of the latest packages that have been added to the archive. Even better, you can ask Stata to tell you about the most popular packages in the archive using the following command:

ssc hot

As you can see, Stata makes it really easy to search for and to install new packages over the internet. This way you will also make sure that you have access to the latest resources. You can also benefit from the experience of other users who are more than happy to share their work with the Stata community.