Shortcut

Run highlighted text

Mac: Ctrl+Shift+D

PC: Ctrl+D

Both: press the “Do” button on the top right of the Do file editor. This takes much more

time than using the keyboard shortcut

Commands

help OR h

shows help file of a command

Ex. h describe

help describe

cd

Change the working directory

Ex. (Mac) cd "/Users/mfoster1/Documents/data analysis intro/Stata/workshop1"

(PC) cd "C:\Documents\ data analysis intro\Stata\workshop1"

\*\*\* The direction of the slashes is different

pwd

Check the current working directory of your Stata session

Ex. pwd

doedit

Open a new do-file editor

Reasons to use a do file

1. It stores all commands you have ever used, allowing you to copy, paste, and modify commands at will. This will quickly become much quicker than pointing and clicking.
2. It prevents you from irrevocably altering your dataset. You will always have a record of what changes you made to your data.
3. You gain practice for more sophisticated data manipulation.
4. You have a clear record of the commands you can use stored in a file on your computer. Again, copy-paste-modify is a necessary skill.
5. Your do file will have comments explaining what the commands do and why.

Copying Path Name

* PC: Go to a file explorer window. Click on the top bar. Make sure the name is highlighted in blue. Copy (Ctrl+C) and paste (Ctrl+V) this into the location you need it.
* Mac: Go to a finder window. Right click on a folder or file that you want to see the path of. Press Option on your keyboard. Click on “Copy ‘ xxx’ as pathname.” Paste the file (Cmd+V) into the location you need it.
* Mac: Go to a finder window. Click the button with the gear at the top center of the page. Press and hold Option on your keyboard. Click on “Copy ‘ xxx’ as pathname.” Paste the file (Cmd+V) into the location you need it.