SOC 5050: MarkDoc Quick Reference

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What is MarkDoc?

MarkDoc is a Stata package[1] written and maintained by E. F. Haghish, a professor at the University of Freiburg in Germany. MarkDoc allows you to create Markdown documents directly from your Stata do-files. These documents may require some additional editing after they are created (to embed images, or tweak the formatting of the document), but they provide a good starting place for producing well organized, reproducible research.[2]

[1] Packages are user-written programs that extend Stata's functionality. They are one of the reasons that Stata is such a powerful statistical computing platform.

[2] See the course **User's Guide** for additional details on MarkDoc and how you should use it in this course.

MarkDoc Syntax

Logging   The final product code and text should be logged using a `.smcl` file as opposed to all other log files, which I highly recommend formatting in plain text. Open the MarkDoc specific log file before beginning your report, and then close it when your report is complete. The log commands should be executed 'quietly'.[3]

[3] 'Quietly' executing commands suppresses their output from any log files currently open.

```
quietly log ["]filename["].smcl [, replace smcl name(markdoc)]
quietly log close markdoc
```

Generating the Markdown File   After you close the MarkDoc specific log file, issue the following command to generate the markdown version of the report:

```
markdoc ["]filename["].smcl [, export(md) replace install]
```

Inserting Basic Markdown   To insert a block of markdown formatted text in your report, use a special variation of the Stata comment syntax - `/***` followed by `***/`:

```
/***
## Part 1 Results
Pellentesque interdum sapien sed nulla. Proin tincidunt. Aliquam
volutpat est vel massa. Sed dolor lacus, imperdiet non, ornare non,
commodo eu, neque. Integer pretium semper justo. Proin risus. Nul-
lam id quam. Nam neque. Duis vitae wisi ullamcorper diam congue
ultricies. Quisque ligula. Mauris vehicula.
***/
```

Suppressing Output   The MarkDoc package allows you to execute commands without including the command itself or its output in the final file using `//OFF` followed by `//ON`:

```
//OFF
describe
//ON
```

Cleaning Up

MarkDoc does not parse text perfectly, and sometimes introduces spaces into words. For ex ample, "those" may become "thos e". Make sure to carefully scan your file for typos before submitting it.

MarkDoc will also occasionally leave the `quietly log` command in the bottom of the output. Make sure to delete this from your output before submitting it.

MarkDoc Example

See the accompanying file `basicMarkDocEx.do`, which provides an functioning example of these commands.

Document Details

Document produced by Christopher Prener, Ph.D. for the Saint Louis University course SOC 5050 - QUANTITATIVE ANALYSIS: APPLIED INFERENTIAL STATISTICS. See the course wiki and the repository `README.md` file for additional details.