1 MAINTAIN A LOG FOR OUTPUT

help log

The use of log-files ensures that all displayed output in the Results window (commands, error messages, tables, comments *etc*) is saved in a text file. Log-files can be saved in Stata's log-format `.smcl` or in general ASCII text log-format `.log`. Note that it is possible to run multiple overlapping log files simultaneously.

help logtype

First of all, set the preferred default format (system parameter `logtype`) by which logs are to be recorded:

```
set logtype text
set logtype smcl
```

`set` the format is to `.log`.
`set` the format is to `.smcl`.

The choice between `.smcl` and `.log` depends on which software you intend to use for editing logs. Save in `.smcl` for editing within Stata or save in `.log` format for use with some other editor such as MS Notepad®. Remember to include the desired `set logtype` within *profile.do* to maintain the default for all sessions.

help log

A log is a file that records all output from Stata's Results window. You can open up to 5 overlapping `.smcl` logs and 5 overlapping `.log` logs. Begin with `using` a primary log-file named `logpr.smcl`:

```
log using C:\data\logpr.smcl
```

Start a primary `log`.

Following the activation of the first log-file, Stata will show the `log` status in the bottom right-hand corner of the Results window. Notice that a log file with format `.smcl` is now turned `on`.

```
log off
```

This temporarily suspends the active `log`.

Notice that the `log` status is now switched to `off`.

```
log on
log close
log using logpr.smcl, append
log close
log using logpr.smcl, replace
```

Resume the suspended log file.
Terminate the `log`.
Open the `log` and `append` on its content.
Close again the `log`.
This time open the `log` by overwriting its content.

The above commands cover the entire range of functionalities for log-files, *i.e.* `log using` for opening a log, `log off` for suspending, `log on` for resuming, `log close` for terminating, `log, append` for adding to a current log, and `log, replace` for substituting a current log. You can now start using overlapping log files:

```
log using log1, name(log1) smcl
log using log2, name(log2) text
```

Initiate an additional `log` file with format `.smcl`.
Initiate another `log` file with format `.log`.

Notice that the overlapping log files `log2.smcl` and `log3.log` cannot be stored in a different working path and by default are recorded in the same path as the primary log `logpr`. You may use exactly the same log-file functionalities described above for the overlapping log files by specifying their name at the end of the command. If you omit the name of the overlapping log file then Stata will assume that the command should be performed on the primary log. For example:

```
log off log1
log close log2
log close
```

Suspend the overlapping log file `log1`.
Close the overlapping log file `log2`.
Terminate the primary log file.

You can view and edit any log file even when the log is still active. For instance:

```
view logpr.smcl
doedit log2.log
```

Examine `logpr` in the Viewer window.
Edit `log2` in the Do-File Editor.