Getting Started with Stata for Macintosh®

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More on Stata for Macintosh

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D.1 Importing a Stata graph into another document

Suppose that you wish to import a Stata graph into a document created by your favorite word processor or desktop publishing (DTP) application. How this is done depends on the application that you are exporting to, but most applications share similar steps.

The three methods for importing a graph into other documents are the following:

1. Import the graph using the Clipboard.
2. Save the graph to a PICT file and import it into your document.
3. Print the graph to an EPS (encapsulated PostScript) file and import it into your document.

The first two methods of importing are simpler and allow you to edit the graph if the target application allows it. You can select any graph object and modify its attributes such as line style, thickness, color, size, .... If the graph was creating using Macintosh fonts (which is highly recommended; see [G] printing Macintosh), you may edit the text in the graph with your application.

The third method of importing is recommended when placing a graph into a document on another platform.

Import the graph using the Clipboard

Stata takes full advantage of the Mac’s ability to paste graphics between applications using the Clipboard. Stata draws the graph in the Macintosh’s native PICT format (equivalent to the Windows metatile format) so that graph objects and text can be easily moved and edited in other applications.

To import a graph using the Clipboard

1. Display the graph. Either
   a. Draw it using the graph command, or
   b. Redisplay your last graph by pressing the Graph button, or
   c. Select Open... from the File menu and select a graph.
   d. Retrieve a previously saved graph by typing graph using myfile. (You previously saved the graph myfile.gph.)
2. Optionally pull down Prefs and choose Graph Preferences... The same options which affect how a graph is printed also affect how it is copied.

3. Select Copy from the Edit menu (make sure the graph window is the frontmost window).

4. Switch to the application that you want to import your graph into and select Paste from the Edit menu.

Some applications, such as QuarkXPress, require you to first create a bounding box for the image to be placed in. If selecting Edit–Paste does not immediately work, see your application’s documentation on pasting images from the Clipboard into documents.

Save the graph as a PICT file

You may save your graph as a PICT file which can then be imported by most, if not all, Macintosh word processors, DTP, and graphic applications. Some applications on other platforms will read Macintosh PICT files, and you can create an EPS file for applications that do not.

To save a graph as a PICT file:

1. Display the graph.

2. Optionally pull down Prefs and choose Graph Preferences....

3. Select File–Save Graph... (make sure the graph window is the frontmost window).

4. Select Macintosh PICT from the file type popup menu.

5. Switch to the application that you want to import your graph into and place the PICT file into your document. How this is done varies among applications, but most of them have a Place or Import option, often under the File menu.

Print the graph to an EPS file

You may print your graph to an EPS (encapsulated PostScript) file which can then be imported by most Macintosh word processors, DTP, and drawing applications. You must have the LaserWriter printer driver installed and selected in the Chooser to use this method. You must also be using the LaserWriter version 8.3.3 printer driver or newer to be able to create previews of the EPS file. Otherwise, you will not be able to see the image in your document until it is actually printed.

Creating EPS files is recommended when you want to import your graph to an application on another platform such as TEX on Unix (which is how all of the graphs in Stata’s manuals were created). In the case of TEX, we recommend that you create the EPS file with no preview since TEX ignores the preview.

The following steps are for version 8.7 of the LaserWriter printer driver. Newer drivers should be similar.

1. Display the graph.

2. Optionally pull down Prefs and choose Graph Preferences....

3. Select Print Graph... from the File menu (make sure the graph window is the frontmost window).

4. Set the destination to a file by clicking the Destination popup menu and selecting File.

5. Select Save as File from the settings popup menu and you can set options to the type of PostScript file created and what type of preview to include with the file. If you plan to import the document into a word processor or DTP application, we recommend that you save the EPS file with a preview. Otherwise, you will not be able to view the graph until the document is printed.
6. Switch to the application that you want to import your graph into and insert the EPS file into your document. This step varies among applications, but most of them have a Place or Import option under the File menu that allows you to place a graphic file into your document.

There are a few disadvantages to using EPS files. One is that there are very few applications that allow you to edit EPS files. Another disadvantage is that most applications rely on the preview saved with the EPS file to display the image. The preview tends to be very rough and a poor indicator of the final output. And finally, EPS files can be quite large when compared with PICT files. The main advantage of using EPS files is that it provides the best output when compared to the PICT format.

D.2 Saving the contents of the Review window as a do-file

To save the contents of the Review window to a do-file, click on the Review window, and select File—Save Review Contents... You will be presented with the standard Macintosh Save dialog and you can enter a filename with or without the .do extension. Stata will automatically append one if no extension is included and also attach the proper Stata do icon so that you may execute the file by double-clicking it from the desktop.

You can edit the do-file in Stata's do-file editor (see Chapter 15 earlier in this book). You can also edit the do-file in a text editing application such as SimpleText or BBEdit but note that the other applications will attach their own icon when you resave the file. After that, double-clicking the file from the desktop will launch the application that you used to edit the file. To reattach Stata's icon, select File—Set File Type... and select the file. For more on Set File Type..., see [GSM] D.3 Using Stata datasets and graphs created on other platforms.

For more information on do-files, see [U] 19 Do-files.

D.3 Using Stata datasets and graphs created on other platforms

Stata will open any Stata .dta dataset or .gph graph file regardless of the platform on which it was created, even if it was a Windows or Unix system. In addition, Stata for Windows and Stata for Unix users can use any files you create. Remember that .dta and .gph files are binary files, not text (ASCII) files, so they need no translation; simply copy them over to your hard disk as is.

Files created on other platforms can be directly opened from the Stata command line; for example, you can load a dataset by typing use filename. Using Macintosh conveniences such as double-clicking those files from the desktop requires that you attach the proper type and creator to the file so that the Macintosh will handle it appropriately.

To add a type and creator to a file from within Stata, select Set File Type... from the File menu. You can then select a file and Stata will attach the proper type and creator to the file based on its extension (.dta, .do, or .gph). You must be sure to use the proper extension or else the wrong type will be attached to the file if one is added at all.
Technical Note

Files created on a Macintosh typically have additional information such as what type of file it is and which application created it (called the type and creator). This information is stored in the resource fork of the file, a concept unique to the Macintosh. Because files created on other platforms do not have resource forks, when they are transferred to a Macintosh they will not have a type or creator associated with them (unless special procedures are used to automatically create the resource fork when they are transferred to the Macintosh).

Files that do not have the proper type and creator will not launch or automatically open in Stata when double-clicked from the desktop. You can still directly use .dta, .do and .gph files from the command line, but to take advantage of Macintosh conveniences, Stata's creator and type must be attached to the file. They must also have the proper extension.

D.4 Stata and the Notification Manager

You may work in another application while Stata is processing a time-intensive command or do-file. Rather than having to occasionally switch to Stata to see if it has finished executing, Stata will notify you when it has finished by playing a sound and blinking its application icon on the right side of the menubar. It will continue blinking until you put Stata back into the foreground. This only works if Stata is put into the background while it is executing a command or do-file. Stata will not notify you if it is in the foreground or requires further interaction from you (such as a —more— condition).