

13 Using the Do-file Editor—automating Stata

The Do-file Editor

Stata comes with an integrated text editor called the Do-file Editor, which can be used for many tasks. It gets its name from the term *do-file*, which is a file containing a list of commands for Stata to run (called a batch file or a script in other settings). See [U] 16 Do-files for more information. Although the Do-file Editor has advanced features that can help in writing such files, it can also be used to build up a series of commands that can then be submitted to Stata all at once. This feature can be handy when writing a loop to process multiple variables in a similar fashion or when doing complex, repetitive tasks interactively.

To get the most from this chapter, you should work through it at your computer. Start by opening the Do-file Editor, either by clicking on the **Do-file Editor** button, , or by typing `doedit` in the Command window and pressing *Return*.

The Do-file Editor toolbar

The Do-file Editor has seven buttons. Many of the buttons share a similar purpose with their look-alikes in the main Stata toolbar.



If you ever forget what a button does, hover the mouse pointer over a button, and a tooltip will appear.

 **Open:** Open a do-file from disk in a new tab in the Do-file Editor.

 **Save:** Save the current file to disk.

 **Print:** Print the contents of the Do-file Editor.

 **Find:** Open the Find bar for finding text.

 **Show:** Toggle display of invisible characters.

 **Zoom:** Change the display size of the text.

 **Execute (do):** Run the commands in the do-file, showing all commands and their output. If text is highlighted, the button becomes the **Execute selection (do)** button and will run only the selected lines, showing all output. We will refer to this as the **Do** button. If you click on the arrow next to the **Do** button, you will see further choices for what gets done.