

Date & Time Tags for Filenames in Winxx      page1 of 4      NASUG2001 3/11/01 8:45 PM  
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Title:            Date and Time Tags for Filenames in Winxx

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I receive several (ir)regular deliveries of data files for the on-going development of a panel data set. Both the delivering agency systems and the targets of our research group change over time -- by the hour and/or by the year. I need to be able to identify from the filenames which Stata .dta files were created with which .do files leaving which .log files. I need to be able to verify that the created file hasn't been inadvertently changed. I use the Stata shell facility and DOS rename to attach an ado generated global macro date-tag and global macro hour-minute-tag and obtain, for example:

```
datetimetag_20010212_1343.do
datetimetag_20010212_1343.log
datetimetab_20010212_1343.dta
```

.do, .ados, .hlps and .log files follow. For complex jobs many files can be tagged. Baring miscreants who set back the computer clock, if an inadvertently changed data file is created, it will have a date-time in Windows Explorer different from the attached tag. This procedure is the most useful tool I have. I encourage anyone who wants to ado-ize it or write Mac or unix conversions.

```
----- begin datetimetag.do -----
cap log close
log using datetimetag.log,replace
*2/12/2001HEG  datetimetag.do demonstrates global tags & shell rename
set more off
version 7.0
* ----- create silly dataset
clear
input junk
  3
  4
  7
end
notes: silly dataset for datetimetag demonstration

* ----- closeout & rename with date & time tags
local jobname datetimetag
datetag
hrmintag

!copy `jobname'.do tempdo
!rename tempdo  "`jobname'_"$datetag_"$hrmintag".do

save `jobname', replace
!rename  "`jobname'.dta  "`jobname'_"$datetag_"$hrmintag".dta

log close
!rename  "`jobname'.log  "`jobname'_"$datetag_"$hrmintag".log
exit
-----end datetimetag.do -----
```





----- begin datetimetag\_20010212\_1343.log -----  
-----

```
log: C:\temp\efs_Stata_abstract\datetimetag.log
log type: text
opened on: 12 Feb 2001, 13:43:31

. *2/12/2001HEG datetimetag.do demonstrates global tags & shell rename
. set more off

. version 7.0

. * ----- create silly dataset
. clear

. input junk

      junk
1.  3
2.  4
3.  7
4. end

. notes: silly dataset for datetimetag demonstration

.
. * ----- closeout & rename with date & time tags
. local jobname datetimetag

. datetag

. hrmintag

.
. !copy `jobname'.do tempdo

. !rename tempdo "`jobname'"_"$datetag"_"$hrmintag".do

.
. save `jobname', replace
(note: file datetimetag.dta not found)
file datetimetag.dta saved

. !rename "`jobname'".dta "`jobname'"_"$datetag"_"$hrmintag".dta

.
. log close
      log: C:\temp\efs_Stata_abstract\datetimetag.log
      log type: text
      closed on: 12 Feb 2001, 13:43:34
----- end datetimetag_20010212_1343.log -----
```