Managing Stata related files with dirtools

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Introduction

Stata users chronically have to perform typical tasks with various Stata related file types:

- Change the working directory
- Load datasets (dta-files)
- Edit, look into, or run do-files, ado-files and mata-files
- Open stored graph-files, and translate them to other formats
- Edit, look into, or compile LaTeX files
- Open or translate EPS and/or PDF files

The task are sometimes troublesome

- Long (or cryptic filenames)
- Complicated calls to the operating system

Frequently the menu-system is helpful. The `dirtools` package is an alternative.

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ldir

Changing the working directory inside do-files makes the do-file platform dependent. Alternatively one can start do-files from the working directory, where the do-file is being stored. `ldir` provides a handy way to change the working directory. It

- lists directories in the working directory,
- lists bookmarks set by Nick Winters `fastcd` package,
- presents directories/bookmarks as click-able links,

Clicking on a link makes the respective folder the working directory.

Additionally, `ldir`

- allows to set/unset bookmarks.
- provides an interface to other programs in the `dirtools` package

ldo

ldo can be called from the command line or by clicking on the output of ldir. It

- provides a list of do-files in the working directory
- provides click-able links to view, edit, or run the do-files
- provides a link to erase the do-files (option erase)

Possible customizations:

- Listing of do-files that match file name stubs.
- Program to edit the do-file (Global $MYEDITOR)

Note: lmata provides identical functionality for Mata files.

ldta

ldta share the basic functionality of ldo. It can be called from the command line, or by clicking on the output of ldir. It

- provides a list of dta-files in the working directory
- provides click-able links to describe, describe shortly, and open the dta-file
- provides a link to erase the dta-files (option erase)

lgph and lsmcl

lgph and lsmcl share the basic functionality of ldo and ldta. The both can be called from the command line, or by clicking on the output of ldir. They provide

- lists of respective file types,
- click-able links to perform typical tasks for those files, and
- links to erase the dta-files (option erase)

lado

`lado` is similar to `ldo` but provides some further functionality. Like `ldo` it can be called from the command line, or by clicking on the output of `ldir`. It

- lists ado files and their respective help files (if present)
- click-able links to perform typical tasks for those files, and
- links to erase the dta-files (option `erase`)

Additional customizations:

- Standard directory of (own) ado-files (Global $ADODEVELOPMENT)
- If set: `lado .` for ado files in working directory

OS calls

dirtools includes packages for OS calls to perform typical task with non-native Stata files that are frequently in use among Stata users:

- ltex for LaTeX files (with and without document header)
- leps for Encapsulated PostScript files
- lpdf for PDF files

These programs may or may not work. They are pretty failsafe under Unix/Linux. They are tested with Windows versions up to number 7, (however there are reports that meanwhile Windows 8 exists). I don't have bug reports from Mac Users.

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Availability

`dirtools` is available from SSC:

```
.   ssc install dirtools
```

A new version of `dirtools` will become available soon. To update an installed version type

```
.   adoupdate dirtools, update
```

Dirtools-Users are requested to also install Nick Winters `fastcd` package:

```
.   ssc install fastcd
```