

## Description

`view` displays file contents in the Viewer.

`view file` displays the specified file. `file` is optional, so if you had a SMCL session log created by typing `log using mylog`, you could view it by typing `view mylog.smcl`. `view file` can properly display `.smcl` files (logs and the like), `.sthlp` files, and text files. `view file`'s `asis` option specifies that the file be displayed as plain text, regardless of the *filename*'s extension.

`view browse` opens your browser pointed to *url*. Typing `view browse https://www.stata.com` would bring up your browser pointed to the website <https://www.stata.com>.

`[view] help` displays the specified topic in the Viewer. For example, to review the help for Stata's print command, you could type `help print`. See [\[R\] help](#) for more details.

`[view] search` displays the results of the `search` command in the Viewer. For instance, to search the system help for information on robust regression, you could type `search robust regression`. See [\[R\] search](#) for more details.

`view net` does the same as the `net` command—see [\[R\] net](#)—but displays the result in the Viewer. For instance, typing `view net search hausman test` would search the internet for additions to Stata related to the Hausman test. Typing `view net from https://www.stata.com` would go to the Stata additions download site at <https://www.stata.com>.

`view ado` does the same as the `ado` command—see [\[R\] net](#)—but displays the result in the Viewer. For instance, typing `view ado dir` would show a list of files you have installed.

`view update` does the same as the `update` command—see [\[R\] update](#)—but displays the result in the Viewer. Typing `view update` would show the dates of what you have installed, and from there you could click to compare those dates with the latest updates available. Typing `view update query` would skip the first step and show the comparison.

## Menu

File > View...

## Syntax

*Display file in Viewer*

```
view [file] [ " ] filename [ " ] [ , asis adopath ]
```

*Bring up browser pointed to specified URL*

```
view browse [ " ] url [ " ]
```

*Display help results in Viewer*

```
[view] help [ topic_or_command_name ]
```

*Display search results in Viewer*

```
[view] search keywords
```

*Display net results in Viewer*

```
view net [ netcmd ]
```

*Display ado-results in Viewer*

```
view ado [ adocmd ]
```

*Display update results in Viewer*

```
view update [ updatecmd ]
```

## Options

*asis*, allowed with *view file*, specifies that the file be displayed as text, regardless of the *filename*'s extension. *view file*'s default action is to display files ending in *.smcl* and *.sthlp* as SMCL; see [P] [smcl](#).

*adopath*, allowed with *view file*, specifies that Stata search the S\_ADO path for *filename* and display it, if found.

## Remarks and examples

Most users access the Viewer by selecting **File > View...** and proceeding from there. Some commands allow you to skip that step. Some common interactive uses of commands that display their results in the Viewer are the following:

```
. view mysession.smcl
. view mysession.log

. help print
. help regress

. search hausman test

. view net
. view ado

. view update query
```

## Also see

[R] [help](#) — Display help in Stata

[R] [net](#) — Install and manage community-contributed additions from the internet

[R] [search](#) — Search Stata documentation and other resources

[R] [update](#) — Check for official updates

[D] [type](#) — Display contents of a file

[GSM] [3 Using the Viewer](#)

[GSU] [3 Using the Viewer](#)

[GSW] [3 Using the Viewer](#)

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