

# STATA Statistical Software Access and Support at Princeton

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## 1 Access to STATA

Here is a list of the ways I know of to access STATA at Princeton. My list is bound to be incomplete, and while I've tried to provide helpful instructions, there is probably some misinformation: these things change periodically and I only have experience with PCs. If these instructions aren't working for you, please call OIT (8-HELP) to figure out how to make it work. Please let me know if you have additions or improvements to these instructions!

### 1.1 Best Overall : Cluster Computers

STATA is installed on all of the cluster computers. To access STATA on a cluster computer, choose STATA 9 from the list of programs.

### 1.2 Best on Your Computer : Unix Servers

STATA is installed on the Tombstone, one of Princeton's Unix Servers. Access STATA on your computer by (1) opening SSH, (2) logging onto Tombstone, (3) running STATA. However, if you haven't used Tombstone before, there are two steps you'll need to take to get set up:

1. Activate and Download SSH

You need to enable your Unix account and then download whatever version of SSH is best for your computer. Details are available online at <http://helpdesk.princeton.edu/kb/display.plx?id=4104>.

2. Activate Tombstone

To do this, you need to "enable 64-bit computing." This just means go to [www/register64](http://www/register64), enter your netID and password and then wait up to half an hour for your activation to take effect. To learn more about Tombstone, read all about it at <http://helpdesk.princeton.edu/kb/display.plx?id=9682>.

Now open your SSH Secure Shell Client. (For me, the icon looks like a computer screen with a blue sash around the upper left corner.) Click connect. You will be prompted to enter a Hostname and a Username. For Hostname, type Tombstone.princeton.edu. For Username, type your netID. (I type ashleym.) After connection, you'll have to enter your password. Once you're connected, type STATA.

There are two important disadvantages of Tombstone: you need an internet connection to use it, and it doesn't have the nice graphical interface you'll get from the cluster computers.

### 1.3 Buy STATA

If you want to access STATA on your computer the same way you get it on the cluster computers, you can buy STATA. It's pretty expensive (between \$50 and \$300 depending on what kinds of features you want) so I don't recommend it. But if you decide to buy it, get it from OIT - stop by 113 Frist to find out the details.

### 1.4 X Servers

You may be able to get a nice graphical interface on your own computer using what's called XSTATA. However, PC users will need an additional program, such as Exceed, in order to run XSTATA. If you are a Mac user and figure out how to use XSTATA for free, let me know and I'll pass it on to others.

## 2 Support for STATA

One of the nice things about using STATA is that there is great support: Good help functions in STATA, thousands of documents online, Princeton's own Data and Statistical Services. For tutorials to help you learn STATA, check out

<http://www.ats.ucla.edu/stat/stata/>

There are literally thousands of guides to STATA online. Three that are close to home:

1. The Econ Department's STATA Guide

[http://www.princeton.edu/~erp/stata/stata\\_woframes.htm](http://www.princeton.edu/~erp/stata/stata_woframes.htm)

2. The Office of Population Research's STATA Guide

<http://opr.princeton.edu/computing/software/stata/>

3. The Data and Statistical Service's STATA Guide

[http://dss.princeton.edu/online\\_help/stats\\_packages/stata/stataintro.htm](http://dss.princeton.edu/online_help/stats_packages/stata/stataintro.htm)

The other very important resource is that Princeton's Data and Statistical Services drop-in center (<http://dss.princeton.edu/services/hours.htm>). Monday through Friday, from 1:00 PM-6:00 PM if you are stuck on anything STATA, go to the drop-in center, at the back of the Social Sciences Resource Center on the A Level of Firestone, and a consultant will help you figure it out.