Title

unlink( ) — Erase file

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Description

unlink(*filename*) erases *filename* if it exists, does nothing if *filename* does not exist, and aborts with error if *filename* exists but cannot be erased.

_unlink(*filename*) does the same, except that, if *filename* cannot be erased, rather than aborting with error, _unlink() returns a negative error code. _unlink() returns 0 if *filename* was erased or *filename* did not exist.

Syntax

>   *void*   unlink(*string scalar filename*)
>
>   *real scalar*   _unlink(*string scalar filename*)

Remarks and examples

To remove directories, see rmdir() in [M-5] **chdir( )**.

Conformability

unlink(*filename*)
>   *filename*: 1×1
>   *result*:   *void*

_unlink(*filename*)
>   *filename*: 1×1
>   *result*: 1×1

Diagnostics

unlink(*filename*) aborts with error when _unlink() would give a negative result.

_unlink(*filename*) returns a negative result if the file cannot be erased and returns 0 otherwise. If the file did not exist, 0 is returned. When there is an error, most commonly returned are -3602 (filename invalid) or -3621 (file is read-only).

Also see

[M-4] **IO** — I/O functions

For suggested citations, see the FAQ on citing Stata documentation.