

Connecting to IBM SPSS Statistics from a Launched Application

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Within IBM® SPSS® Statistics, you can define custom menu items that launch external applications. COM applications launched from such menu items can connect to the running instance of SPSS Statistics that launched the application. Once a connection has been established, the application has full access to the IBM SPSS Statistics OLE Automation interface, enabling the application to operate on user interface and output objects associated with the running instance of SPSS Statistics.

To set up a COM application that can connect to the running instance of SPSS Statistics:

- ▶ Create a custom menu item to launch the application. Custom menu items are added from View > Menu Editor. Be sure to select Application as the File Type on the Menu Editor dialog box.
- ▶ In the project file for your application, add a reference to *spsswin 17.0 Type Library* (for SPSS Statistics versions 17 or 18) or *SPSS Statistics Type Library* (for version 19 or higher) from the list of available COM components. The type library is also available from */Program Files/Common Files/SPSS/spsswin.dll* (for versions 17 and 18) or */Program Files/Common Files/IBM/SPSS/COM/spsswin.dll* (for version 19 and above).
- ▶ Add code, as in the following, to obtain a reference to the SPSS Statistics Application object for the running instance of SPSS Statistics:

```
Dim objSpssApp As spsswinLib.Application16  
objSpssApp = GetObject("", "SPSS.Application16")
```

- The variable *objSpssApp* contains a reference to the SPSS Statistics Application object, which is the container object for all other objects accessible in the IBM SPSS Statistics OLE Automation interface.

Online help for the IBM SPSS Statistics OLE Automation interface is available from the SPSS Statistics Basic Script Editor. The editor can be accessed from File > New > Script when the default script language (set from the Scripts tab on the Options dialog) is set to Basic (the system default on Windows). It is also accessed from File > Open > Script, by choosing Basic (wwd;sbs) in the Files of type list. From the SPSS Statistics Basic Script Editor, select Help > SPSS Statistics Objects Help.

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