

SPSS12

This problem is one of those things that tend to happen with new releases of statistical software packages - a new version's data format usually differs slightly from that of the previous version (especially with SPSS), and other programs such as **HLM** may or may not have problems reading the new format. Currently, the two programs giving problems are SPSS 11.5/12 and the SAS *.7bdat formats.

HLM can read SPSS data in one of two ways - either using its own code (associated with the file type "**SPSS for Windows**" in the **Make SSM** dialog box) or by using the third-party software **DBMSCOPY** to do so (associated with the file type "**Anything Else**" in the **Make SSM** dialog box). **HLM 6** was released in early October 2004, so we do not plan on offering a service release to fix this problem currently. Of course, **HLM 6** can read the latest versions of all the main software packages.

For now, the only solution to using SPSS 11.5/12 files in **HLM 5** is with a workaround: instead of setting the **Files of Type** drop-down list box to SPSS, set it to **Anything Else**. When browsing for a file, you will be prompted via a standard Windows "**Open**" dialog box. Set the file type at the bottom to "**SPSS for Windows (sav)**" and browse for the file you want to use. Note that the sav file will now be shown as having a "**spsswin**" extension in the level-1/level-2 data file name field. This is fine. You can now proceed to make the **SSM** file in the usual way.

When using this approach, two other things may be confusing. First of all, in some cases you may get a query concerning format after browsing and selecting the data file. Should this happen, simply click **OK** to return to the **HLM Make SSM** dialog box and proceed as usual. The second thing that may need to be checked is that the path pointing to **DBMSCOPY** from within **HLM** is correct. To check/change this, select the **Files, Preferences** option from the main **HLM** menu and reset the path to the file **indata7.dll** which is in the **DBMSCOPY** subfolder of the **HLM 5** installation folder.

If this approach gives you trouble, another workaround would be to export the data files from **SPSS** in another format such as, for example, **Microsoft Excel** files. Then, use the "**Any Other**" option from the drop-down list box on the **HLM SSM** or **MDM** dialog box to import the files into **HLM 5.05**.