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Subject: Re: Compilation Error: Procedure header must appear first and only once  
Posted by [Helder Marchetto](#) on Thu, 30 Mar 2017 21:49:39 GMT

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On Monday, June 20, 2016 at 8:46:15 PM UTC+2, jaromr...@gmail.com wrote:

> I know this question is very old, but this was an error I was getting, and I could not find the solution. I eventually found in my case that this error was caused by a non-printed non-ASCII character at the beginning of the file. After copying the text and saving as a new file (fortuitously without the rogue character) the error disappeared. Subsequent comparisons between the two files revealed the error.

>

> Posting here since this is high on the results lists in internet searches for this error message.

>

> Jarom

>

>

> On Monday, June 27, 2011 at 1:38:42 PM UTC-7, Maegereg wrote:

>> I've been trying to get someone else's program written in IDL 6.4 to  
>> compile in IDL 8.0. I don't have any previous experience with the  
>> language, and my C/Python experience is proving a poor substitute to  
>> expert knowledge. I'm running into the most curious compiler error in  
>> two of my files. I can't put the full code up here (to begin, between  
>> the two there are probably 3000 lines), but I'll try to describe  
>> things as best I can. It's fairly simple: in both of the files, all  
>> the procedures and functions defined past a certain point produce the  
>> following error on compilation:

>> "% Procedure header must appear first and only once: ANALYZE \_ROI\_DATA  
>> At:..." (for example). Every function and procedure that's later in a  
>> file than a function or procedure that's got that error gets it too.  
>> And if you were wondering about functions getting an error about  
>> procedures, the functions all also get "Return statement in procedures  
>> can't have values." I've been able to fix it by rearranging the  
>> functions/procedures in a file (worked on one of the two files,  
>> haven't tried it on the other), but I understand there are good  
>> reasons to leave the command procedures/functions at the end of the  
>> file.

>>

>> I've checked a number of possibilities: these aren't already defined  
>> in the IDL libraries. I checked the procedures immediately before the  
>> first erroneous procedure in both files, and all the begin statements  
>> (and equivalents) seem to have corresponding end statements. The  
>> program compiles fine in IDL 6.4 (I don't have a copy of 6.4, but I've  
>> seen this program run, and have used it myself). I'm just about at the  
>> end of things I can think of to try to fix this. Anyone have any  
>> suggestions?

Hi,

I'll also add to this. I had the same problem and there where no missing "end".

My thoughts:

- this probably only happens if you use the IDLDE.
- this happened to me copying and pasting a file from github.
- between every procedure apparently a hidden character was added. Removing these "empty" lines between procedures solved the issue.

Don't have time test "what" the hidden char is, but it surely happened as a result of the copying from github. I also know that there are other ways to clone into eclipse/IDLDE, but I didn't want to bother...

Cheers, Helder

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