
Subject: Re: Compilation Error: Procedure header must appear first and only once
Posted by [rbruntz](#) on Fri, 14 Jul 2017 20:21:18 GMT

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I'll add another possibility for some specific cases, just because this was the first suggestion when I googled the error, so it might help some other people.

I've been running and modifying a program that was written by someone else, many years ago, consisting of numerous procedures spread over several files. Everything was working fine, until I tried to add a new procedure to the end of the main file (which we'll call "main_prog.pro"). I added a simple procedure, but then got the "Procedure header must appear first and only once" error no matter what I did to the program, including deleting and re-typing lines (to remove possible hidden characters), copying the text into nano and TextEdit, to save those versions as plain text files, and writing a new, simple "hello, world" procedure, to replace the one I wanted - but the only way to get the error to go away was to delete or comment out the new procedure. It even compiled fine when I copied it over to the end of one of the other files!

I started deleting lines from one of the copies of the original program (with my new procedure in place after the END statement), to see when it would start compiling, so that I could figure out where the trouble was - and then I realized that "main_prog.pro" had an END statement, but no PRO statement at the beginning! (And it has been like that from the first version I got, and has been working fine all along.) I added "PRO main_prog" at the start of the file, and now the new procedure at the end compiles (and runs) fine.

tldr: Make sure that you have a "PRO (program name)" line at the start of your file. It might compile and run fine without it, but you can't add new procedures (or probably functions) after the END statement without it.

-Robert
