
Subject: Re: Compilation Error: Procedure header must appear first and only once
Posted by [Maegereg](#) on Wed, 29 Jun 2011 14:38:43 GMT

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On 6/27/11 3:18PM, Michael Galloy wrote:

- > 1. Always check the first error in the file, a single syntax error can
- > cause many later error messages.
- >
- > 2. "Procedure header must appear first and only once" almost always
- > means you forgot to END something -- you have a BEGIN but no END for an
- > IF statement, a FOR loop, etc.

I've checked the first error in each of the two files- both are syntax errors, and in both cases nothing actually appears wrong. Here's the two errors (error is on third line):

```
END
'Funct_AIF_Fast': BEGIN
  SetTimeCommonBlock,tMargin=ObtainTMargin()+tMargin, tRange=tRange
END
'Funct_Artery_AIF': BEGIN
```

and

```
t_time=(*pState).pt_time
time_courseC=(*pState).timecourse)[(*pState).cursorPosition[0],(*pState).cursorPosition[1],*]
uptake_curve=get_uptake_curve(time_courseC, pState, base_level=base_level)
noise_Level=Calculate_Noise(time_courseC, (*pState).n_base, (*pState).baseStart,
(*pState).n_Images-1) ;; df=df)
;save, uptake_curve, t_time, filename='D:\tmp.idl'
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Eclipse points out the)+ (of the tMargin=ObtainTMargin()+tMargin part), and the =b (of the base_level=base_level part). Neither of them seems to be a syntax error, though do correct me if I'm wrong. There are a ton more of these correct syntax errors scattered throughout the rest of the project.

I also checked the end statements for both of the files. I made a couple changes where it seemed like the wrong end had been used, but even now that the ends are completely correct, the errors persist. Another thing I did notice: eclipse is giving me errors of the form: "Type of end does not match statement" in the functions immediately before I start getting the procedure header errors. I've double checked these functions though, and the ends are correct. And I've also tried just blindly doing what the compiler says to make those bug reports go away (changing the ends to whatever it suggests, even if it's incorrect), but that didn't fix anything either.

Subject: Re: Compilation Error: Procedure header must appear first and only once
Posted by [Carsten Lechte](#) on Wed, 29 Jun 2011 15:16:24 GMT

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Maybe something in the lines preceeding the first error is throwing

IDL off the track. Try deleting as much as possible from that part and see if the error changes. Put back statements until you have found the line that causes the error. I once had an errant '.' at the end of a variable name that led to errors much later in the file.

chl

Subject: Re: Compilation Error: Procedure header must appear first and only once
Posted by [Michael Galloy](#) on Wed, 29 Jun 2011 16:30:17 GMT

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On 6/29/11 8:38 AM, Maegereg wrote:

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> t_time=*(pState).pt_time

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These errors are usually indicative that you think you are calling a function, but IDL thinks you are indexing an array. I would use "compile_opt strictarr" at the beginning of each routine *and* only use

square brackets to index the array.

> I also checked the end statements for both of the files. I made a couple changes where it seemed like the wrong end had been used, but even now that the ends are completely correct, the errors persist. Another thing I did notice: eclipse is giving me errors of the form: "Type of end does not match statement" in the functions immediately before I start getting the procedure header errors. I've double checked these functions though, and the ends are correct. And I've also tried just blindly doing what the compiler says to make those bug reports go away (changing the ends to whatever it suggests, even if it's incorrect), but that didn't fix anything either.

I still think there is something screwed up there based on the "Procedure header must appear first and only once", Carsten's suggestion to remove a enough code for it to work and add back a little at a time is good.

Mike

--

Michael Galloy

www.michaelgalloy.com

Modern IDL, A Guide to Learning IDL: <http://modernidl.idldev.com>

Research Mathematician

Tech-X Corporation

Subject: Re: Compilation Error: Procedure header must appear first and onlyonce
Posted by [Maegereg](#) on Wed, 29 Jun 2011 17:21:40 GMT

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On 6/29/11 10:16AM, Carsten Lechte wrote:

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> see if the error changes. Put back statements until you have found the
> line that causes the erroo. I once had an errant '.' at the end of a
> variable name that led to errors much later in the file.

I moved both statements to the first line of their respective files, and they still yielded the same syntax errors. Same case for when they're the only thing in their respective procedures, and those procedures are first in the file.

Subject: Re: Compilation Error: Procedure header must appear first and onlyonce
Posted by [Maegereg](#) on Wed, 29 Jun 2011 19:11:40 GMT

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On 6/29/11 11:30 AM, Michael Galloy wrote:

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> function, but IDL thinks you are indexing an array. I would use
> "compile_opt strictarr" at the beginning of each routine *and* only use
> square brackets to index the array.

It works! All the compile errors disappeared when I added compile_opt strictarr to their functions. Thank you very much for your help. I would not have thought to try that in a thousand years.

Subject: Re: Compilation Error: Procedure header must appear first and onlyonce
Posted by [Michael Galloy](#) on Wed, 29 Jun 2011 21:39:32 GMT

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On 6/29/11 1:11 PM, Maegereg wrote:

> On 6/29/11 11:30 AM, Michael Galloy wrote:

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> It works! All the compile errors disappeared when I added compile_opt strictarr to their functions. Thank you very much for your help. I would not have thought to try that in a thousand years.

Glad that fixed it! Yes, errors of this type of problem can be very difficult to track down: "syntax error" doesn't give you much to go on. I use "compile_opt strictarr" always just so that I don't get stumped by this error every once in a while.

Mike

--

Michael Galloy

www.michaelgalloy.com

Modern IDL, A Guide to Learning IDL: <http://modernidl.idldev.com>

Research Mathematician

Tech-X Corporation

Subject: Re: Compilation Error: Procedure header must appear first and onlyonce
Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Thu, 30 Jun 2011 03:00:38 GMT

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Maegereg writes:

> It works! All the compile errors disappeared when I
> added compile_opt strictarr to their functions. Thank
> you very much for your help. I would not have thought

> to try that in a thousand years.

Your programs will work considerably better if you think to try that every time you write an IDL procedure or function. :-)

Cheers,

David

--

David Fanning, Ph.D.

Fanning Software Consulting, Inc.

Coyote's Guide to IDL Programming: <http://www.dfanning.com/>

Sepore ma de ni thue. ("Perhaps thos speakest truth.")

Subject: Re: Compilation Error: Procedure header must appear first and only once
Posted by [jaromnelson](#) on Mon, 20 Jun 2016 18:46:08 GMT

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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 Wednesday, June 29, 2011 at 7:38:43 AM UTC-7, Maegereg wrote:

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