

# Apple's MPW Compiler Messages

I found these lovely error messages and decided they were pretty funny so I put them in my list. Easter eggs or not they are fun to read and still express the humorous side of our Apple developers. Boris Klug tells me MPW means Macintosh Programmers Workshop and is a development system created by Apple. It is a collection of C and C++ development tools.

The below messages are from the 68k compiler. The newest one does not have the interesting messages. They can be found in the STR resource

New Strings sent to me by Anthony Cunningham (tjc@fma.com):

- "You can't modify a constant, float upstream, win an argument with the IRS, or satisfy this compiler"
- "This struct already has a perfectly good definition"
- "This onion already has a perfectly good definition"
- "Can't cast a void type to type void (because the ANSI spec. says so, that's why)"

These are the messages from my last version:

- "String literal too long (I let you have 512 characters, that's 3 more than ANSI said I should)"
- "...And the lord said, `lo, there shall only be case or default labels inside a switch statement"
- "a typedef name was a complete surprise to me at this point in your program"
- "'Volatile' and 'Register' are not miscible"
- "This struct already has a perfectly good definition"
- "Only one parameter per register please "
- "type in (cast) must be scalar; ANSI 3.3.4; page 39, lines 10-11 (I know you don't care, I'm just trying to annoy you)"
- "This array has no size, and that's bad"
- "Huh ?"
- "can't go mucking with a `void \*"
- "we already did this function"
- "The target of this goto is a label in a block that has an automatic variable with an initializer"
- "This label is the target of a goto from outside of the block containing this label AND this block has an automatic variable with an initializer AND your window wasn't wide enough to read this whole error message"
- "Call me paranoid but finding `/\*' inside this comment makes me suspicious"
- "This function has an explicit return type and deserves a return value"
- "You are comparing two structures that have holes in them"
- "Too many errors on one line (make fewer)"
- "Symbol table full - fatal heap error; please go buy a RAM upgrade from your local Apple dealer"
- "Trailing comma not permitted in enum definition. (This time I'm letting you off with a warning)"

...By Bruce Hault. Posted by Robert Lentz (lentz@rossi.astro.nwu.edu) on his web page: <http://www.astro.nwu.edu/lentz/mac/humor/mpw-c-errors.html>.