

Common MATLAB Publishing Issues

ISSUE 1: “The output file is not writable”

```
Follow the steps below for more information, click here.  
>> sample_script  
Error using publish (line 144)  
The output file "U:\Personal\MATLAB\sample_script.pdf" is not writable.  
  
Error in mdbpublish (line 55)  
outputPath = publish(file, options);  
  
Error using open (line 69)  
NAME must contain a single character vector.
```

This error means MATLAB is attempting to publish the code to an open file with the same name as the attempted publishing.

Solution:

As stated in the “How to Publish Scripts” document provided on Blackboard: Close any open PDFs or published code. Rerun publishing.

If the problem still occurs, investigate the folder to see if there’s something open in the background. Renaming or deleting the original PDF could be another solution.

ISSUE 2: “There is no application associated with the given file name extension”

```
Error using open (line 162)  
There is no application associated with the given file name extension.
```

This can happen when using Software Remote or a personal computer that does not have a PDF reader installed. MATLAB has completed the publishing command and is now attempting to open the newly-created file; however, MATLAB cannot find an application to open that file.

Solution:

Check the location where MATLAB stored the PDF (Publishing dialog box > Publish Settings > Output Folder). The PDF file is present because the error is not with the publish function.

Install a PDF reader on the computer or go to an ITaP computer to view the published PDF.

ISSUE 3: “[Error] FOUUserAgent – image not found. URI: <file path specific to your computer>”

This is a bug in MATLAB 2018a and newer and happens when trying to publish a file that contains plot images. It seems to happen if there is a space somewhere in the file path, but only for some users. The file still publishes but MATLAB is unable to locate the image files for the figures, so it produces an error and does not include the figures in the PDF. If you check your published file, you should see that the PDF exists but no images are inside.

Solution:

It may not be possible to fix this issue. Add a comment line in your code directly after the %% Formatted Figures section comment line. The comment should say
`% FOUUserAgent Error - images not found.`

ISSUE 4: “Not enough input arguments”

```
|  
Not enough input arguments.  
  
Error in Solution\_stats\_io (line 32)  
vrange = range(data_vector);    % range
```

This error means there is an attempt to publish a UDF that requires input arguments, but those arguments have not been defined in MATLAB prior to the function call within the Publish Options MATLAB Expression Window.

Solution:

As stated in the “How to Publish Functions” document provided on Blackboard:

- Be sure to define the inputs before the function call.
- Be sure use a correct function call.