Why does the Compile fail with 301 or 302 error?

From OpenDSSWiki

Question

When I load a file into a window, I can select the text and right-click and "Do Selected". That works. However, when I try to execute the Compile command on the file, it fails with a 301 or 302 error. It is complaining about a command in which the first character is a "y with two dots" followed by a bunch of junk. This is not in my file. What's going on?

Answer

The problem is that your file has been saved with *Unicode* encoding. The "y with two dots" is ANSI code for hex FF. The first two characters of the file are FF FE. That signifies the file has a certain style of Unicode encoding.

When you load the file into a window in OpenDSS, the procedure that loads the Richedit form automatically detects the Unicode and makes the conversion. Same with many text editors like EditPlus and probably NotePad++. Thus, things look OK until you examine them in a file dump program that will show you the actual bytes. However, the OpenDSS parser and command interpreter is looking for ANSI characters and doesn't understand what to do with the Unicode file. It thinks hex "FF FE" is an invalid command. Therefore, it issues the error message. When you select a block from the window and tell it to "do selected" the conversion automatically takes place.

There should be an option on your text editor to save the file with ANSI or ASCII encoding. If not, I'm sure there is a free converter somewhere on the internet.

Thanks for bringing this to our attention.

--Rdugan 20:32, 3 August 2012 (UTC)

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- This page was last modified on 3 August 2012, at 12:32.
- This page has been accessed 275 times.