

qStudio/PRQL Quick Start #3 - Practical Matters

You may encounter little problems with qStudio and PRQL. Here's how to work around them.

PRQL queries

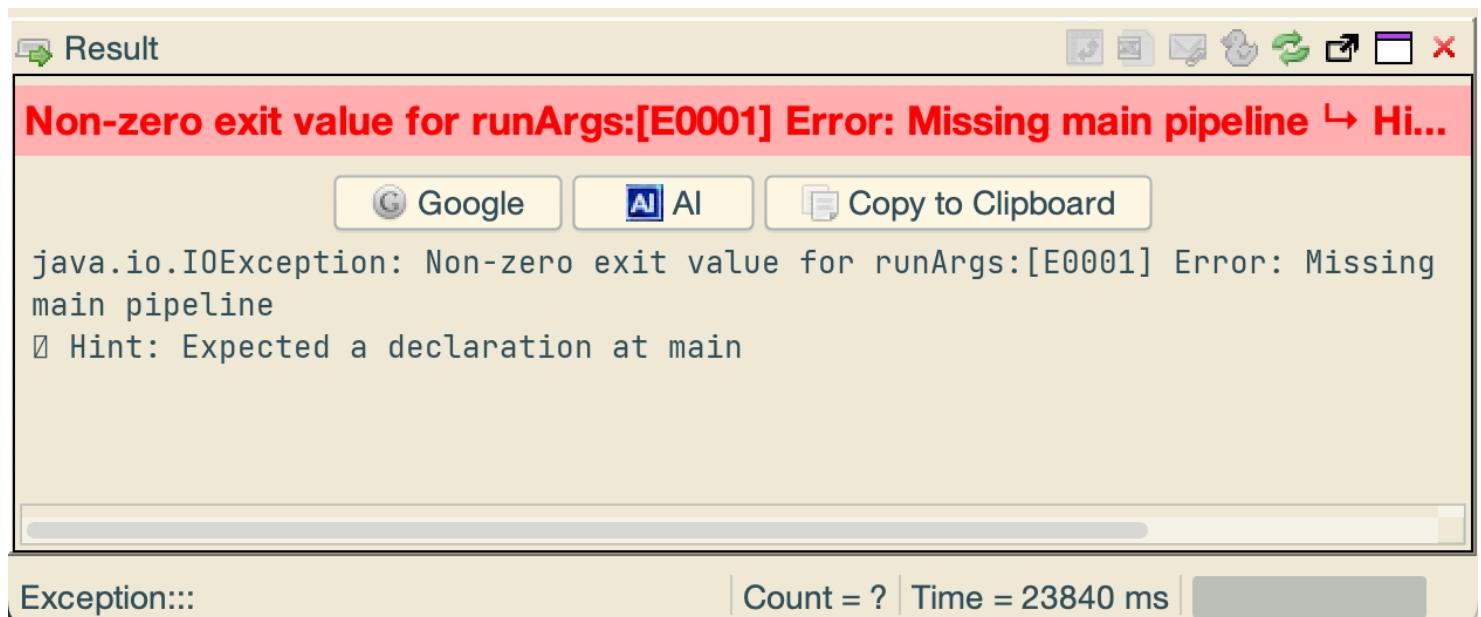
PRQL is a terrific language for writing queries. When the query is correct, it works great.

But its diagnostic messages are often arcane. When things aren't correct, it displays the error in a "red bar", and displays details below. Here are some common error indications you'll encounter and what to do about them:

Missing main pipeline

The screen shot below shows `[E00001] Error: Missing main pipeline` in the bottom half of the window.

This is most likely caused by trying to execute an empty query or a commented-out line. Click somewhere in the query window (to un-select) and re-execute.



Unknown name

PRQL is case-sensitive and cares about spelling. The error message (in the image below)

Unknown name 'EF_MuniEasemen' shows that the column name wasn't recognized because it was misspelled. Similarly, if it had been typed in lower-case as `ef_munieasement` it also would have given the "Unknown name" error. To correct the error, simply fix the typo and re-execute.

The screenshot shows the qStudio IDE interface. The title bar indicates the file is `qStudio.prql #\Users\richb\github\TaxFairness\Property_In_Lyme.sqlite - richb.h...`. The left sidebar contains a 'Server Tree' and a 'File Tree'. The main editor window displays a SQL query in `CleanScrapedDataView.prql`:

```
1 from EasementsFrontage
2 select {
3     EF_Map, EF_Lot, EF_Unit,
4     EF_Street_Address,
5     EF_MuniEasement,
6 }
7 filter (EF_MuniEasemen != "")
8 # sort { difference }
9
```

The 'Result' pane at the bottom shows a red error message: **Non-zero exit value for runArgs:Error: [[:7:9] | 7 | filter (EF_...**. Below the message are buttons for 'Google', 'AI', and 'Copy to Clipboard'. The error details are as follows:

```
java.io.IOException: Non-zero exit value for runArgs:Error:
[:7:9]
7 filter (EF_MuniEasemen != "")
      |
      |
      | Unknown name `EF_MuniEasemen`
```

Unknown name (reason #2)

Correcting line 7 above (adding back the "t") but changing the query in line 5 (within the `select`) to `EF_MuniEasemen` also gives an "Unknown name" error. (Try it.)

But qStudio still reports it on line 7. The reason is a bit subtle: the `select` transform passes along the named columns, including one named `EF_MuniEasemen` (without the "t"). Yet the `filter` transform is

looking at the column name that has a "t", and so it gives the "Unknown name" error. To correct the error, simply fix the typo and re-execute.

Column heading in "..."

Note: neither qStudio nor PRQL have any idea of the actual column names in the database. You must type them correctly in the query. If a column name is consistently misspelled (for example, both lines have `EF_MuniEasemen`), qStudio will dutifully create and execute the query.

When the response returns, the database simply substitutes the misspelling for the column name and the contents of the column. In the screen shot below, notice:

- the column heading has its name in quotes (`"EF_MuniEasemen"`), an indication that there's no such column name in the table
- the column contains the string `EF_MuniEasemen` for all its rows.

To correct the error, simply fix the typo(s) and re-execute.

qStudio.prql #\Users\richb\github\TaxFairness\Property_In_Lyme.sqlite - richb.hanover+qstu...

Server Tree

- Servers
 - \Users\richb\github\TaxFair

Documents

< CleanScrapedDataView.prql qStudio.prql x >

```
1 from EasementsFrontage
2 select {
3     EF_Map, EF_Lot, EF_Unit,
4     EF_Street_Address,
5     EF_MuniEasemen,
6 }
7 filter (EF_MuniEasemen != "")
8 # sort { difference }
9
```

Result

	EF_Map	EF_Lot	EF_Unit	EF_Street_Address	"EF_MuniEasemen"
2	201	1		58 DORCHESTER RD	EF_MuniEasemen
3	201	2			EF_MuniEasemen
4	201	3			EF_MuniEasemen
5	201	4		42 DORCHESTER RD	EF_MuniEasemen

5 columns | Count = 1307 | Time = 63 ms

Result window workarounds

The Result window displays table contents and the results of a query. Sometimes qStudio doesn't act quite as expected.

Some columns are too wide in Result window

Drag the separator between columns to adjust their width.

Result window doesn't always show a table

If you click a table name at the top left, the Result pane (bottom of the window) shows the first 1,000 rows of that table. When you execute a query, the Result pane shows the results (as it should).

But if you then click a table name again, the Result pane does not change. To work around it, click a *different*

table name, then the one you want. The Result pane changes to the desired table.

Result window only shows top 1,000 rows of a table.

When you click a table name, the Result window shows the first 1000 rows. There doesn't seem to be a way to see more rows, or the next 1000 rows. To work around this, execute the query `from <table-name>` : then all rows appear.

Result window doesn't pop out.

Sometimes, clicking the "pop-out" icon of the Result window (black rectangle with arrow - see the screen shots above) causes it to become a separate window. Sometimes it doesn't. I don't know why.