

## **Standards for Header File Usage**

As discussed and documented in issue 43, the components of the new standard are:

- We will group related functions into what we'll call "bags", using a new name rather than reusing another term and risk confusion
- A bag will consist of 2 source files: a header (.h) file and a .cpp file
- the header bag file has a header section for each function
- the .cpp bag file has a code section for each function
- header files or sub-sections can include:
  - syntax declarations for function calls within the associated cpp file or bag (FOB) that are used by other FOBs
  - syntax definitions for classes & templates
  - inline function definitions
- header files or sub-sections can not include:
  - non-inline function definitions
  - any variable definitions (they go in `global_variables.cpp`)
  - aggregate definitions
  - unnamed namespaces
  - using directives
  - included .cpp files
  - other included header files
  - OOP constructor or method calls
- Our code has only one compiled module, `main.cpp` (with a bunch of embedded include files) so we don't need to use `extern`. Libraries are a separate issue.
- We can and should put include guards in our header files. They shouldn't be needed for files in the `src` and `include` folders due to the way `main.cpp` includes `main.h`, and `main.h` includes all other header files. Each header file gets processed exactly once. No file other than `main.h` should include any other header file. However, files in the `/lib` folder don't follow these conventions, and include header files that include header files. Thus, include guards are mandatory in all header files.

## Implications:

1. Where do non-const global variables go?  
- In the new include file `global_variables.cpp`. ( const global variables go here too.)
2. Do we need to be careful to arrange functions so they appear before all code that calls them?  
- No, there will be a syntax definition in their header file or in `global_variables.cpp`, and that header file will be seen by the compiler before any code that calls the function
3. What stuff appears in what order in `main.cpp`?
  - `include <main.h>` // do all .h files before any code files
  - OOP constructor / instantiation calls // after libraries, but before function code
  - includes for our function code files and bags // externalized .cpp files that we wrote
  - functions we wrote that in `main.cpp` and aren't externalized
  - standard functions `setup()` and `loop()`
4. What appears in `main.h`?
  - `Include <Arduino.h>` // following sections depend on symbols defined here
  - `include <our-libraries>` // libraries that we've modified, like `aaWeb.h`
  - `include <external-libraries>` // such as `Wire.h`, `Adafruit...`
  - Includes for other .h files from our bags // i.e. `known_networks.h`, `flows.h` ...
  - `include global_variables.cpp` // made available to all cpp files for linter
  - syntax definitions for functions in `main.cpp` that are referenced elsewhere, notably `tracer(...)`
5. What appears in other .h files?
  - `Include <main.h>` // so linter can see all prefix files for each edited cpp file
  - syntax declaration for functions in associated .cpp file
  - global variables should go in `global_variables.cpp`
6. What appears in `global_variables.cpp`?
  - Global variable declarations and definitions, including those that are const.
  - Global macro definitions (`#define`)



