

MCR10173

Fix misc\$print_misc to not get out_of_bounds exception when
miscfile is empty

Revision 1.0

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1 Problem Description

Ticket <https://multics-trac.swenson.org/ticket/407> describes a problem where the misc\$print_misc (or master.ec "misc" command) gets an out_of_bounds exception if the miscfile is empty.

This occurs because the print_misc entry doesn't check to see if there are any items in the miscfile before trying to access them (actually, before trying to access the first entry).

2 Proposed Fix

The proposed fix is to simply check the number of entries in the header after initiating the segment, and aborting with an error message if there are none.

```
cpa [lpn misc.pl1] ==
```

Inserted in B:

```
B32      dcl ME char (4) internal static options (constant) initial ("misc");
```

```
B33
```

Preceding:

```
A32      dcl (null, addr, rel, bin, fixed, dec, round, substr, verify, search) builtin;
```

```
A69      er:          call com_err_ (ec, "misc", en);
```

Changed by B to:

```
B71      er:          call com_err_ (ec, ME, en);
```

Inserted in B:

```
B127      if misc_ents = 0 then do;
```

```
B128          call com_err_ (0, ME, "miscfile is empty.");
```

```
B129          goto CLEANUP;
```

```
B130      end;
```

```
B131
Preceding:
A125      mainp:    call ask_$ask_clr;

Inserted in B:
B183      CLEANUP:
Preceding:
A176              call hcs_$terminate_noname (miscfilep, ec);

Comparison finished: 4 differences, 10 lines.
```

3 Documentation

No changes to the documentation are required as none of this is documented now.

4 Test

The updated misc program was tested on GHM with an empty and non-empty miscfile.

5 Version History

2026-09-07	1.0	Initial version of the MCR.
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