

How to Change the Apache Error Messages

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You can change the Apache error messages for a single app by adding `ErrorDocument` directives to the app's `.htaccess` file. For example, any of these formats work:

```
ErrorDocument 403 "Sorry, access to this page is forbidden."  
ErrorDocument 500 http://example.com/server_error.html  
ErrorDocument 503 /errors/service_unavailable.html  
The format that uses an http or https URL will redirect the browser to the specified page.
```

To change the error pages globally, log in as root and create the following file:

```
/etc/apache-sp/conf.d/errors.conf  
In that file, include this content:
```

```
ErrorDocument 403 "Sorry, access to this page is forbidden."  
ErrorDocument 500 http://example.com/server_error.html  
ErrorDocument 503 "Service Unavailable"  
Then, restart Apache by running the following command as root:
```

```
sudo service apache-sp restart  
Note that you should not use the path to a file when configuring this globally.
```

Changing 404 Error Messages

You can change the messages Apache sends for 404 errors by entering the following line in your app's `.htaccess` file:

```
ErrorDocument 404 /404.php  
This format assumes you have a file called 404.php in your app's public directory.
```

However, this `ErrorDocument` directive will not catch 404 errors for requests that end in `.php` themselves. For example, a request for `/this-does-not-exist.php` will not be handled by the `ErrorDocument` directive because the request ends in `.php`.

To handle 404 errors for requests that end in `.php`, you should use rewrite rules that direct those requests to a specific PHP script, which will then send a 404 response.

To show a custom 404 page (using a file named `404.php`, for example) when a requested script doesn't exist, add the following to your app's `.htaccess` file:

```
RewriteRule ^404\.php$ - [L]  
RewriteCond %{REQUEST_FILENAME} !-f  
RewriteCond %{REQUEST_FILENAME} !-d  
RewriteRule . /404.php [L]  
Then, in that 404.php script, you would have something like this:
```

```
<?php  
header("HTTP/1.0 404 Not Found");  
// generate the HTML of the response here  
?>
```

Ref:
<https://serverpilot.io/docs/how-to-change-the-apache-error-messages/>

Posted by: **Saeed Nobakht** - Fri, Feb 25, 2022 at 11:49 AM. This article has been viewed 562 times.

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