

# PHP error reporting

## Error levels

name	value	description	example 1	example 2
E_ERROR	1	Fatal run-time errors	notdefined();	
E_WARNING	2	Run-time warnings	1 / 0;	E_PARSE 4 Compile-time parse errors
E_NOTICE	8	Run-time notices	print \$i_am_not_defined;	E_CORE_* varies generated by PHP core
E_USER_*		varies generated by <a href="#">trigger_error</a>		E_ALL 2047 Everything

## Custom Error Handler

It can only catch E\_WARNING, E\_PARSE, E\_USER\_ERROR, E\_USER\_WARNING and E\_USER\_NOTICE. If something else happens, PHP's default error handler takes place.

```
functional my_error_handler($errno, $error, $file, $line) { ... handle the error ...}
```

```
set_error_handler('my_error_handler');
```

## Apache

In Apache, you can customize how it responds to a particular HTTP status code. It can show a message or load a specific page. e.g. (from Apache's doc)

```
ErrorDocument 500 /cgi-bin/crash-recoverErrorDocument 500 "Sorry, our script crashed. Oh dearErr  
http: //xxx/  
ErrorDocument 404 /Lame_excuses/not_found.htmlErrorDocument 401 /Subscription/how_to_subscribe.h
```

However, when executed as an Apache module PHP returns a HTTP status code of 200 (OK) even if there is an compile or run-time error. (Not sure if it's a bug or a feature, since this behavior is not mentioned anywhere else.) Therefore, one cannot use Apache's custom error capability for PHP errors.

Instead, either use a custom error handler (see above) or have PHP wrap the message inside some specific HTML code (see below).

# Pretty-printing Error Messages

Config keys `error_prepend_string` and `error_append_string` are used to determine the HTML code that prepends or appends an error message.

e.g. To display each error message inside a box, put these in `php.ini`:

```
; String to output before an error message.error_prepend_string = "<fieldset>An error has occurred  
admin@yourname.com  
\">administrator</a> with the following error message: <br>"; String to output after an error me
```

To make the change effective to a directory instead of system-wide, put these in `.htaccess`:

```
php_value error_prepend_string "(... starting tags ...)"php_value error_append_string "(... ending tags ...)"
```

**Note:** Because any compile-time error stops the compilation, there will be at most one box.

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