Logging and using the context information

Sometimes a log message is not enough to fix an error. For example, if you are following best practices and developing and testing an application with all possible errors reported, you can get an error message. However, without the execution context, it is only telling you that there was an error and it is not clear what actually caused it.

For our example, we will use a very simple and poorly coded action that just echoes Hello, <username>! where the username is taken directly from $\_get.

Getting ready

Create a new yii2 -app-basic application by using the Composer package manager, as described in the official guide at [http://www.viiframework.com/doc-2.0/gurdestart-installation.html](http://www.yiiframework.com/doc-2.0/guidestart-installation.html).

How to do it...

Carry out the following steps:

1. First, we will need a controller to work with. Therefore, create protected/controllers/LogController . php as follows:

<?php

namespace app\controllers;

use yii\web\Controller;

class LogController extends Controller {

public function actionIndex()

{

return 'Hello, ' . $\_GET['username'];

}

}

2. Now, if we run the index action, we will get the error message, Undefined index: username. Let’s configure the logger to write this kind of error to a file:

config/web.php:

'components'=>array(

'log' => [

'targets' => [

[

'class' => 'yii\log\FileTarget',

'levels' => ['error'],

'logFile' => '@runtime/logs/errors.log',

],

],

],

],

3. Run the index action again and check runtime/logs/errors. log. There should be log information