

# Package errors

go1.15.2 Latest

Published: **Sep 9, 2020** | License: [BSD-3-Clause](#) | [Standard library](#)[Doc](#) [Overview](#) [Subdirectories](#) [Versions](#) [Imports](#) [Imported By](#) [Licenses](#)

## Overview

Package errors implements functions to manipulate errors.

The `New` function creates errors whose only content is a text message.

The `Unwrap`, `Is` and `As` functions work on errors that may wrap other errors. An error wraps another error if its type has the method

```
Unwrap() error
```

If `e.Unwrap()` returns a non-nil error `w`, then we say that `e` wraps `w`.

`Unwrap` unpacks wrapped errors. If its argument's type has an `Unwrap` method, it calls the method once. Otherwise, it returns `nil`.

A simple way to create wrapped errors is to call `fmt.Errorf` and apply the `%w` verb to the error argument:

```
errors.Unwrap(fmt.Errorf("... %w ...", ..., err, ...))
```

returns `err`.

`Is` unwraps its first argument sequentially looking for an error that matches the second. It reports whether it finds a match. It should be used in preference to simple equality checks:

```
if errors.Is(err, os.ErrExist)
```

is preferable to

```
if err == os.ErrExist
```

because the former will succeed if `err` wraps `os.ErrExist`.

`As` unwraps its first argument sequentially looking for an error that can be assigned to its second argument, which must be a pointer. If it succeeds, it performs the assignment and returns `true`. Otherwise, it returns `false`. The form

```
var perr *os.PathError
if errors.As(err, &perr) {
    fmt.Println(perr.Path)
}
```

is preferable to

```
if perr, ok := err.(*os.PathError); ok {
    fmt.Println(perr.Path)
}
```

because the former will succeed if `err` wraps an `*os.PathError`.

## func As

```
func As(err error, target interface{}) bool
```

`As` finds the first error in `err`'s chain that matches `target`, and if so, sets `target` to that error value and returns `true`. Otherwise, it returns `false`.

The chain consists of `err` itself followed by the sequence of errors obtained by repeatedly calling `Unwrap`.

An error matches `target` if the error's concrete value is assignable to the value pointed to by `target`, or if the error has a method `As(interface{}) bool` such that `As(target)` returns `true`. In the latter case, the `As` method is responsible for setting `target`.

An error type might provide an `As` method so it can be treated as if it were a different error type.

`As` panics if `target` is not a non-nil pointer to either a type that implements `error`, or to any interface type.

## func Is

```
func Is(err, target error) bool
```

`Is` reports whether any error in `err`'s chain matches `target`.

The chain consists of `err` itself followed by the sequence of errors obtained by repeatedly calling `Unwrap`.

An error is considered to match a target if it is equal to that target or if it implements a method `Is(error) bool` such that `Is(target)` returns `true`.

An error type might provide an `Is` method so it can be treated as equivalent to an existing error. For example, if `MyError` defines

```
func (m MyError) Is(target error) bool { return target == os.ErrExist }
```

then `Is(MyError{}, os.ErrExist)` returns `true`. See `syscall.Errno.Is` for an example in the standard library.

## func New

```
func New(text string) error
```

`New` returns an error that formats as the given text. Each call to `New` returns a distinct error value even if the text is identical.

## func Unwrap

```
func Unwrap(err error) error
```

`Unwrap` returns the result of calling the `Unwrap` method on `err`, if `err`'s type contains an `Unwrap` method returning error. Otherwise, `Unwrap` returns `nil`.