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## browscap ini directive not set

I'm using the `get_browser()` function in an attempt to warn people that their browser doesn't support Javascript. Actually I'm using it to tell them they can use certain parts of a web application I'm building. I've decided to properly use Javascript because I'm tired of listening to developers that are scared of using it and I've seen some great potential in the language. I digress, here is the error.

browscap ini directive not set

Now I'd imagine this means I need something set in the `php.ini`. Can someone give me some direction on this one?

[php](#) [javascript](#) [ini](#) [browscap](#)

edited Jan 10 '10 at 12:58



Gordon

238k 56 430 484

asked Jan 10 '10 at 12:15



Robert Hurst

4,849 4 29 58

- 1 The browscap feature will tell you if the browser supports Javascript, but not if they disabled it. You need to tell them another way. – [Fabien Ménager](#) Jan 10 '10 at 12:20

This may be the solution you are looking for : [stackoverflow.com/questions/121203/...](https://stackoverflow.com/questions/121203/...) – [Fabien Ménager](#) Jan 10 '10 at 12:21

Oh man... people **disable** javascript (even with extensions like "NoScript"). It's not about browser support, and besides, using Javascript for core features will mean many users with accessibility issues won't be able to use your website. DO NOT rely on user agent sniffing and also read on progressive enhancement. – [Camilo Martin](#) Dec 26 '13 at 21:37

4 Answers

I don't think this is the "best" solution to detect if a browser supports what you need for your website :

- first of all, browsers can lie -- they can send whatever they want as `User-Agent`
  - And even if a given version of a support should support what you need, Javascript can still be disabled.
- second, there are more "proper" way to detect what a browser can do or not, when it comes to Javascript.

For the second point, you should test if the browser actually supports what you need -- and not rely on a list such as the browscap one.

Still, to answer your question about [browscap](#) : there is a note at the bottom of the manual page for [get\\_browser](#) that says (*quoting*) :

**Note:** In order for this to work, your [browscap](#) configuration setting in `php.ini` must point to the correct location of the `browscap.ini` file on your system. `browscap.ini` is not bundled with PHP, but you may find an up-to-date » [php\\_browscap.ini](#) file here. While `browscap.ini` contains information on many browsers, it relies on user updates to keep the database current. The format of the file is fairly self-explanatory.

So, you have to :

- download the browscap file,
- and set the `browscap` directive in your `php.ini` file, so it points to the file you downloaded.

edited Oct 24 '15 at 11:36



Zuul

13.9k 6 41 74

answered Jan 10 '10 at 12:20



Pascal MARTIN

303k 53 548 591

2 And if i cannot access my `php.ini` file, for example I'm on a webhost? How can i set browsercap location using `ini_set()`? – [MakuraYami](#) Jun 5 '12 at 10:05

3 browscap is flagged as `PHP_INI_SYSTEM` so it cannot be changed using `ini_set` or through `htaccess`. – [Beniston](#) Jun 8 '12 at 10:59

Can you please explain the best method to detect browsers? Any pointer is appreciated . . . – [palerdot](#) Sep 26 '12 at 14:06

To use Browscap in a situation where you don't have access to `php.ini`, you can use [phpbrowscap](#). Note that the browscap project is currently closed, but is being resurrected. – [Synchro](#) Nov 16 '12 at 8:11

@arundex It's more reliable to use feature detection than it is to check what browser it is. [stackoverflow.com/questions/1294586/...](#) – [Kevin Beal](#) Jan 8 '13 at 17:28

I know this topic is old, but you can use something like:

```
<noscript>JavaScript must be enabled</noscript>
```

to display if JavaScript is not enabled.

answered Feb 13 '13 at 18:57



Jeremy Harris

161 1 3

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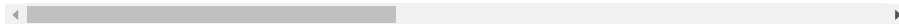
I have no idea about that, thanks – [Shiva Avula](#) Oct 6 '13 at 12:30

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You can check the browser by using Browser class download it from [Github](#)

### Configuration

```
include(/your-path/Browser.php);
$browser = new Browser();
if( $browser->getBrowser() == Browser::BROWSER_IE && $browser->getVersion() >=
8 )
{
    echo "Your browser is Internet explorer version 8";
}
```



edited Mar 4 '15 at 5:46

answered Mar 2 '15 at 6:54



Manju

645 3 10 21

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There is a bug in PHP that can also result in this error when the real problem is that the web server can't read the browscap file (e.g., if it's owned by root instead of www-data). See <https://bugs.php.net/bug.php?id=74501>

answered Apr 27 at 14:48



David Patterson

423 4 18