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* Error Handling

classic layout

Error Handling[**¶**](#30j0zll)

CodeIgniter lets you build error reporting into your applications using the functions described below. In addition, it has an error logging class that permits error and debugging messages to be saved as text files.

Note

By default, CodeIgniter displays all PHP errors. You might wish to change this behavior once your development is complete. You’ll find the error\_reporting() function located at the top of your main index.php file. Disabling error reporting will NOT prevent log files from being written if there are errors.

Unlike most systems in CodeIgniter, the error functions are simple procedural interfaces that are available globally throughout the application. This approach permits error messages to get triggered without having to worry about class/function scoping.

CodeIgniter also returns a status code whenever a portion of the core calls exit(). This exit status code is separate from the HTTP status code, and serves as a notice to other processes that may be watching of whether the script completed successfully, or if not, what kind of problem it encountered that caused it to abort. These values are defined in *application/config/constants.php*. While exit status codes are most useful in CLI settings, returning the proper code helps server software keep track of your scripts and the health of your application.

The following functions let you generate errors:

show\_error(*$message*, *$status\_code*, *$heading = 'An Error Was Encountered'*)[¶](#1fob9te)

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Parameters: | * **$message** (*mixed*) – Error message * **$status\_code** (*int*) – HTTP Response status code * **$heading** (*string*) – Error page heading |
| Return type: | void |

This function will display the error message supplied to it using the error template appropriate to your execution:

application/views/errors/html/error\_general.php

or:

application/views/errors/cli/error\_general.php

The optional parameter $status\_code determines what HTTP status code should be sent with the error. If $status\_code is less than 100, the HTTP status code will be set to 500, and the exit status code will be set to $status\_code + EXIT\_\_AUTO\_MIN. If that value is larger than EXIT\_\_AUTO\_MAX, or if $status\_code is 100 or higher, the exit status code will be set to EXIT\_ERROR. You can check in *application/config/constants.php* for more detail.

show\_404(*$page = ''*, *$log\_error = TRUE*)[¶](#3znysh7)

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Parameters: | * **$page** (*string*) – URI string * **$log\_error** (*bool*) – Whether to log the error |
| Return type: | void |

This function will display the 404 error message supplied to it using the error template appropriate to your execution:

application/views/errors/html/error\_404.php

or:

application/views/errors/cli/error\_404.php

The function expects the string passed to it to be the file path to the page that isn’t found. The exit status code will be set to EXIT\_UNKNOWN\_FILE. Note that CodeIgniter automatically shows 404 messages if controllers are not found.

CodeIgniter automatically logs any show\_404() calls. Setting the optional second parameter to FALSE will skip logging.

log\_message(*$level*, *$message*)[¶](#2et92p0)

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Parameters: | * **$level** (*string*) – Log level: ‘error’, ‘debug’ or ‘info’ * **$message** (*string*) – Message to log |
| Return type: | void |

This function lets you write messages to your log files. You must supply one of three “levels” in the first parameter, indicating what type of message it is (debug, error, info), with the message itself in the second parameter.

Example:

if ($some\_var == '')  
{  
 log\_message('error', 'Some variable did not contain a value.');  
}  
else  
{  
 log\_message('debug', 'Some variable was correctly set');  
}  
  
log\_message('info', 'The purpose of some variable is to provide some value.');

There are three message types:

1. Error Messages. These are actual errors, such as PHP errors or user errors.
2. Debug Messages. These are messages that assist in debugging. For example, if a class has been initialized, you could log this as debugging info.
3. Informational Messages. These are the lowest priority messages, simply giving information regarding some process.

Note

In order for the log file to actually be written, the *logs/* directory must be writable. In addition, you must set the “threshold” for logging in *application/config/config.php*. You might, for example, only want error messages to be logged, and not the other two types. If you set it to zero logging will be disabled.

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