652

I generally subscribe to the following convention:

* **Trace** - Only when I would be "tracing" the code and trying to find one **part** of a function specifically.
* **Debug** - Information that is diagnostically helpful to people more than just developers (IT, sysadmins, etc.).
* **Info** - Generally useful information to log (service start/stop, configuration assumptions, etc). Info I want to always have available but usually don't care about under normal circumstances. This is my out-of-the-box config level.
* **Warn** - Anything that can potentially cause application oddities, but for which I am automatically recovering. (Such as switching from a primary to backup server, retrying an operation, missing secondary data, etc.)
* **Error** - Any error which is fatal to the **operation**, but not the service or application (can't open a required file, missing data, etc.). These errors will force user (administrator, or direct user) intervention. These are usually reserved (in my apps) for incorrect connection strings, missing services, etc.
* **Fatal** - Any error that is forcing a shutdown of the service or application to prevent data loss (or further data loss). I reserve these only for the most heinous errors and situations where there is guaranteed to have been data corruption or loss.