

# PHP: Creating on-the-fly 'broken' images

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## PHP: Creating on-the-fly 'broken' images

"PHP is not limited to creating just HTML output. It can also be used to create and manipulate image files in a variety of different image formats, including gif, png, jpg, wbmp, and xpm. Even more convenient, PHP can output image streams directly to a browser." -- *PHP.net*

This is a handy script for displaying an image place-holder in your web pages where an image is missing or something goes awry. The script returns a JPEG image at a specific width and height, containing a red box and 'X'. With a bit of work you could change this to display just about anything.

```
<?PHP
# check and limit input values to prevent abuse
if(!$width = min(640, abs(intval($width)))) $width = 240;
if(!$height = min(480, abs(intval($height)))) $height = 160;

# create image
$img = @imagecreate($width, $height) or die("Cannot Initialize new GD image stream");

# define background colour (white)
$background_color = imagecolorallocate($img, 255, 255, 255);

# define line colour (red)
$line_color = imagecolorallocate($img, 255, 0, 0);

# draw box and lines
imagerectangle($img, 0, 0, $width-1, $height-1, $line_color);
imageline($img, 0, 0, $width, $height, $line_color);
imageline($img, $width, 0, 0, $height, $line_color);

# display the image and free memory
Header("Content-type: image/jpeg");
imagejpeg($img);
imagedestroy($img);
?>
```

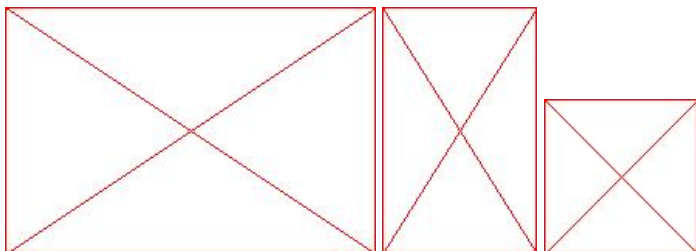
The above code needs to be saved in it's own file which can be called, for example, `errorimg.php`. The method for displaying a 'broken' image on your page is then:

```
<IMG src="errorimg.php">
```

which will create an image using the default width and height; or you can set the width and/or height value yourself:

```
<IMG src="errorimg.php?width=100">
<IMG src="errorimg.php?width=100&height=100">
```

What does the result look like for the examples above?



Note: You will need to compile PHP with the [GD Graphics Library](http://www.boutell.com/gd/) for this to work.

## References

- PHP: Image Functions [<http://www.php.net/manual/en/ref.image.php>]