

Web Server Error Messages

Errors on the Internet, and those annoying error messages, occur quite frequently - and can be quite frustrating, especially if you do not know the difference between a 404 error and a 502 error. Many times they have more to do with the Web servers you're trying to access rather than something being wrong with your computer. Here is a list of error messages you might encounter while surfing the Web and their respective meanings to help you figure out just what the problem is.

400 Bad File Request

Usually means the syntax used in the URL is incorrect (e.g., uppercase letter should be lowercase letter; wrong punctuation marks).

401 Unauthorized

Server is looking for some encryption key from the client and is not getting it. Also, wrong password may have been entered. Try it again, paying close attention to case sensitivity.

403 Forbidden/Access Denied

Similar to 401; special permission needed to access the site -- a password and/or username if it is a registration issue. Other times you may not have the proper permissions set up on the server or the site's administrator just doesn't want you to be able to access the site.

404 File Not Found

Server cannot find the file you requested. File has either been moved or deleted, or you entered the wrong URL or document name. Look at the URL. If a word looks misspelled, then correct it and try it again. If that doesn't work backtrack by deleting information between each backslash, until you come to a page on that site that isn't a 404. From there you may be able to find the page you're looking for.

408 Request Timeout

Client stopped the request before the server finished retrieving it. A user will either hit the stop button, close the browser, or click on a link before the page loads. Usually occurs when servers are slow or file sizes are large.

500 Internal Error

Couldn't retrieve the HTML document because of server-configuration problems. Contact site administrator.

501 Not Implemented

Web server doesn't support a requested feature.

502 Service Temporarily Overloaded

Server congestion; too many connections; high traffic. Keep trying until the page loads.

503 Service Unavailable

Server busy, site may have moved, or you lost your dial-up Internet connection.

Connection Refused by Host

Either you do not have permission to access the site or your password is incorrect.

File Contains No Data

Page is there but is not showing anything. Error occurs in the document. Attributed to bad table formatting, or stripped header information.

Bad File Request

Browser may not support the form or other coding you're trying to access.

Failed DNS Lookup

The Domain Name Server can't translate your domain request into a valid Internet address. Server may be busy or down, or incorrect URL was entered.

Host Unavailable

Host server down. Hit reload or go to the site later.

Unable to Locate Host

Host server is down, Internet connection is lost, or URL typed incorrectly.

Network Connection Refused by the Server

The Web server is busy.

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