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Error messages

The wiki contains a number of system error messages. These messages can be customized to your needs.

For example, if a wiki has a lot of visitors with anonymous read-access only, these visitors get a permissions error when they try to access a page that does not exist:

Permission error

You do not have permission to edit this page, for the following reason:

The action you have requested is limited to users in one of the groups: **Administrators**, **Editors**, **Reviewers**.

Default permission error message

This creates the impression that a page with that name exists, but the visitor does not have sufficient rights to view the page. In reality, the page simply does not exist and a user with write-permissions could now log in and create the page.

Therefore, we want to distinguish between anonymous visitors and users with write-access and show a tailored error message.

Creating a custom 404 error page

If a page does not exist yet, you can display a custom message.

To create the message:

1. Create the page *MediaWiki:Noarticletext-nopermission*
2. Add your custom message in edit mode.
3. Save the page.
4. To test the message, try to access a page that does not exist. Make sure you are not logged in, because this message is displayed to anonymous users only.

How to update an error message

The text for the error pages on the wiki is stored in the form of system notifications. You can access these error messages from the page `Special:AllMessages`.

To find the message or the messages that are being used on a particular error page, add `?uselang=qqx` or, if the url already contains a question mark, `&uselang=qqx` to the page url. This will expose the actual sources for the error messages on the page:

(permissionserrors)

→ (permissionerrorstext-withaction: 1, (action-edit))

→ (badaccess-groups: (group-sysop)(comma-separator)(group-editor)(comma-separator)(group-reviewer), 3)

Show system messages

In the above example, there are two error messages on the page:

- *permissionerrorstext-withaction*: displays the text "You do not have permission to edit this page, for the following reason"
- *badaccess-groups*: displays the text "The action you have requested is limited to users in one of the groups: Administrators, Editors, Reviewers."

These pages do not actually exist, and therefore the standard text message from the database is displayed. If you want to change a message, you must first create the page.

To update a system message:

1. Go to the special page "System messages" ([Special:AllMessages](#))

2.

Filter

→ Filter by prefix:

Filter by customization state: ☐ Unmodified ☒ All ☐ Modified

Language:

Items per page:

Go

| Name | Default message text |
|--|---|
| permissionerrorstext-withaction (talk) (Translate) | <div>Current message text</div> <div>You do not have permission to \$2, for the following {{PLURAL: \$1 reason reasons}}.</div> |

Customize the message text

Enter the full name of the system message in the "Prefix" field of the filter: The link to the system message appears in red.

3. Click on the name to create a page for this system message
4. Enter your custom error message and save the page. The system message has now been customized.
5. Continue to update any other system messages on the page.

Note: Many of these messages use parameters (e.g., "\$1"), which should be considered when you change the default text. If something went wrong, you can also delete the custom error pages you created - then the default text from the database will be used again.

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Related info

- <https://www.mediawiki.org/wiki/Manual:Interface/Noarticletext>