



The following works where your server accepts ".htaccess" files. YAHOO Web Hosting DOES NOT! Their stupidity in denying the ability to modify server settings is unfortunate. Verify your server allows this file.

Creating custom error pages is more important than most people give any thought to.

First, they keep people on your website. If the default server error pages are merely used, your visitors are already gone out of your site when they reach the error page.

This costs you visitors...a bad thing.

Second, if a search engine encounters a bad link or a non-existent page link, **it will dead end the search bots at the default server error page. A very bad thing!**

Third, the extra time it takes to do this once and do it right, shows visitors that you do really care about their user experience at your site.

These instructions are the easiest way to do this... but you are free to be creative. Just be certain to TEST everything in both Internet Explorer & Firefox at a minimum to make sure they work!

1. Clone one of your existing pages. This will keep the CSS and other time-consuming goodies you've included intact. Name the new page:

"error400.html", with a page Title: "Error 400: Request Not Understood By Server"

2. Delete the center content from the new page. Allow for a 415x144 HTML container. You'll need this space to work in.

Now create a container (HTML Box) with dimensions of:

Width 415 pixels Height 144 pixels Name the container: error_text_typer

(Place container towards the top and in the center of the page. This assures visibility on initial page loads if visitors encounter these errors).

3. Now copy and paste the code from my **2nd text file** into the HTML container in the page.
4. Now clone the NEW page 4 more times. Change their page names to:

"error401.html" with page Title of: "Error 401: Authorization Required"

"error403.html" with page Title of: "Error 403: Public Access Not Allowed"

"error404.html" with page Title of: "Error 404: Page Cannot Be Found"

"error500.html" with page Title of: "Error 500: Internal Server Error"



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5. Now open each error text file (3rd through 7th) and copy and paste the code into the page HEAD section (but not inside the HEAD Tag itself!) of each of your corresponding new error pages. **Don't mix them up!** Remember both code sections must be in each page or they simply will not work. (HTML box code & HEAD section code)
6. TEST the first error400 page (preview)... not bad eh? Now continue & then test the rest.

The next step requires FTP access to your website.

7. Lastly, open my "8TH htaccess.TXT" file for modification.

Change the lines in my file to include YOUR DOMAIN NAME.

Then, **either change your existing .htaccess file** (on your server, in your domain's root directory) by adding the lines from my "8TH htaccess.TXT" file to it, **OR**

UPLOAD the entire "8TH.htaccess.TXT" file to your server if you don't already have an .htaccess file in the server's root directory. (there may be others in other directories...leave them alone!) Be certain you change each line in my file to include YOUR domain name, or it will cause problems. **MAKE CERTAIN THIS .htaccess file IS IN THE ROOT DIRECTORY OF YOUR DOMAIN.**

If you upload my TXT file, you must rename it AFTER uploading to ".htaccess" (DO NOT attempt to change its name in Windows or you may never see it again!). Be certain you change each line in the file to include YOUR domain name, or it will cause problems.

You can modify the page headings to reflect the error page's content see my example link at http://BrainBoxUSA.com/design_tips_files/design_tips_01.html

Congratulations! Now retest by entering each error page's `http://YOUR-DOMAIN-NAME/error400.html` path in the browser's address bar to see the finished results.

You've now successfully created custom error pages that will yield positive results for you and your visitors.