

Pmwiki is pretty robust and can automatically adapt to a very wide variety of environments. However, sometimes things don't go as we expect, so we're cataloging common errors and their fixes here.

Troubleshooting Frequently Asked Questions

Note: This page on pmwiki.org is probably not the best place to post questions. Consider [seeking assistance](#) from the pmwiki-users [mailing list](#), or post your question on the [PmWiki:Questions](#) page.

Why am I seeing strange errors after [upgrading](#)?

Make sure all of the files were updated, in particular *pmwiki.php*.

This question sometimes arises when an administrator hasn't followed the advice, which used to be less prominent, on the [installation](#) and [initial setup tasks](#) pages and has renamed *pmwiki.php* instead of creating an *index.php* wrapper script. If you have renamed *pmwiki.php* to *index.php*, then the upgrade procedure won't have updated your *index.php* file. Delete the old version and create a wrapper script so it won't happen again.

Sometimes an FTP or other copy program will fail to transfer all of the files properly. One way to check for this is by comparing file sizes.

Be sure all of the files in the *wikilib.d/* directory were also upgraded. Sometimes it's a good idea to simply delete the *wikilib.d/* directory before upgrading. (Local copies of pages are stored in *wiki.d/* and not *wikilib.d/*.)

If you use a custom pattern for `$GroupPattern` make sure that it includes Site (`$Site Group?`) and since [PM Wiki?](#) 2.2 also [Site Admin](#) (`$SiteAdminGroup`). Otherwise migration may fail (e.g. missing [Site Admin](#) for [PM Wiki?](#) 2.2 and later) and/or login does not work. Additionally Main (`$DefaultGroup`) should be included too.

I'm suddenly getting messages like "Warning: fopen(wiki.d/.flock): failed to open stream: Permission denied..." and "Cannot acquire lockfile"... what's wrong?

Something (or someone) has changed the [permissions](#) on the *wiki.d/.flock* file or the *wiki.d/* directory such that the webserver is no longer able to write the lockfile. The normal solution is to simply delete the *.flock* file from the *wiki.d/* directory -- [Pm Wiki](#) will then create a new one. Also be sure to check the permissions on the *wiki.d/* directory itself. (One can easily check and modify permissions of the *wiki.d/* directory in [FileZilla](#) (open-source FTP app) by right-clicking on the file > File attributes)

My links in the sidebar seem to be pointing to non-existent pages, even though I know I created the pages. Where are the pages?

Links in the sidebar normally need to be qualified by a [WikiGroup](#) in order to work properly (use

[[Group.Page]] instead of [[Page]]).

Also: Make sure you type SideBar with a capital B.

Why am I seeing "Warning: Cannot modify header information - headers already sent . . ." messages at the top of my page.

If this is the first or only error message you're seeing, it's usually an indication that there are blank lines or spaces before the `<?php` or after the `?>` in a [local customization](#) file. Double-check the file and make sure there aren't any blank lines or spaces before the initial `<?php`. It's often easiest and safest to eliminate any closing `?>` altogether. On Windows, it may be necessary to use a hex editor to convert LF-CR line endings to LF line endings in the `local/config.php` file.

If the warning is appearing after some other warning or error message, then resolve the other error and this warning may go away.

How do I make a PHP Warning about `function.session-write-close` go away?

If you are seeing an error similar to this

```
Warning: session_write_close() [function.session-write-close]:
open(/some/filesystem/path/to/a/directory/sess_[...]) failed: No such file or
directory (2) in /your/filesystem/path/to/pmwiki.php on line NNN
```

Pm Wiki sometimes does session-tracking using PHP's

[session-handling functions](#).

For session-tracking to work, some information needs to be written in a directory on the server. That directory needs to exist and be writable by the webserver software. For this example, the webserver software is configured to write sessions in this directory

```
/some/filesystem/path/to/a/directory/
```

but the directory doesn't exist. The solution is to do at least one of these:

- **Create the directory** and make sure it's writable by the webserver software
- Provide a `session_save_path` value that points to a directory that is writable by the server, e.g. in `config.php`:

```
session_save_path('/home/someuser/tmp/sessions'); # unix-type OS
session_save_path('C:/server/tmp/sessions'); # Windows
```

Why is Pm Wiki prompting me multiple times for a password I've already entered?

This could happen like out of nowhere if your hosting provider upgrades to PHP version 5.3, and you run an older Pm Wiki release. Recent Pm Wiki releases fix this problem.

Alternatively, this may be an indication that the browser isn't accepting cookies, or that PHP's session handling functions on the server aren't properly configured. If the browser is accepting cookies, then try setting `$EnableDiag=1;` in *local/config.php*, run Pm Wiki using `?action=phpinfo`, and verify that sessions are enabled and that the `session.save_path` has a reasonable value. Note that several versions of PHP under Windows require that a `session_save_path` be explicitly set (this can be done in the *local/config.php* file). You might also try setting `session.auto_start` to 1 in your *php.ini*.

See also the question [I have to log in twice](#) below.

I edited *config.php*, but when I look at my wiki pages, all I see is "Parse error: parse error, unexpected T_VARIABLE in *somefile* on line *number*."

You've made a mistake in writing the PHP that goes into the *config.php* file. The most common mistake that causes the T_VARIABLE error is forgetting the semi-colon (;) at the end of a line that you added. The line number and file named are where you should look for the mistake.

Searches and pagelists stopped working after I upgraded -- no errors are reported, but links to other pages do not appear (or do not appear as they should) -- what gives?

Be sure all of the files in the *wikilib.d/* directory were also upgraded. In particular, it sounds as if the [Site.Page List Templates](#) page is either missing (if no links are displayed) or is an old version (if the links do not appear as they should). Also make sure that read-permissions (attr) are set for the pages [Site.Page List Templates](#) and Site.Search.

Some of my posts are coming back with "403 Forbidden" errors, "Not Acceptable", or "Internal Server Error". This happens with some posts but not others.

Your webserver probably has [mod_security](#) enabled. The `mod_security` "feature" scans all incoming posts for forbidden words or phrases that might indicate someone is trying to hack the system, and if any of them are present then Apache returns the 403 Forbidden error. Common phrases that tend to trigger `mod_security` include "curl ", "wget", "file(", and "system(", although there are many others.

Since `mod_security` intercepts the requests and sends the "forbidden" message before Pm Wiki ever gets a chance to run, it's not a bug in Pm Wiki, and there's little that Pm Wiki can do about it. Instead, one has to alter the webserver configuration to disable `mod_security` or reconfigure it to allow whatever word it is forbidding. Some sites may be able to disable `mod_security` by placing `SecFilterEngine off` in a *.htaccess* file.

I get the following message when attempting to upload an image, what do I do?

Warning: `move_uploaded_file(): SAFE MODE Restriction in effect. The script whose uid is 1929 is not allowed to access /home/onscolre/public_html/pmwikiuploads/Photos owned by uid 33 in /home/onscolre/public_html/pmwiki/scripts/upload.php on line 198`

Pm Wiki can't process your request

`?cannot move uploaded file to /home/onscolre/public_html/pmwikiuploads/Foundation Pupils In 1958?.jpeg`

We are sorry for any inconvenience.

Your server is configured with PHP [Safe Mode](#) enabled. Configure your wiki to use a [site-wide uploads prefix](#), then create the *uploads/* directory manually and set 777 permissions on it (rather than letting Pm Wiki create the directory).

I'm starting to see "Division by zero error in pmwiki.php..." on my site. What's wrong?

It's a bug in Pm Wiki that occurs only with the [tables](#) markup and only for versions of PHP $\geq 4.4.6$ or $\geq 5.2.0$. Often it seems to occur "out of nowhere" because the server administrator has upgraded PHP. Try [upgrading](#) to a later version of Pm Wiki to remove the error, or try setting the following in *local/config.php*:

```
\$TableRowIndexMax = 1;
```

I have to log in twice (two times) (2 times). -or- My password is not being required even though it should. -or- I changed the password but the old password is still active. -or- My config.php password is not over-riding my farmconfig.php password.

It could happen if (farm)config.php, or an included recipe, directly calls the functions [Cond Auth?\(\)](#), or [Retrieve Auth Page?\(\)](#), [Page Text Var?\(\)](#), [Page Var?\(\)](#) and possibly others, before defining all passwords and before including [Auth User](#) (if required).

The [order of config.php](#) is very significant.