

Warning: Trying to access array offset on value of type null in  
/var/www/vhosts/thecmsbcookbook.com/httpdocs/recipeDetail3.php on line 44

# The CMS Builder Cookbook

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## CUSTOM 404 PAGE FOR YOUR SITE - Dec 29th, 2018

First thing you'll need is a new 404 page for your site. it's just a web page. The page can be html, php or any other standard page. Upload the page to your root directory.

The second is to modify the .htaccess file in your root directory to include a directive to look for the new file, like this:

```
ErrorDocument 404 /your_new_404_file.php
```

If you don't have an .htaccess file in your root directory you can create one in a text editor with the code above on a single line. Save it with the name .htaccess (don't forget the period at the front of the file name), and upload the file to your root directory

Some suggestions:

Style your page to have the same look and feel as your web site (including navigation).  
Include a search box to help visitors find what they are looking for, or include links to your site map, or both.  
Use friendly verbiage, no "tech" speak.  
Include a contact form or a link to one, so that your visitor can easily report a broken link to you.

Make sure that your webserver returns an actual 404 HTTP status code when a missing page is requested. (check with your web host if you're not sure)

Include `<meta name="robots" content="noindex, nofollow">` in the head section of your new 404 page

Here's a link to Google's multi-lingual, enhanced 404 widget to embed a search box on your custom 404 page and provide users with useful information to help them find the information they need.

<http://support.google.com/webmasters/bin/answer.py?hl=en&answer=136085>

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