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Troubleshoot theme errors in WordPress

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WordPress theme errors can result in error messages or blank white pages, which is commonly referred to as a white screen of death. You can use the steps below to diagnose potential WordPress theme errors.

Prepare your WordPress site for troubleshooting: You should always backup your site before performing any troubleshooting. [Disable all plugins](#), especially any caching plugins. If your site uses wp_cache, you will need to disable WP_CACHE. **Look for a theme related error** [Enable WordPress debug mode](#). Visit your site and check to see if there is a [PHP error](#). If there is a PHP error, check to see if the **themes** directory is in the file path. Below is an example:

```
Fatal error: Call to undefined function functionName() in  
/home/wp-content/themes/twentyeleven/functions.php on line 1
```

If the file path contains **themes**, then this confirms the issue is with the theme, and you can move on to [fixing the error](#). If the error is not visible on your website, then you will need to expose the error via the error logs. If the detailed errors or logs show a PHP error, then you can begin fixing it. **Determine if the error only occurs with your currently active theme** Connect to your hosting with FTP to upload files. Navigate to the directory containing your WordPress site. Then open the **wp-content/themes** directory. Make note of the latest default theme that is installed. **Note:** Default WordPress themes are named after the year they were released. For instance, the default theme that came out in 2017 is named **twentyseventeen**. Update your WordPress site to [use a default theme in the database](#). Check your site. If the issue is no longer persisting, then you have successfully determined the issue is with your non-default theme.

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