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Errors after moving to PHP 8: undefined array key, null parameters and dynamic properties

PHP Errors & Logs

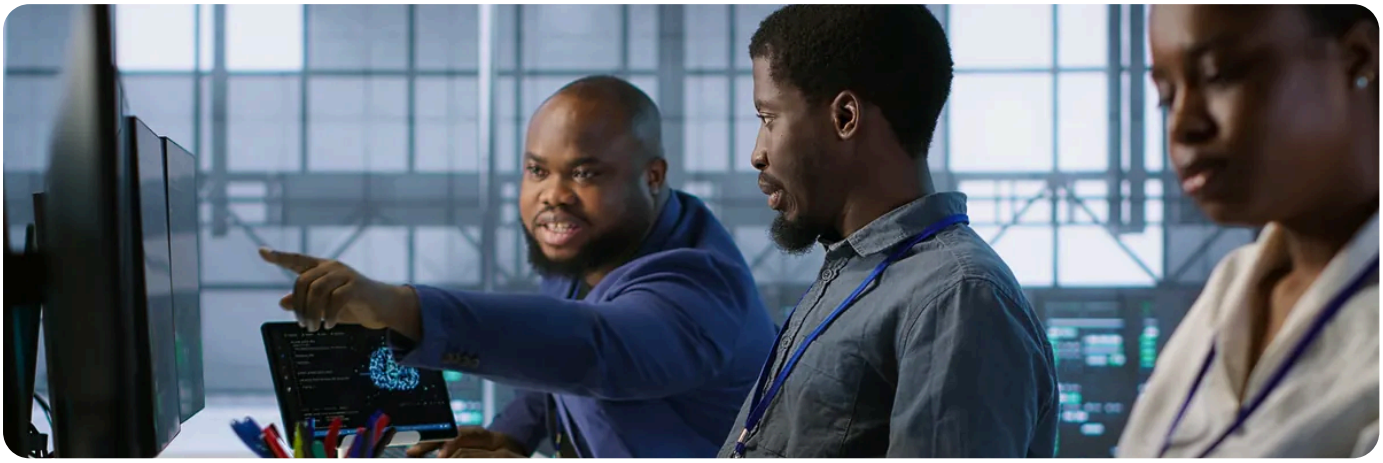
CODE	VERSION	COUNTRY · LANGUAGE
RLX-AO-KB-1434	v2026.10.10	Angola · English

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Errors after moving to PHP 8: undefined array key, null parameters and dynamic properties

PHP Errors & Logs Created on **October 10, 2026** 3 min read



You moved the site to PHP 8 and new messages appear. Nearly all come from the same place: PHP 8 became **less tolerant of careless code**. What used to be a discreet notice, or passed in silence, is now a visible warning or an error that stops the page. The code behind them is usually a plugin's, a theme's or an old library's, and the cure is to update it. This is the list of the messages seen most, what they mean and how to handle them. The version numbers come from PHP's public documentation.

The messages, one by one

The message	Since	It means	What to do
Warning: Undefined array key "x"	8.0	The code reads a position in a list that does not exist (in PHP 7 it was "Undefined index", a quieter notice).	Whoever codes checks first (`isset` or `??`). A plugin: update it.
Warning: Undefined variable $x	8.0	A variable is used that was never defined.	The same. It is carelessness in the code, rarely serious.
Uncaught TypeError: Unsupported operand types: string * int	8.0	A calculation was done with an empty or non-numeric text.	Convert or validate the value before the calculation. It stops the page.
TypeError: count(): Argument #1 must be of type Countable|array, null given	8.0	Something that does not exist was counted.	Make sure it is a list before counting.

The message	Since	It means	What to do
Deprecated: Passing null to parameter #1 ($string) of type string is deprecated	8.1	A null value was passed to a function that asks for text.	Use an empty text in its place. It does not stop the page.
Deprecated: Return type of … should either be compatible with … ReturnTypeWillChange	8.1	An old class does not declare the type PHP now expects.	Update the library. It does not stop the page.
Deprecated: Creation of dynamic property Class::$x is deprecated	8.2	The code creates a property on an object without declaring it in the class.	Declare the property in the class. It does not stop the page.

Step by step

1. **Find out where it comes from.** The message carries the file path. If it is in `wp-content/plugins/name` or `themes/name`, the code belongs to that plugin or theme. See **where the PHP error log is**.

2. **Update what can be updated.** There is almost always a version that already fixed the problem. See **updating themes and plugins without breaking anything**.

3. **If there is no update,** the plugin is abandoned. Look for an alternative. Going back to an old PHP is a short-term remedy.

4. **If the code is yours,** fix what the message says. It points to the line.

5. **If the page stopped** (an error, not a warning), go back temporarily to the previous version in `Select PHP Version` and fix it calmly. See **changing your PHP version without breaking the site**.

Hiding warnings does not fix them.
Silencing the messages on screen is reasonable on a public site, but the warning is a sign that the code may fail in other cases. See **PHP warnings showing on your site: what they are and how to silence them**. "Deprecated" notices may not even reach the log, because the stock configuration does not record them.

An old PHP is a debt.
Going back solves today, but leaves the site on a version that stops receiving security fixes. Use the time you gained to update. See **which PHP version to use**.

NEED A HAND?

A PHP 8 message you cannot tie to a plugin or a line? Send us the full message and the page address.

Open a support ticket →

SEE ALSO

- Which PHP version should your site use →
- Changing your PHP version without breaking the site →
- PHP warnings showing on your site: what they are and how to silence them →
- Where the PHP error log is →

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