Debugging extensions

A routine for an extension that does nothing or breaks a page: is it active, are its settings read, do its classes load, are caches or workers stale, with the RAD health check, checkclasses and the logs.

Source file:
`doc/eng-us/help/extension-development/part-3-extension-developer/debugging-extensions.md` Last changed 2026-11-04
https://doc.exponential.earth/learninminutes/exphelp/viewer/help/extension-development/part-3-extension-developer/debugging-extensions.md

Part 3, chapter 35. Most extension problems are not in the code you wrote but in how it is plugged in: a setting not read, a class not in the autoload map, a cache, a worker that still runs yesterday's code. This chapter is a routine that finds those quickly, then the tools for real bugs.

The routine

Step	Command	Looking for
1. Is it active?	`./console exp:ini get site.ini/ExtensionSettings/ActiveExtensions` (add `-s <siteaccess>`)	your extension in the list
2. Are its settings read?	`./console exp:ini where <file>/<Block>/<Variable>`	your file in the chain, and nothing later overriding it
3. Do its classes load?	`php bin/php/ezpgenerateautoloads.php -e -v`, then `php bin/php/checkclasses.php --quiet-ok`	your classes found; nothing PHP refuses
4. What does the RAD health check say?	**Setup > RAD** (`/setup/rad`)	settings that name a class that cannot load, a datatype offered and not found, a view with no script, a design extension with no design
5. Caches?	`php bin/php/ezcache.php --clear-all`	the problem gone means a cache
6. Workers?	`./console exp:velocity deploy` (or reload PHP-FPM)	the problem gone means old code in memory
7. Logs	`tail -n 50 var/log/error.log` and the debug output	the actual error

Step 4 is underrated: `expRADHealth::findings()` (`kernel/setup/expradhealth.php`) checks the whole installation for configuration that cannot work, and names the fix for each finding.

Typical symptoms

Symptom	Usual cause
"The requested module does not exist"	`ExtensionRepositories[]` missing, or caches
A page with the layout but an empty content area	a new template file and an old template override cache
`Class '...' not found`	autoloads not regenerated, or workers not restarted

Symptom	Usual cause
`Operator '...' is not registered`	`ExtensionAutoloadPath[]` missing or the extension inactive
`Object problem with operator '...'`	the operator class has an old-style constructor or fails to construct
A datatype missing from the class editor	`AvailableDataTypes[]` or `ExtensionDirectories[]` missing; the file path
Works with php on the command line, not in the browser	a different PHP, or PHP-FPM / Velocity not reloaded
A button does nothing in the administration	a Content Security Policy violation: open the browser console
Access denied on your page	the view's `'functions'`, and the user's roles: `./console exp:accesscheck`

Real bugs

- **Debug output**: errors with their template file and line, timing, SQL (Debug output and logs for developers).
- `eZDebug::writeDebug()` lines around the suspect code; remove them afterwards.
- **A script with the kernel loaded** to call your class directly: `php bin/php/ezexec.php <script.php>`. Most of the examples in this book were checked that way.
- **A test** that reproduces the bug before you fix it (Tests for extensions).
- `git bisect` in your extension's repository finds the commit that broke it.
- **The error reference** on an error page leads to every log line of that request (Finding an error by its reference).

eZpedia's "HOWTO Troubleshoot eZ Publish Extensions" covers the same ground from the earlier years.

Related pages

- Previous: Tests for extensions
- Next: Performance in extensions
- RAD tools
- When something goes wrong
- Free documentation: this page is free to copy, translate and improve under the GNU FDL 1.3.

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