

Handling CFfile upload 'accept' file type errors

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I was working on a system recently that allowed a user to upload images onto the server. It was restricted to files types of images, more specifically 'jpeg' and 'gif' files.

This is easily done with the 'accept' parameter, as documented in the ColdFusion documentation:

```
Accept:
accept. Comma-delimited list. For example, the following code permits JPEG and Microsoft Word files.
    accept = "image/jpeg, application/msword"

The browser uses the file extension to determine file type.
```

It is important to note here that it is the browser uses the file extension, so renaming an exe to jpg would fool it entirely.

Issues arise when you don't handle an invalid file upload in a friendly manner. In this case when a user tried to upload an incorrect file type they saw a nasty unformatted error message stating that the request could not be processed as the file was the wrong Mime type.

You cannot tell what the file type is until you attempt to upload it, so wrap your cfile tags in a simple try-catch and handle any errors in the same fashion as you normally would, I.E. by handling the system message and instead displaying a nice, user friendly message that doesn't sound like it was written by robots.

```
                                <cftry>
action="#request.uploadPath#" fileField="form.new_image" accept="image/jpeg, image/
                                <cfcatch>
                                <cfset attributes.errors.type = 'error'>
;errors.message = "The type of file you have tried to upload is not allowed, plea
                                <cfset request.continue = false>
                                </cfcatch>
                                </cftry>
```