

How do I convert an error code to text when `FORMAT_MESSAGE_FROM_SYSTEM` doesn't work?

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For the same reason that not all error codes are defined in `winerror.h`, not all error strings are defined in the system message table. If you've ever played with the message compiler, you'd quickly have recognized the `winerror.h` file as the header file associated with a message resource. In other words, there's a `.mc` file that gets processed by the message compiler, and out pops the message resource (which becomes the system message table) and the `winerror.h` header file.

As we saw a few years ago, not all error messages live in `winerror.h`, which means that not all error messages live in the system message table. Each component that provides error codes outside of `winerror.h` needs to provide its own message table. For example, messages for network errors can be found in `netmsg.dll`. Similarly, `winhttp` error message text can be found in `winhttp.dll`. I don't know about other message ranges; hopefully the documentation for the component that generates those errors also mentions where you can find the text.

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