

[Home](#) » [Blog](#) » [Programming](#) » [Java EE](#) » [JSF java.io.FileNotFoundException: Not Found in ExternalContext as a Resource](#)

[JSF java.io.FileNotFoundException: Not Found in ExternalContext as a Resource](#)

By [Roger Keays](#), 7 June 2011

Really annoying. JSF 2/Facelets throws an exception for every request to resource which doesn't exist. You would have thought a 404 response would have made more sense. Here is the stack trace:

```
GRAVE: El Servlet.service() para servlet Faces Servlet lanz una excepci
java.io.FileNotFoundException: /apps/foo.xhtml Not Found in ExternalContext as
    at com.sun.faces.facelets.impl.DefaultFaceletFactory.resolveURL(Default
    at com.sun.faces.facelets.impl.DefaultFaceletFactory.resolveURL(Default
    at com.sun.faces.facelets.impl.DefaultFaceletFactory.getMetadataFacelet
    at com.sun.faces.application.view.ViewMetadataImpl.createMetadataView(V
    at com.sun.faces.lifecycle.RestoreViewPhase.execute(RestoreViewPhase.ja
    at com.sun.faces.lifecycle.Phase.doPhase(Phase.java:101)
    at com.sun.faces.lifecycle.RestoreViewPhase.doPhase(RestoreViewPhase.ja
    at com.sun.faces.lifecycle.LifecycleImpl.execute(LifecycleImpl.java:118
    at javax.faces.webapp.FacesServlet.service(FacesServlet.java:312)
```

It's good to have the exception for includes and invalid template paths, but this app is deployed publicly and has to handle all sorts of rubbish requests from bots, bad user agents and broken links.

I tried setting up an error page for this exception, but that didn't work possibly because JSF2 has 'fixed' exception handling with their custom ExceptionHandler. The only workaround for me was to hack my filter to check for Faces resources before the servlet can handle them.

```
// JSF logs annoying exceptions and if it can't find a given view
if (view.endsWith(".xhtml") &&
    !new File(context.getRealPath(view)).exists()) {
    response.sendError(404, "Cannot find " + view);
} else {
    request.getRequestDispatcher(view).forward(request, response);
}
```

About Roger Keays

Roger Keays is an artist, an engineer, and a student of life. He has no fixed address and has left footprints on 40-something different countries around the world.



Roger is addicted to surfing. His other interests are music, psychology, languages, the proper use of semicolons, and finding good food.