

PHP – FATAL ERROR: CANNOT USE STRING OFFSET AS AN ARRAY IN...

PHP5 Error message that is caused by attempting to assign a value to an array element of a variable that is declared as a string.

Example that generates error:

```
$foo='bar';
```

```
$foo[0]='bar';
```

Get error message Fatal error: Cannot use string offset as an array in ...

Explanation:

\$foo was declared as a string in **\$foo='bar'**.

\$foo[0] is trying to append an element onto a string variable.

Example that does not generate error:

```
$foo[0]='bar';
```

```
$foo='bar';
```

Does NOT generate error.

Explanation:

\$foo[0]='bar' instantiates variable **\$foo** as array since it has not been instantiated. Then assigns 'bar' to element **\$foo[0]**.

\$foo='bar' implicitly re-declares **\$foo** as a string and assigns 'bar' to it.

Example that does not generate error:

```
$foo='bar';
```

```
$foo=array();
```

```
$foo[0]='bar';
```

Explanation:

\$foo='bar' implicitly declares **\$foo** as a string variable then assigns 'bar' as the value.

\$foo=array() explicitly re-declares **\$foo** as an array.

\$foo[0]='bar' can now be executed as **\$foo** is declared as an array.