

IIS locks DLLs after deploying web service (sometimes) UGH!!!

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This does not happen ALL the time, but it does happen on a fairly regular basis, and when it does, it causes real problems, especially when it happens (like it right now) in the PRODUCTION environment.... If anyone can tell me how to prevent this, and moreover, how to FIX it, without having to bounce IIS, I would REALLY appreciate it!! :)

Problem: This occurs on IIS under Windows 2000 Advanced Server and 2003 as well. Sometimes, when I update the web.config file of my web services (to change a remoting entry value, or some other key, for example) IIS locks a DLL somewhere, preventing the web service from running again until you bounce IIS. Note that this does not "always" happen, and I cannot seem to determine the steps necessary to duplicate it. Only that once IIS decides to lock on to a DLL, it never lets go of it. When you try to do a WSDL on the web service, you get an error ".....cannot access the file xxxxx because it is being used by another process." The specific file depends on the web service that I'm having the issue with, but it always blows up in the same place--- a line in the "machine.config" file for IIS where it says assembly="*".

The file that is stuck is generally not one of the DLL's specific to my web service, but is often one of our other middle-tier DLL's, but sometimes it appears to be a .NET DLL (part of the .NET framework or something, perhaps?) The point of course being, that it "should not do that"... but nonetheless, it does.

How can I get Windows to let go of the DLL when it does this without having to bounce IIS in our production environment? How can I prevent this from happening in the first place? Any thoughts? Thanks. :)