

microsoft.public.excel.misc: Solved: File locked by both operating system and Excel.

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Source: <http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/Excel/microsoft.public.excel.misc/2004-02/5926.html>

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Actually, it's one solution.

Note: This solution should work with any version of Windows that allows you to access the OS at a command prompt on reboot.

First note the complete path to the file. If it is in My Documents, the path is usually C:\Documents and Settings\[username]\My Documents
If it is the Desktop, then it is C:\Documents and Settings\[username]\Desktop

Next you MUST have the local computer's administrator password. Now, reboot. Immediately after the hardware initialization or during the PC logo screen, start pressing F8. You should see a DOS screen with a menu. Arrow key down to the prompt for Command Prompt.

On WinXP, you will have to wait for it to boot up loading a lot of drivers. Otherwise, on Win9* you will be popped into DOS almost right away.

WinXP: Login as administrator!

Now, type "CD <path to locked Excel file>". Here's an example:

```
CD c:\documents and settings\joba\my documents
```

Now, type "DEL <locked Excel filename>". Here's an example:

```
DEL myexcelfile.xls
```

To make sure the file deleted, type "DIR <locked Excel filename>". An example:

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DIR myexcelfile.xls

If you see a listing for the file this solution didn't work. If you don't, pat yourself on the back then press CTRL + ALT + DEL (WinXP) or type EXIT then hit enter. On WinXP, you will see the normal Windows Security dialog box. Click Shutdown... and follow the normal Restart step. On Win9*, the system should either shutdown or reboot, it's been a while since I did the command prompt boot there.

That's it. Any other suggestions, please let me know.

–John Baughman
Fort Collins

>-----Original Message-----
>I recently had a file appear locked and it opened read-
>only by Excel. Nowafter following the advice in
>[http://www.contextures.com/xlfaqApp.html#ReadOnly Excel](http://www.contextures.com/xlfaqApp.html#ReadOnlyExcel)
>says "Excel cannot access '<filename.xls>'. The document
>may be read-only or encrypted." After clicking OK, it
>displays "Cannot access '<filename.xls>'."
>
>If I try to move/delete the file, Windows XP (v2002, SP1)
>says "Cannot delete <filename.xls>: It is being used by
>another person or program. Close any programs that might
>be using the file and try again."
>
>All of this is after repeated reboots, and before and
>after attempting to open the file, immediately after
>rebooting, etc.
>
>Any ideas anyone? Please?
>
>Thanks!
>John Baughman
>Fort Collins, CO
>
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