

Re: Unable to delete

Source:

<http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/WinXP/microsoft.public.windowsxp.basics/2006-02/msg01579.html>

- *From:* "Rick \"Nutcse\" Rogers" <rick@xxxxxxxx>
 - *Date:* Thu, 23 Feb 2006 21:12:11 -0500
-

Hi Pop,

I'd remove the partition, not just format it, then create a new one from the resulting free space.

On the last item, try mbrwork from www.terabyteunlimited.com in the free utilities.

--

Best of Luck,

Rick Rogers, aka "Nutcse" – Microsoft MVP

<http://mvp.support.microsoft.com/>

Windows help – www.rickrogers.org

"Pop" <nobody@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx> wrote in message
[news:bTILf.8834\\$PL2.5464@xxxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:news:bTILf.8834$PL2.5464@xxxxxxxxxxxxx)

Hi Rick,

BTDT, as they say. I've made –some– headway, but ... I knew/know about the S/D switches; problem is, RD can't/couldn't work. I didn't come back with any more additions/clarifications because of the lack of interest or ability of folks to offer suggestions – which is great: I'd rather have no answer than a silly answer <g>.

I know a little of your rep, so I will try to add a couple of details since it's still not a "done" issue. Here's what's up so far, and yes, I know I'm sometimes my own worst enemy; ain't we all?

— There turned out to be many, many MORE hidden folders, files and even entire paths! Thanks to PowerDesk I was able to copy/paste most of the paths that were visible from windows into the Command Prompt to help with the typing. One of the paths I ended up with actually occupied 5 full–screen width lines!

— I also discovered some filename:filename:file.ext names in the process. Near as I can tell, and it was pure coincidence I figured that out from a previous Windows Properties question I asked (right here, I

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think), those were ADS channels. Not positive of that, but the same procedure for finding the ADS files made them visible for me, too, so I ass-u-me they were ADS (Alternate Data Streams). ADS is old stuff, but it was new to me.

After a LOT of experimentation I finally happened on an empirical procedure that would let me get rid of –most–, not all of them. Basically, it involved:

- Using Explorer to find the end of the path (no other way).
 - Pop to Prompt and paste the path in. Use ATTRIB, DIR and CD to find the "real" end of the path. I even tried Deltree a few times at intermediate points in the paths with no results.
 - Start using DEL and RD to remove the files and then the directories, one at a time ONLY. RD /s /d would fail to remove a directory EVERY time, so it had to be done one at a time.
 - Eventually I reached the top of the path, and RD worked there, too. NOW, back to windows, because Explorer STILL saw the same path it saw before, even after doing a Cold, Powered Down Boot!.
 - Similar to the DOS procedure, start at the end of the path and back up one at a time, deleting files and removing the folder, same as I did in the Command prompt. Even in Explorer, more than one (say, just the two last folders) folder at a time could NOT be removed without an error message (filename too long or corrupted).
 - Anyway, work my way back up to the top, and the path was gone to Windows, AND to the Command prompt. AND, the space occupied seemed to return and then some.
- There were three paths like that: After this operation was completed, I'd recovered all but about a Gig of space.

And that's where I am. I've formatted the drive from the Command Prompt, Safe Mode, and standard windows mode – just like when it was 80 Gig used, that last reported Gig used refuses to go away. I don't understand how used space is surviving an NTFS format. Chkdsk reports no bad sectors, BTW. Disk Health reports as fine, no errors. Same with read/write tests, etc..

Hmm, I wonder if a FAT format, then an NTFS format...?

Since this is a system rebuild, I still need to get a full backup accomplished, so I'm using the drive, and it seems to be OK but ... something isn't right, so there must be a "gotcha" sitting there just waiting.

Thinking about a system counter problem, I grabbed Partition Magic (which I did NOT use on the subject external drive), created another drive, fiddled with it, filled it with backup files, and then manually deleted everything no problem. So, the OS itself –seems– OK.

I understand you can't see what's going on from there, so if that doesn't trip any memory processes that might help, that's fine – just thought I'd throw this out in case it makes a spark for anyone. I have a question in to ACOMdata, but they're not bothering to respond – yet. There's nothing remotely similar to this in their FAQs, so I doubt I'll get a useful

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response, but I had to ask.

A case of virtual beer to whoever helps solve this one!

I'm also looking for a freebie disk editor that'll let me get at the MBR and signature areas if anyone knows of one. Maybe if I manually zeroed out the tables or something...? I'm going back to the problem as soon as I get the backup done and DVDs burned. Can't allow a backup drive I don't trust!

Pop

"Rick "Nutcase" Rogers" <rick@xxxxxxx> wrote in message news:OZolgKAOGHA.2012@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx

Hi Pop,

From the command prompt, use "RD /s /q <directory_path>" (without the quotes of course).

Best of Luck,

Rick Rogers, aka "Nutcase" – Microsoft MVP
<http://mvp.support.microsoft.com/>
Windows help – www.rickrogers.org

"Pop" <nobody@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx> wrote in message [news:pW_Kf.8683\\$PL2.5288@xxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:news:pW_Kf.8683$PL2.5288@xxxxxxxxxxxx)

XP Pro, NTFS, Ext USB 160Gig HD; used for backup staging
Backups/files were created by Powerquest (Symantec) DataKeeper.

I have two paths I cannot delete because the last file in each path returns an error message about name length or corrupted. Additionally, the overall Free Space is incorrect.

I've run disk health and chkdsk on the volume; no problems found.

I've tried to delete from:

- windows
- Safe Mode
- Command Prompt
- Booted Command prompt
- A Deltree prog I pulled out of archive.

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I've also tried to:
Move, copy, open and rename the file; it cannot be done,
though doing so
does not return an error message.

The path to the file in each case is ridiculously long and does not exist on the main drives. It's SO long it has to be pasted rather than typed in; I tried! It almost looks like some filenames got twisted around into a path; several of the directories are xx.xx.xx format, and they are empty directories. Explorer sees them fine so they're "real" as far as the OS is concerned.

Any advice or similar experiences? Or should I just forget about it and go ahead and do a format? I've recovered all but 44 Gig of the data so it wouldn't kill me to reformat.

TIA,

Pop

—
Ain't nuttin' new
in the worl'
enny more!