

# Can't Rename a File Using WinXP Command Prompt!!!

---

*Source:*

[http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/WinXP/microsoft.public.windowsxp.help\\_and\\_support/2008-05/msg00089.htm](http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/WinXP/microsoft.public.windowsxp.help_and_support/2008-05/msg00089.htm)

---

- *From:* John Burke <2privatus@xxxxxxxxxxxx>
  - *Date:* Thu, 1 May 2008 20:57:33 -0700 (PDT)
- 

SITUATION: I have a file in WinXP whose name is too long. It cannot be opened. It needs to be given a shorter name so that it can be opened.

PROBLEM: I cannot rename it using the Command Prompt and the appropriate DOS command >> REN <<

PARTICULARS:

1. I've changed the directory to the appropriate sub-directory
2. I've used the DIR command to list the files in this sub-directory. The file I'm looking for `_was_` listed therein.
3. I've `_repeatedly_` used the REN command

```
REN OldFileName.* NewFileName.*
```

I've typed in the `OldFileName.*` `_exactly_` as it was listed in the results of the DIR command. `_Every_` time I've done so, I get a >> The syntax of the command is incorrect << error message.

4. I've used the >> `DIR OldFileName` << Command to see if the specific file I'm trying to rename would be recognized. It was `_not_` -- I get a >> File not found << error message (Even though, as noted in Item 2 above, the DIR command for the sub-directory in which it was located `_does_` list it!).

5. The old filename in question contains the following symbols as part of its name:

[PartofFileName] – Opening and closing brackets

"PartofFileName" – Two single stroke quotation marks repeated before and after portions of the file name text (to simulated quotation marks that WinXP filenames will not allow

## Can't Rename a File Using WinXP Command Prompt!!!

--- PartofFileName --- -- Double Dashes that separate portions of the file name text

6. The type of file I'm trying to rename is an askSam file >> \*.ask  
<<. I'm trying to open it with askSam version 6.1.

7. I've done this before. This is the first time I've been unable to rename a too-long filename using this method.

QUESTION: How do I rename (shorten) this filename so I can open it?

Thanks.

2privatus

.