

Re: 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/msg00095.htm

- *From:* "Shenan Stanley" <newshelper@xxxxxxxxx>
 - *Date:* Thu, 1 May 2008 23:36:19 -0500
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John Burke wrote:

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

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quotation marks that WinXP filenames will not allow

-- 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?

Sounds like the filename + directory path may be too long.

Use the SUBST command to associate the folder the file is located in with its own drive letter and then change into that 'new drive' and rename there...

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