

Re: Unable to delete orphaned 1.5 GB System Restore folder

Source:

http://www.derkeiler.com/Newsgroups/microsoft.public.windowsxp.security_admin/2006-05/msg00602.html

- *From:* "Steven L Umbach" <n9rou@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>
 - *Date:* Sun, 21 May 2006 02:40:00 -0500
-

"puzzled and frustrated" <puzzledandfrustrated@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>
wrote in message <news:83835395-D937-4B33-88CA-EA43EDB1DEDE@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>

That advice was no help at all. I have FULL CONTROL over the entire C:
drive
and all subdirectories, including C:/TEMP.

You did not give any info on if you checked file permissions or not. That would be a suspected reason. By the way just because you have full control at the root folder does not mean that you have full control on all folders/files on the drive. Folders/files can have explicitly defined permissions instead of inherited permissions with the system volume information folder being a perfect example of one and by default only system has permissions to that folder. If there is one file in a folder that you do not have fullcontrol/modify permission then you can not delete the folder.

I don't need instruction in basic Windoze file ownership and permissions. I am the OWNER of that file and have full permissions according to Windows Explorer. Using the attrib command does more than you suggested because it allows the System bit to be taken off of a file or folder. Even that doesn't help.

File attributes have absolutely nothing to do with the ability to delete a file – you are wasting your time dealing with them. If you have effective delete permissions for a file and the file is not being used by a process and the file is not corrupt nor is using an illegal name or a few other obscure reasons you should be able to delete it.

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XP Pro treats the System Restore files with some type of special protection similar to the way they prevent you from deleting crucial system files. Instead of general advice on how to delete files and change ownership and permissions, i need information specific to how XP "protects" the System Restore files and how to turn that off for files no longer used by System Restore.

See if you can delete any files and or child folders. It could be just a couple files causing the problem. From the parent folder try going into the security properties/advanced and then select "replace permissions entries on all child objects". You could also try deleting from the command line using system by using the AT command to schedule the delete command in the future by a couple minutes. Or use the AT command to open the command window to try using delete which also be running as system which can be verified by Task manager. Tasks scheduled by the AT command run as system.

<http://support.microsoft.com/default.aspx?scid=kb:en-us:313565> --- using the AT command

Does anyone know how to override that "protection"? Gimme a break. You're telling me to run CHKDSK when i said the orphaned file is over a year old and i've posted that two different versions of Linux won't let me delete those files and their folders. It says "ACCESS DENIED."

One single corrupt file could cause the failure where the operating system can not interpret the security descriptors. Running Check Disk with the option to automatically fix file system errors often can fix such a problem. Offhand I don't know why linux did not work but for any operating system you need permissions to delete files and root/administrator may not always have such. I like using Bart's PE better in such situations and it also allows me to edit the registry of another Windows operating system when I need to. The link below from Microsft may be helpful in dealing with files you can not delete. --- Steve

<http://support.microsoft.com/?kbid=320081>

"Steven L Umbach" wrote:

I would try making sure you have full control NTFS permissions to the folder/subfolders/files as administrator and then try to delete them. If that does not work try booting into Safe Mode and trying again. Sometimes

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it helps by trying to delete child folders first and then working your way up to the parent folder. I would also run Check Disk on your computer and select the option to fix file errors automatically. The links below shows how to take ownership of folders/files [if needed to change permissions] and how to change NTFS permissions if you need that info. --- Steve

<http://support.microsoft.com/default.aspx?scid=kb:en-us:308421>
<http://support.microsoft.com/default.aspx?scid=kb:en-us:308418>

"puzzled and frustrated" <puzzled and frustrated@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>
wrote in message
news:1F096E8C-EABB-42EB-8709-D925A1DE779C@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx

My Dell came with Win XP Pro SP1, and when they sent me a Dell SP2 CD with a replacement box (and SP1 installed on it) i transferred over all my files and then installed SP2 (but there was a hitch) and XP Pro SP2 lost track of the huge change file it made for going back to SP1. I should have turned off Sytem Restore for the SP2 installation. Everything is now fine but there was a hitch in the SP2 upgrade procedure that made me do it twice. Apparently, XP lost track of the 1.5 GB restore folder as a System Resproe Pointr and it also refuses to let me delete it. The problem is that there is an orphaned 1.5 GB System Restore folder storing all the changes from SP1 to SP2, and XP (and Linux) won't let me delete that year-old useless file. By various

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machinations (after the Windows XP Accessory, Disk Cleanup's function, "delete all but most recent restore point" failed to delete it) ...
I then succeeded in "unhiding" that obsolete "...DC1/RP1/" folder by making it a network share and writable over the network and then moving the obsolete junk file to C:/TEMP from System Volume Information, so it is far away from the "real" restore points. The old folders under TEMP are named DC/RP1 and DC1/RP2, while my PC's "real" Restore Points are numbered past RP99.

With Windows Explorer i can uncheck the Read Only box and try to apply it to all subdirectories, but XP immediately changes it back to Read Only and says Access Denied when i try to delete the files and directories (both from GUI and from command line). I have even tried using a Windows 98 boot CD and that won't work either. I can't boot into DOS 3.1 to do it because it doesn't handle NTFS (as do the two Linux bootable discs). Even Linux recognizes these files as special system files that it refuses to delete, saying Access Denied when i try to give myself write access to them. I have been unable to delete these 1.5 GB of junk files using (in an XP command Window: "set attrib -r -h -s C:/TEMP/DC1/RP1/files /S /D" to turn off the read-only, hidden, and system bits for that folder, and the /S /D means

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to
apply the change to all subdirectories and to all folders. I get
the
error
"Access Denied" when i give it that command.

XP mistakenly sees these as crucial system files and (as
moved Network
Shares) it lets me move them around to other places, like
C:/TEMP/DC1/RP1
..., but it doesn't let me delete them. I get Access Denied
from both
XP
and
Linux, and my accounts all have Admin (and root)
privileges. If i had
a
removable hard drive large enough which i don't) i might be
able to
move
them
there and then reformat it to get rid of them. Can anyone
think of any
easier way to get rid of this 1.5 GB of junk files that were
created
when
SP2
was installed?

Please help me get rid of this 1.5 GB of junk.

David
dc(remove)@davidchanin . com [delete the two spaces]