Text file busy when I copy some files

I have this error when I want to copy some files

My command:

```
cp -rf  /sasech/xgedff/pur/liv/v15h30050-DLIV0177521/dmesa/bin/*
/applis/rgedff/pur/bin
```

Results:

```
cp: /applis/rgedff/pur/bin/../bin/lib/libtiny.a: Text file busy
...
```

How do I copy my files ?

/ linux / cp / shared-library

edited Sep 14 '15 at 14:19 Incnis Mrsi 1,041 4 18

asked Sep 14 '15 at 13:42 Mercer 231 2 4 13

1 Could you please list the command you copy with? – UVV Sep 14 '15 at 13:43

1 `Text file busy` is shown because some other process is accessing it. `lsof` will show you what's accessing the file. – garethTheRed Sep 14 '15 at 13:45

@garethTheRed `lsof` list me a lot of process – Mercer Sep 14 '15 at 13:47

2 `cp -f` should work, as it will replace the file if it can't overwrite it. – Stéphane Chazelas Sep 14 '15 at 14:03

1 `cp -f` is not safe as it may result in removed/missing files when you are done. Better use `star` with the option `-install` at the extract side as this will first unpack the new file under a random name and then finally replace the old file by the new one by calling the atomic `rename()` . This also applies if you are using the original AT&T cpio by default or when star emulates cpio, but not to the GNU cpio clone. – schily Sep 14 '15 at 14:44

2 Answers

try

```
rm -f /applis/rgedff/pur/bin/lib/libtiny.old
mv /applis/rgedff/pur/bin/lib/libtiny.a  applis/rgedff/pur/bin/lib/libtiny.old
```

before copying, be aware that you may disrupt any program that use `/applis/rgedff/pur/bin/lib/libtiny.a`

`libtiny.a` is a share library, active running program are using it, and you can't delete file being used in Linux.

More precisely, deleting such file will result in removing filename from directory, while file data will be kept in filesystem as long as a running process use them.

edited Sep 14 '15 at 14:38

answered Sep 14 '15 at 13:52 Archemar 16.3k 9 28 59

@mercer path above to be replace by your actual paths. – Archemar Sep 14 '15 at 14:41

Because your proposal is risky, I recommend to use `star -copy -p -install` . – schily Sep 14 '15 at 14:47

Actually, on Linux, you can delete files that are being executed. What you can't do is overwrite them. – Gilles Sep 14 '15 at 21:09

`libtiny.a` is a static library, it would be a problem to overwrite it only if there is a compiler currently linking and having that file opened and locked. – Alexis Wilke Aug 26 '16 at 22:08

I have seen this happen to me when I was copying files from one hard drive to another through a connection such as NFS or an SSH tunnel.

What happens is that the file being copied becomes part of the destination directory. That means the destination directory needs to be locked, updated with the new information, and then unlocked.

If the next file (which in your case would be `libtiny.a`) arrives too soon, it tries to lock the directory and fails with the "File busy" error. That then prevents the copy of that file and anything further.

Since `libtiny.a` is a static library, there are no reasons why it would ever be locked against a copy. As far as I know, the compiler does not lock the files it is working on, and really it would only happen if you were compiling something in the target directories...

Now this is assuming that all the disks use a *normal* file system. If you used NTFS, then files cannot be replaced while opened because that system does not allow for such to happen.

Under Linux, opening a file locks that file's data in place, but it does not prevent you from unlinking it, renaming it, replacing it. If the file was deleted, the locked data will be released from the hard drive once all the handles to that file get closed.

This means you can write a program which, when it gets executed, deletes itself from the hard driver and yet it will continue to function as if nothing had happened.

answered Aug 26 '16 at 22:34

Alexis Wilke
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