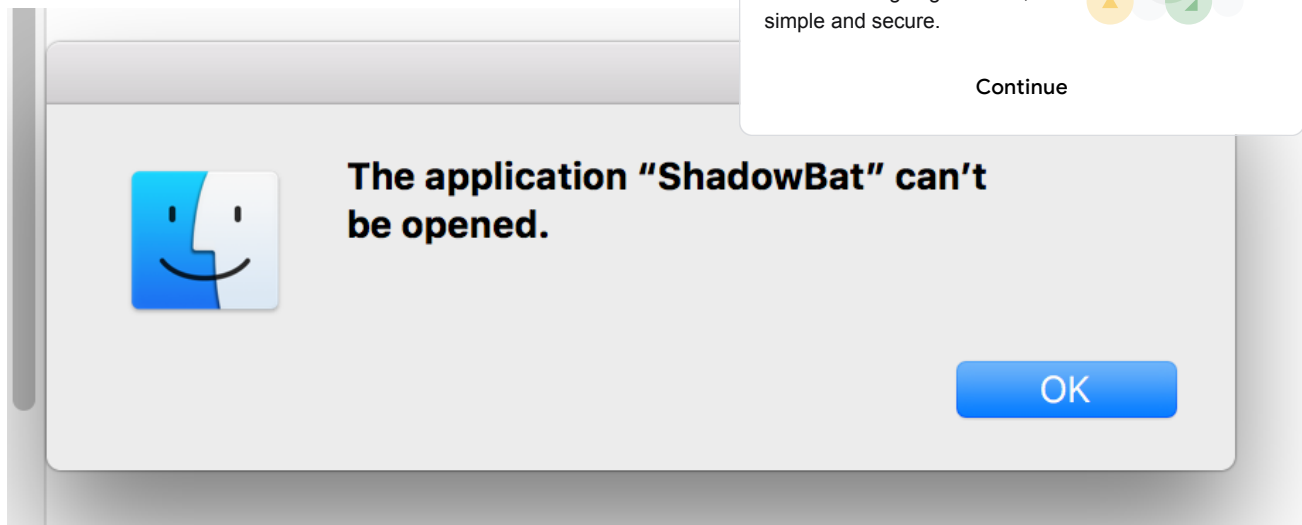


How to fix 'The application "... " can't be opened

Asked 6 years, 5 months ago Modified 2 years, 9 months ago Viewed 360k times

I get this:

36



Some people said use `chmod` to fix the execution files thing, but I still don't understand how to do it. Can some one tell me step by steps please?

macos chmod

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edited Aug 3, 2018 at 7:01

 [Kamil Maciorowski](#)
79.6k 23 158 243

asked Aug 3, 2018 at 6:08

 [seven tang](#)
361 1 3 5

Can you provide the path to the application? Where exactly on your filesystem is it? – [Fanatique](#) Aug 3, 2018 at 6:43


I've seen this once in a while. A reboot will clear it in many cases. I haven't dug into the exact cause. – [Hogstrom](#) Aug 5, 2018 at 2:11

@Fanatique it's in application section – [seven tang](#) Aug 7, 2018 at 2:09

3 Using "The Unarchiver" to unzip the application worked for me (regular Archive Utility bundled with macOS Catalina did *not* -- see Dmitriy Pavlukhin's answer below!) – [Jamon Holmgren](#) Dec 19, 2019 at 20:11

1 @JamonHolmgren the Unarchiver thing did the trick.. not even the `zip` command worked. – [fguillen](#) May 20, 2020 at 19:12

4 Answers

Sorted by: Highest score (default) 



37



In my case nothing helped until I accidentally opened context menu on .zip file. Open With -> there were

1) Archive Utility (default) which always broke my app when unzipped

2) The Unarchiver, unzipped with this and application started

OS 10.14

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answered Aug 22, 2019 at 16:29



Dmitriy Pavlukhin

481 4 5

1 Can you describe your solution more accurately? I have been fighting this problem for 3 days :(On some MAC's, application runs without a problem on others (especially new ones) gets information as in the subject – [user1100353](#) Oct 11, 2019 at 12:30

1 @user1100353 just try another archive managing utilities. In my case standart Unarchiver which was installed in system helped. – [Dmitriy Pavlukhin](#) Oct 11, 2019 at 15:24

1 unzipped with unzip command and it worked. – [Harish Lalwani](#) Nov 11, 2019 at 11:13

1 Wow, what possible explanation can there be for this? How can one program break the app, while the other does not? I just experienced this first hand. – [Fiksdal](#) Nov 28, 2021 at 11:19

My suggestion is that Archive Utility doesn't know how to work with hidden and meta files being in that archive. – [Dmitriy Pavlukhin](#) Nov 29, 2021 at 13:35



31



This happens because the application doesn't have execution permissions.

To make the application executable:

1. Open a terminal window (CMD + Space -> terminal);
2. Using the `cd` command, navigate to the place where the application is stored: `cd <path_to_application>`
3. Run `chmod +x <application_file>` to make it executable. If it doesn't let you, sudo it:
`sudo chmod +x <application> .`

The command from point 3 should look similar to this (thanks to @CJK):

```
chmod +x "/Applications/ShadowBat.app/Contents/MacOS/ShadowBat"
```

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edited Aug 5, 2018 at 8:42

answered Aug 3, 2018 at 6:49



Fanatique

5,083 1 21 30

1 Just to clarify by example for the OP, your command should look something like this: `chmod +x "/Applications/ShadowBat.app/Contents/MacOS/ShadowBat"`, adding `sudo` at the start if needed. – [CJK](#) Aug 4, 2018 at 11:46

Thank you @CJK. Not an OSX user, so didn't have an idea. Will add that to my post. – [Fanatique](#) Aug 5, 2018 at 8:41

when I type: `cd <path_to_application>`, it load: `-bash: syntax error near unexpected token `newline'`. what should I do? – [seven tang](#) Aug 6, 2018 at 23:57

and when I type like: `chmod +x "/Applications/ShadowBat.app/Contents/MacOS/ShadowBat"` it load: No such file or directory. – [seven tang](#) Aug 7, 2018 at 0:14

Not working anymore with MacOS 10.14 Mojave. – [Grigory Nokhrin](#) Jun 14, 2019 at 19:40



@Fanatique is right, but be advised -

4

There are many possible causes for this problem, and most *cannot* be fixed using `chmod`. Handling program bundles with inappropriate tools often will "damage" executable bundles.



- Making zip or tar archives with inappropriate settings will strip many file attributes;
- copying via different file systems - e.g. a FAT32 formatted USB stick - might ruin file names (capitalization, special characters);
- finally, copying applications between computers with the correct tools might result in invalid "receipt" files (sometimes commercial apps are cryptographically locked to certain hardware ids that way - the receipt will not be valid on the destination machine).

You shouldn't use `chmod` unless you have a good understanding of both file modes and ACLs, and more important, *of what **exactly** the problem is*, so you can fix it... this innocuous tool is well capable of recursively ruining your whole filesystem (and may even keep your system from booting).

If in doubt, I'd recommend deleting and reinstalling the pertaining app.

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answered Aug 3, 2018 at 6:56



jvb

3,196

1 17 18

I did and it didn't work – [seven tang](#) Aug 6, 2018 at 23:50

I put it in the application section – [seven tang](#) Aug 8, 2018 at 8:34



The following command typically solves most issues:

2

```
chmod +x "/Applications/ShadowBat.app/Contents/MacOS/ShadowBat"
```



but if it doesn't, there may be another application file within the application that you need to run the same command for. For example, right click the application and click "Show Package Contents" then look for a folder called "Versions".

There may be another application within this folder that you can follow the same process for the command above to make the application executable.

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edited Mar 16, 2020 at 20:59



zx485

2,327

12 19 24

answered Mar 16, 2020 at 20:34



Brandon Van Dyke

21

1



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