

# Cannot delete, a file with that name may already exist

Asked 16 years, 4 months ago   Modified 5 years, 11 months ago

Viewed 698 times



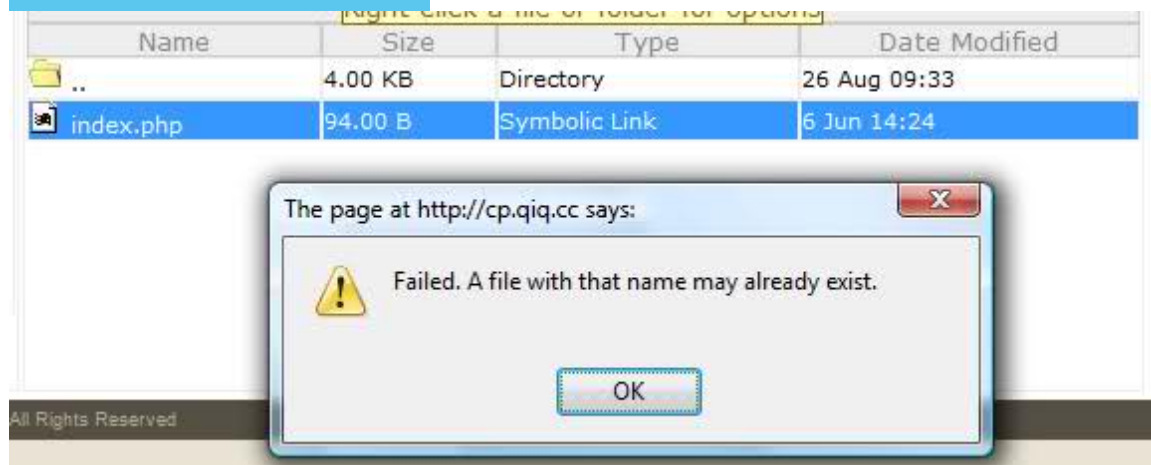
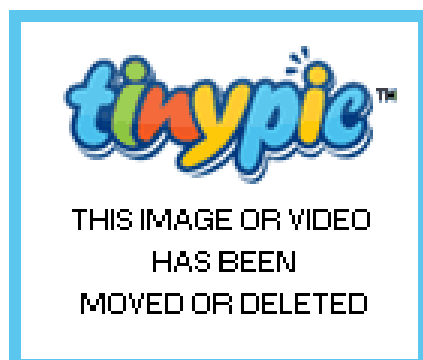
1



This is starting to vex me. I recently decided to clear out my FTP, and stumbled across an old Wordpress install I forgot I had (oh yes, very security conscious me).

Anyway, for some reason deleting the directory failed so I investigated to see what was causing the blockage and I've narrowed it down to a file in wp-content.

Now when I try to delete this file I can get two errors. I've tried in Windowx Explorer (**FTP**) and the Web Control Panel's File Manager. Here's some error shots:



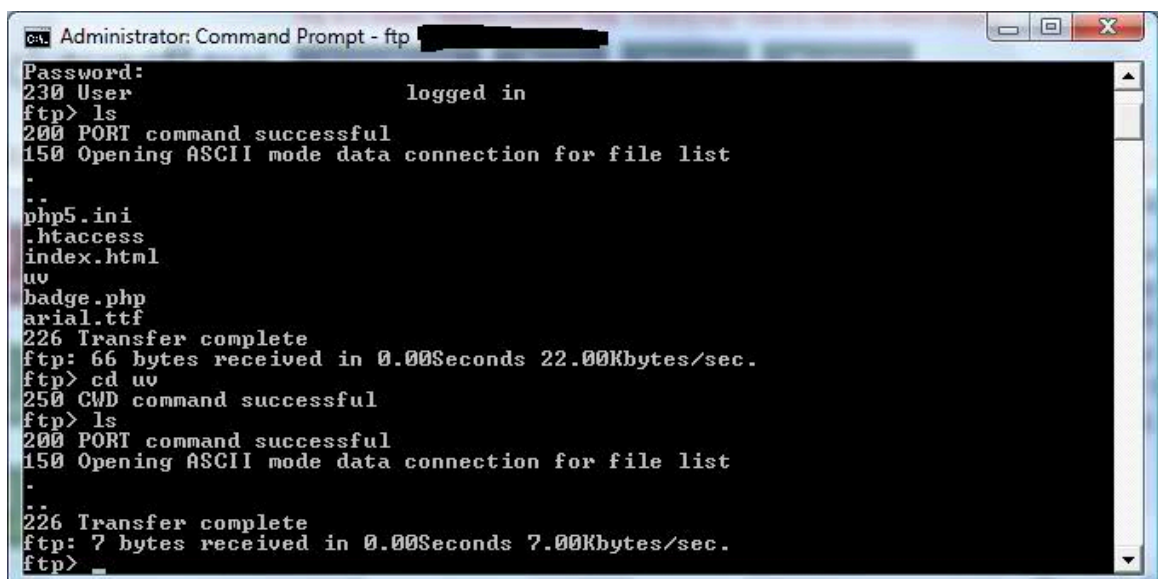
As you can see my File manager thinks the file is a [Symbolic Link](#). While it scares me that my web server is host to an obviously religious artifact I'm also heavily confused by the situation.

- I've tried renaming the file.
- I've refreshed the FTP view.
- I've tried moving the file to another dir (which worked, no success on deletion though).
- I've tried editing the file and then deletion.

And I'm at a loss. Is there a special way to delete SymLinks? I've never heard of them, until now.

## edit

Oho Windows you really are a magician of sorts. I decided to take a look at my FTP via command prompt and guess what? The file doesn't exist. Whether `ftp` ignores symlinks I don't know but I'm about to give up :P



```
Administrator: Command Prompt - ftp [redacted]
Password:
230 User logged in
ftp> ls
200 PORT command successful
150 Opening ASCII mode data connection for file list
.
..
php5.ini
.htaccess
index.html
uv
badge.php
arial.ttf
226 Transfer complete
ftp: 66 bytes received in 0.00Seconds 22.00Kbytes/sec.
ftp> cd uv
250 CWD command successful
ftp> ls
200 PORT command successful
150 Opening ASCII mode data connection for file list
.
..
226 Transfer complete
ftp: 7 bytes received in 0.00Seconds 7.00Kbytes/sec.
ftp>
```

[file](#)[ftp](#)[symlink](#)[Share](#)[Improve this question](#)[Follow](#)

edited Dec 27, 2018 at 22:22

[Glorfindel](#)

22.6k ● 13 ● 89 ● 116

asked Aug 26, 2008 at 9:50

[Ross](#)

47k ● 39 ● 123 ● 173

## 1 Answer

Sorted by:

Highest score (default)



2



First of all, try emailing your webhost either for SSH-access or to remove the symlink for you.

If you get SSH-access, use:

```
unlink index.php
```



Or if neither works: Create a **PHP** file there (for instance remove.php) that contains:



```
<?php unlink("./index.php") ?>
```

Then open that file in your browser, afterwards remove the remove.php file.

[Share](#) [Improve this answer](#)

edited Apr 17, 2015 at 18:20

Follow



[TriKaldarshiii](#)

11.3k ● 16 ● 69 ● 95

answered Aug 26, 2008 at 9:55



[Huppie](#)

11.4k ● 4 ● 33 ● 34

---