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takeown

Article • 02/03/2023 • 7 contributors •

Applies Windows Server 2025, Windows Server 2022, Windows Server 2019, Windows Server 2016, Windows 11, Windows 10, Azure Stack HCI, versions 23H2 and 22H2

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Enables an administrator to recover access to a file that previously was denied, by making the administrator the owner of the file. This command is typically used on batch files.

Syntax



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```
takeown [/s <computer> [/u [<domain>\]<username> [/p [<password>]]]] /f <filename>
```

Parameters



Expand table

Parameter	Description
/s <computer>	Specifies the name or IP address of a remote computer (do not use backslashes). The default value is the local computer. This parameter applies to all of the files and folders specified in the command.
/u [<domain>\]<username>	Runs the script with the permissions of the specified user account. The default value is system permissions.
/p [<password>]	Specifies the password of the user account that is specified in the /u parameter.
/f <filename>	Specifies the file name or directory name pattern. You can use the wildcard character * when specifying the pattern. You can also use the syntax <sharename>\<filename>.

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/a	Gives ownership to the Administrators group instead of the current user. If you don't specify this option, file ownership is given to the user who is currently logged on to the computer.
/r	Performs a recursive operation on all files in the specified directory and subdirectories.
/d {Y N}	<p>Suppresses the confirmation prompt that is displayed when the current user does not have the List Folder permission on a specified directory, and instead uses the specified default value. Valid values for the /d option are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Y - Take ownership of the directory.• N - Skip the directory. <p>NOTE You must use this option in conjunction with the /r option.</p>
/?	Displays help at the command prompt.

Remarks

- Mixed patterns using (?) and (*) aren't supported by **takeown** command.
- After deleting the lock with **takeown**, you might have to use Windows Explorer to give yourself full permissions to the files and directories before you can delete them.

Examples

To take ownership of a file named *Lostfile*, type:

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```
takeown /f lostfile
```


Related links

- [Command-Line Syntax Key](#)

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