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How to delete "The file name is too long." in windows. [Command Prompt] [closed]

Asked 2 years, 9 months ago Active 2 years, 9 months ago Viewed 23k times



8



4



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Closed 2 years ago.

How to delete large file path/file name files in Windows. Which is slimier to Linux `rm -rf .` ?

[windows](#)

[command-prompt](#)

[delete-file](#)

[robocopy](#)

asked May 20 '17 at 4:43



[Ashish Dadhich](#)

2,243 3 10 21

- 1 Ashish, while I laud your desire to increase the collective knowledge of StackOverflow, this is (due to its non-programming nature) probably more suited to SuperUser. So I (and a few others by the looks of it) are nudging it over to there. – [paxdiablo](#) May 20 '17 at 4:50

[superuser.com/a/1263183/439537](#) – [Andrew](#) Oct 28 '17 at 0:37

2 Answers



26



To delete **The file name is too long.** errors files, we've to go for simple steps using default command of Windows `robocopy` and `rmdir` .

1. Create directory `mkdir deleteLongFilesDir` under `C:` or `D:` drive
2. Suppose `D:\Development\Liferay\themes` directory contains the files which are not able to delete simply.
3. run command in command prompt `robocopy D:\deleteLongFilesDir D:\Development\Liferay\themes /purge` , this command will print some logs and copy you all the files and sub directory of `D:\Development\Liferay\themes` into `deleteLongFilesDir` folder virtually, but when you open that directory... hurreeee...**It's Empty ???**
4. Now run the command of remove directory which we created for mapping `rmdir`

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5. Now temporary directory has been deleted and same as for D:\Development\Liferay\themes files and folder.

answered May 20 '17 at 4:43



Ashish Dadhich

2,243 3 10 21

This worked! Thanks! I had a NetBeans Java build\classes directory with filenames containing nearly infinite number of repeated 'classes\build' in the paths. This ran for about 10 minutes and showed no sign of stopping, so I Cntrl-C then re-ran the robocopy command and it completed in less than a minute. After the rmdir command, all was well - empty classes directory! After completion, my D: drive had 46 MB additional free space. Weird. – RickC Aug 11 '18 at 4:18

Finally! I've never been that happy to see my files disappearing. – hopsinat Feb 7 at 8:00



1



There is a Powershell cmdlet named **Remove-Item2**, written by Boe Prox a well-known MVP, and which circumvents the basic limitation path of 260 characters.

<https://gallery.technet.microsoft.com/scriptcenter/Remove-LongPathFile-7a4db495>

Additionally, like **Remove-Item2**, there are other cmdlets suffixed by the number 2, like **Get-ChildItem2**, which are often included in popular third party modules, and also addresses the 260 characters limitation. If you have installed some of these modules, there is a chance that you have already those cmdlets on your computer.

edited May 20 '17 at 5:09

answered May 20 '17 at 4:56



Luke

234 1 2 11

