

## trying to aquire lock...TASK ERROR: can't lock file '/var/lock/qemu-server/...

👤 jtasipit · 🕒 Sep 30, 2013

🏠 > Forums > Proxmox Virtual Environment > Proxmox VE: Installation and configuration



**jasipit**  
Guest  
👤

Sep 30, 2013

🔗 #1

Please help. I am trying to stop a VM using command line on the node it was hosted. The reason I did it because we have a problem on the Node Web GUI and we badly needed to stop the VM. I used command `#qm stop <vmid>`. This seems to work but when I start it using command `#qm start <vmid>`, this is the error message:

"trying to aquire lock...TASK ERROR: can't lock file '/var/lock/qemu-server/lock-109.conf' - got timeout"

Thanks in advance.



**dietmar**  
Proxmox Staff Member  
Staff member  
▼

Sep 30, 2013

🔗 #2

Do you run a cluster or a single node?

Best regards,  
Dietmar

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**jasipit**  
Guest  
👤

Sep 30, 2013

🔗 #3

Yes I run a 3-node cluster but with no HA or fence



**jasipit**  
Guest  
👤

Oct 11, 2013

🔗 #4

I've got it fixed already! I just Restarted the node.



**Adrian Harris**  
New Member



Aug 30, 2014

#5

jtasipit said:

I've got it fixed already! I just Restarted the node.

Code:

```
root@vmserver04:~# qm unlock 404
trying to aquire lock...can't lock file '/var/lock/qemu-server/lock-404.conf
root@vmserver04:~#
```

Is there any way that this can be resolved without restarting the nodes?

[jkirker](#)



**chrone**  
Active Member



Sep 8, 2015

#6

restarting the pve-cluster services fixed the issue.

[PhaseIV and BelCloud](#)



**jkirker**  
Member



Mar 13, 2016

#7

I'm with Adrian. Is there a process to do this without resetting the nodes?  
Resetting any machine other than for a patch that requires it should always  
be a last resort.



**linkstat**  
Active Member



Aug 7, 2016

#8

manually deleting the file under /var/lock/qemu-server/lock-XXXXXX.conf  
works for me.

Greetings!

[mihonukr](#), [pmoxman](#), [brosello](#) and 11 others



**luphi**  
Active Member



Oct 5, 2017

#9

I'm in the same situation, but before I delete the lock file manually, I want to  
make sure, that it is safe to do so.  
Which process is using these lock files? What do I have to care about, to be on  
the safe side?

Btw: The lock file is more than a week old and I rebooted the VM several time

since then.

Cheers,  
luphi



**oah433**  
Member



Apr 12, 2021

#10

Same problem here but let me ask on why the file gets locked? under what circumstances does proxmox lock files and why such locking?



**fiona**  
Proxmox Staff Member  
Staff member



Apr 13, 2021

#11

Hi,

oah433 said:

Same problem here but let me ask on why the file gets locked? under what circumstances does proxmox lock files and why such locking?

see [here](#). You can use `ls -l /var/lock/qemu-server/lock-<ID>.conf` to see if there's still a process accessing the lock file.

Best regards,  
Fiona

Do you already have a Commercial Support Subscription? - If not, [Buy now](#) and read the [documentation](#)

[Ixiosjao](#), [Bill\\_](#), [Psychoses](#) and 2 others



**oah433**  
Member



Apr 13, 2021

#12

Fabian\_E said:

Hi,

see [here](#). You can use `ls -l /var/lock/qemu-server/lock-<ID>.conf` to see if there's still a process accessing the lock file.

I see, that makes total sense now. Thx a ton



**proxwolfe**  
Active Member



Jan 26, 2023

#13

Thanks - that is what I was looking for as well.

But the output

Code:

```
task\x20U 1867226 root    6wW  REG    0,27      0 471129 /run/lock/qemu-ser
```

is not all that clear to me.

Is there a way to find out what this process does, whether it still is healthy, where it is at?

Background: I wanted to move a VM disk to another storage. A window opened, nothing much happened. I closed the window, thinking I could later open the status of this process to check back on it (like I do with backups, restores, etc.). However, no running task is shown in the tasks pane. So I don't know if this is still going on, or has stalled or...



fweber

Proxmox Staff Member

Staff member



Jan 27, 2023

#14

Hi, it's strange that you don't see an active task in the UI. To find out more about the process, you could try `ps aux | grep PID` (PID being 1867226 in your case).

It may give an output like

Code:

```
root          ...  Ss    09:58    0:00 task UPID:pve...:root@pam:
```

from which you can read off the task's UPID and try to find the log file of the task:

Code:

```
find /var/log/pve/tasks -name UPID:pve...:root@pam:
```

Best regards,  
Friedrich

Do you already have a Commercial Support Subscription? - If not, [Buy now](#) and read the [documentation](#)

[proxwolfe](#)



proxwolfe

Active Member



Jan 27, 2023


#15

Thank you.



hellfire

Active Member

 Proxmox Subscriber



Aug 14, 2023

For some other reason, everything is working really slowly (if at all) in my #16 cluster. The task did appear (much later). But your tip is much appreciated just that the same issue.

Reason was: I started bulk migrate from pve-node-a to pve-node-b (ha-enabled 3-node-cluster) and then everything was stuck and I can't unlock the vms.

Seems so the migration process had started, the vm's were started at the other node for the migration, but the process did not continue. So I restarted the OTHER node - with no vms running on so far - and the lock was released automatically.



shodan

Member



Sep 19, 2023

 #17

Hi,

This thread is google's first link for "proxmox can't lock file shutdown stop"

And this issue is still happenning very easily

I bang my head on it every time I haven't used proxmox in a couple months, trying to shutdown a VM and it won't so I just pull the server's power cord !

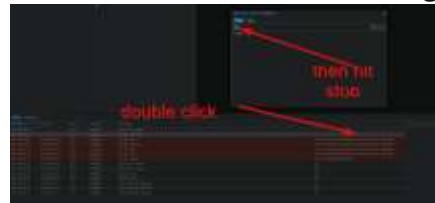
I think it's something about using shutdown not stop, or stop not shutdown



It's the sort of thing that every proxmox users and devs don't even think about or realize is soooooo frustrating

OK

First double click on that running broken task and hit stop



Now you can hit stop, NOT shutdown



And this could be made much easier, by changing proxmox's behaviour

If the user clicks STOP, stop previous still running shutdown tasks (as I've done manually here) and then execute the stop command

The problem is that the STOP command is getting queued behind the shutdown command which will never end.

Voila !

[slav, Mirtilli and keno](#)



**keno**

New Member



Sep 19, 2023

#18

[shodan](#) said:

Hi,

This thread is google's first link for "proxmox can't lock file shutdown stop"

And this issue is still hanninging very easily

[Click to expand...](#)

Thank you very much. That worked for me.

[shodan](#)

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