Home   Windows 10   Windows 10 Mobile   Previous versions   MDOP   Surface   Surface Hub   Library   **Forums**

Ask a question

Search related threads

Search forum questions

Quick access

Asked by:

5
Points

MeMyselfandIDK

Joined Aug 2016

MeMyselfandIDK'...

1

Show activity

File names too long to do anything with

[Windows 7 IT Pro](#) > [Windows 7 Miscellaneous](#)

Question

0

Sign in
to vote

I am in a networked environment supporting several hundred users running Windows 7 Enterprise. I have recently been presented with an issue that appears to be a classic Catch-22 situation. There is a folder that is nested extremely deep in the network file system. This folder contains PDF files, many of which have extremely long names. Apparently Adobe doesn't care that the name you give a file is too long for Windows to handle, and does it anyway. So, these files now cannot be opened, copied, moved, or renamed. Attempting to copy or move them to a location with a short path fails, with the error "the file name is too long..." Trying to rename the files themselves (using a slow double click, or by pressing F2) fails, with an error bell sound and no dialog box. Attempting to open the file in Adobe Reader or Pro yields the error "File name too long". At this point we may need to think about a 3rd party option if there is nobody here who can offer another suggestion.

Again, I wish to reiterate that these files cannot be moved, copied or renamed as the names are so long that this is not being allowed by the file system.

Any help you can offer (that doesn't involve suggestions that simply repeat what I have already said can't be done), would be greatly appreciated.

Thank You.

Tim David

Tuesday, September 19, 2017 8:26 PM

Reply | Quote

MeMyselfandIDK   5 Points

All replies

You can share the folder that is the deepest you can access. Then map a drive to that share. The new mapped drive will have a much shorter path.

Example:

D:\some_long_name_1\some_long_name_2\some_long_name_3\Longfilename.pdf

1. share D:\some_long_name_1\some_long_name_2\some_long_name_3
2. map drive, say x:, to above share
3. copy X:\longFilename.pdf from mapped drive to someplace.

Option 2

What if the path is really long, like 1000 chars? Assume each folder in above example is 200 characters long. Then the share technique won't work.

Here's what I do (from command prompt)...

1. subst I: D:\some_long_name_1
2. subst J: I:\some_long_name_2
3. subst K: J:\some_long_name_3
4. Access pdf file from K:\
5. subst K: /d
6. subst J: /d
7. subst I: /d

Hope this helped

-Tony

Edited by   Tony MCP   Tuesday, September 19, 2017 9:37 PM   fixed typo

Proposed as answer by   vivian_zhou Microsoft contingent staff   Wednesday, September 20, 2017 7:10 AM

Tuesday, September 19, 2017 9:36 PM

Reply | Quote

Tony MCP   4,423 Points

There is a pre-defined character limit beyond which you cannot name a file or folder, mostly it varies between 256 and 260 characters. When you copy a file from one location, it takes into account the entire file path.

Map a driver for the folder can shorten the file path and many users solve the issue by doing this. I do recommend what Tony MCP suggested.

In addition, you can download the hotfix and try again:

https://support.microsoft.com/en-sg/help/2891362/a-file-copy-operation-fails-when-files-or-folders-have-long-paths-in-w

Please remember to **mark the replies as answers** if they help.
If you have feedback for TechNet Subscriber Support, contact tnmff@microsoft.com.

Proposed as answer by   vivian_zhou Microsoft contingent staff   Thursday, September 21, 2017 1:25 AM

Wednesday, September 20, 2017 7:12 AM

Reply | Quote

vivian_zhou (MSFT CSG)   4,015 Points

Hi,

Haven't heard from you for a long time, what is going on with the issue? Do you benefit from these suggestions?

Any updates are welcome to post here.

Please remember to **mark the replies as answers** if they help.
If you have feedback for TechNet Subscriber Support, contact tnmff@microsoft.com.

Thursday, October 12, 2017 9:47 AM

Reply | Quote

vivian_zhou (MSFT CSG)   4,015 Points

This problem seems to be serious, I can suggest you use Long Path Tool.

Edited by Richard Varda   Friday, December 29, 2017 6:47 AM   grammetical issue

0
Sign in
to vote

Friday, December 29, 2017 6:46 AM

Reply | Quote

Richard Varda   0 Points

You can fix this issue RoboCopy command. Here is the simple solution to the problem you're facing
http://www.protechguides.com/long-file-name-error/

Edited by MAY96   Saturday, February 24, 2018 2:12 AM

0
Sign in
to vote

Saturday, February 24, 2018 2:11 AM

Reply | Quote

MAY96   0 Points

You can use longpathtool program to solved this issue. this tool is very usefulto
 solved this issue.

0
Sign in
to vote

Tuesday, May 22, 2018 10:54 AM

Reply | Quote

Ross Gram   5 Points

Newsletter | Contact Us | Privacy Statement | Terms of Use | Trademarks | Site Feedback   © 2018 Microsoft. All rights reserved.