

Raspberry Pi – failed to open vchiq instance [Solved]

August 3, 2014 by [Jamie](#) — [14 Comments](#)

I've been working on my timelapse camera setup with my raspberry pi and when trying to run my python script I got the following error.

```
1 | * failed to open vchiq instance
```

This is a permissions error because I had created a new user that wasn't in the video group.

All you have to do is make sure that your new user is added to the video group. My username is **timepi** so I had to run the following command.

Update from Chris' comment below:

```
usermod -G video timepi
```

```
1 | usermod -a -G video timepi
```

This allows the **timepi** user to use the video camera device and it should all be working now.


Update: Don't forget to log out and log back in for good measure.

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Chema • 10 months ago

Thanks!!!

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David Lahr • 10 months ago

Thanks! Worked great.

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byr8n • a year ago

That worked...thanks for the reboot tip. Pushed me across the finish line

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Anonymouse • a year ago

What if that file just doesn't exist on the device? Is there a way to configure it to work with the PCDuino2?

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melon • a year ago

works great for me !!

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Kelly Kiernan • 2 years ago

Perfect! Thank you!

  • Reply • Share ›— | 

georgemandis • 2 years ago



georgemendis • 2 years ago

I was trying to execute a shell script from a crude PHP file and kept running into that error. This solved my problem perfectly! Thanks :)

^ | v • Reply • Share ›



Nikipapan → georgemendis • a year ago

If you run the script through a php file, which user do you have to give privileges to when you run it over the internet? I tried with pi, but to no avail. Were you running the php code locally?

^ | v • Reply • Share ›



Chris Jenks • 2 years ago

I tried the usermod -G command on my Pi 2 running Ubuntu Mate as the sole admin user. Unfortunately that command removes the user from the sudo group. This effectively bricked the system because I had just rebooted from a kernel update and had not yet installed the custom wifi driver, which requires sudo. With no recovery mode, I may be forced to reinstall the entire OS. :(This tragedy could have been prevented by using usermod -a -G instead (which ADDS the video group to the ones my user belongs to) - and by having a backup admin user, apparently.

EDIT: On further thought, I should be able to mount the system sdcard from another linux system and edit the /etc/group file to restore my username to the sudo group.

^ | v • Reply • Share ›



digitalchild Mod → Chris Jenks • 2 years ago

Hi Chris,

Apologies for that I've updated the article to reflect your suggestion and yes you should be able to mount the sdcard on another system to update the sudoers.

cheers,

^ | v • Reply • Share ›



Chris Jenks → digitalchild • 2 years ago

Great! This may spare some future grief! And I was able to easily edit the /etc/group file from my Ubuntu netbook and restore sudo. I feel bad for another user who made my same mistake but didn't think of mounting the sdcard externally and had to reinstall Ubuntu Mate.

^ | v • Reply • Share ›



varepsilon • 2 years ago

Don't forget to login and out after doing that.

^ | v • Reply • Share ›



digitalchild Mod → varepsilon • 2 years ago

Thanks I'll update the article.

^ | v • Reply • Share ›



Xmen • 3 years ago

Awesome perfect, thanks

^ | v • Reply • Share ›

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12 comments • 3 years ago •



digitalchild — Glad I could help!

VMWare vCenter Converter Standalone – key can't be retrieved. (return code 2) [SOLVED]

2 comments • 4 years ago •



digitalchild — Thanks ArKam I didn't know this. I'll update



the post to include this information.

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6 comments • 3 years ago•



digitalchild — Hi Jim, You are correct, I'll add this to the post also.

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19 comments • 3 years ago•



digitalchild — Hello, Depending on what kinds of interactions you want your AD users to have with your

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I build things that work on the Internet and I've been doing this for over 15 years now. Take a look around and comment if you like.

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