**Soft Link and Hard Links**

**Example:**

Create two files:

$ touch blah1

$ touch blah2

Enter some data into them:

$ echo "Cat" > blah1

$ echo "Dog" > blah2

And as expected:

$cat blah1; cat blah2

Cat

Dog

Let's create hard and soft links:

$ ln blah1 blah1-hard

$ ln -s blah2 blah2-soft

Let's see what just happened:

$ ls -l

blah1

blah1-hard

blah2

blah2-soft -> blah2

Changing the name of blah1 does not matter:

$ mv blah1 blah1-new

$ cat blah1-hard

Cat

blah1-hard points to the inode, the contents, of the file - that wasn't changed.

$ mv blah2 blah2-new

$ ls blah2-soft

blah2-soft

$ cat blah2-soft

cat: blah2-soft: No such file or directory

The contents of the file could not be found because the soft link points to the name, that was changed, and not to the contents.

Similarly, If blah1 is deleted, blah1-hard still holds the contents; if blah2 is deleted, blah2-soft is just a link to a non-existing file.