

# Windows

## I can not delete a file or directory because access is denied.

First try tools like Unlocker or FileASSASSIN, if that fails then:

Step 1) Go to the file / directory in a command window and use

`cacls`

to view the current access rights.

You can change the current accessrights by using for example

`cacls /C /G BUILTIN\Administrators:F`

If you want to have an overview of possible users go to the c:\ drive and issue the command `cacls` there.

Step 2) Get the highest access rights

The local System account has higher privileges than Administrator.

To start a command prompt under the System account, issue the command

`at (time) /interactive cmd.exe`

Where (time) is the current time plus 1 minute.

Alternatively, download Sysinternals' PStools and use

`psexec -i -s cmd.exe`

The elevated command prompt will start in a different directory from usual, which for me is `C:\WINDOWS\system32>`

Go to the file or directory you want to delete and use:

`rd`

or

`del`

or if you don't want to delete the file use `cacls` to change it access rights.

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