

Override Access Denied

What

Commands to override a file or folder's permissions setting that denied you access when you are the only user on this PC and you have full administrative rights. These commands will allow you to access and edit the file or folder.

Why

Malware, adware, bloatware, and other unwanted software will use this access denied permissions settings to prevent the user from deleting the files/folders.

How

Step 1 – Take Ownership

Open File Explorer, go to the file or folder that denied you access, and hold the mouse pointer over the name to highlight it. On the *Home* tab of the ribbon above select *Copy path* to copy the Path to this file/folder.

Open a Command Prompt with Administrative privileges by opening a Run box (*WinKey + R*), type in **cmd**, press *Ctrl + Shift + Enter* keys simultaneously, and click *Yes* to the UAC query. At the prompt(>) enter the following command replacing each underscore (_) with a space. Paste the Path to the file/folder that you copied earlier for **PastePath** in the command below. Press the Enter key to run the command. A message will display stating that the ownership has been changed to your user account.

takeown_/f_PastePath**_/r_/d_y**

This will make your account the owner of the file or folder and all the files and folders in the folder. Now that you own the file/folder, you can grant your account permission to access the file/folder.

Step 2 – Grant Access

In the same Command Prompt with Administrative privileges in the above step, enter the following command at the prompt (>). Replace each underscore (_) with a space, paste the Path to the file/folder that you copied earlier for *PastePath* in the command below, and press the Enter key to run the command.

icacls_PastePath**_/grant_administrators:F_/T**

Close the Command Prompt and reboot the PC for your changes to take effect. Once rebooted you will have access to those files/folders.