

# Re: cannot remove files from /tmp

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*Source:* <http://linux.derkeiler.com/Mailing-Lists/Fedora/2007-01/msg01147.html>

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  - *Date:* Mon, 8 Jan 2007 17:28:18 -0600 (CST)
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Rolf Gerrits <[rm.gerrits@xxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:rm.gerrits@xxxxxxxxxxxx)> initially asked:

I have a problem removing files from the /tmp directory ...  
At startup the system cannot remove them either

<snip>

```
-----s-w- 1 rpm 20752 16384 Jan 15 1971 linc-160f-0-2c899751e4a49
-----ws--x 1 rpm 49661 16384 Jan 1 1970 linc-d19-0-5e596cf89dd0e
-----ws--x 1 rpm 49661 16384 Jan 1 1970 linc-d1b-0-5e596cf865a39
-----ws--x 1 rpm 49661 8192 Jan 1 1970 linc-d38-0-5fcf32a247496
-----ws--x 1 rpm 49661 16384 Jan 1 1970
OSL_PIPE_500_SingleOfficeIPC_5c953c8cde59b25240dbf8a4df6a2ff6
-----Sr-- 1 rpm 16832 28672 Jan 1 1970 virtual-rolf.usyUMr
<snip>
```

This probably happened with the recent crashes I have with my FC4/6  
system ( or maybe they are the cause of it ? )  
.... any suggestions ?

Rolf

I had suggested he examine the output of "lsattr -a \*", which showed:

```
----i----j--T linc-160f-0-2c899751e4a49
s--D-a-A-j-t- linc-d19-0-5e596cf89dd0e
---D-a-A-j-t- linc-d1b-0-5e596cf865a39
s--D-ad--j-t- linc-d38-0-5fcf32a247496
suS--a-----t- OSL_PIPE_500_SingleOfficeIPC_5c953c8cde59b25240dbf8a4df6a2ff6
--S-i--A-j--T virtual-rolf.usyUMr
```

Based on "info chattr" output, we can translate these mode bits as:

- a - append only,
- c - compressed,
- d - no dump,
- i - immutable,

Re: cannot remove files from /tmp

j – data journalling,  
s – secure deletion,  
t – no tail–merging,  
u – undeletable,  
A – no atime updates ,  
D – synchronous directory updates,  
S – synchronous updates,  
T – top of directory hierarchy.

So basically, Rolf's got some set–gid files he can't erase as root because the files attribute bits (the lsattr/chattr stuff, not the file mode bits) are preventing it.

Thus, from where I sit, it looks like the following ought to do the job (and I tested this by creating some files matching the modes/attributes Rolf reported):

```
$ cd /tmp
$ su
# chattr –sDiaAjtT linc*
# rm –f ./linc*
# chattr –SiAjT virtual–rolf.usyUMr
# rm –f virtual–rolf.usyUMr
# chattr –suSat OSL_PIPE_500_SingleOfficeIPC_5c953c8cde59b25240dbf8a4df6a2ff6
# rm –f OSL_PIPE_500_SingleOfficeIPC_5c953c8cde59b25240dbf8a4df6a2ff6
# exit
# ls –l /tmp
```

As an aside: 99.99% of Linux programs don't mess with file attribute bits. The only time I've seen these attributes modified in a non–orange–book–secure (i.e.: SELinux) environment was done as part of a script–kiddie break–in/root–hack. Because of this, I'm gonna ask: are you sure you're not being hacked even as you try and resolve this? Suggest at a minimum, you pick up a copy of chkrootkit available through <http://www.chkrootkit.org> and run it.

Note however, that if you're running SELinux, your mileage may vary about a lot of this stuff.

Hope this helps,

–S

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