
Subject: "OPENW: Error opening file. Unit: (...) Too many links" - What does this mean? (Possible I/O problem)

Posted by [Jasdeep Anand](#) on Fri, 05 Jul 2013 17:00:48 GMT

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Hey all,

I'm writing a program that reads and writes several thousand ASCII files in several loops. This code has traditionally worked when the total number of files was about 90,000. However, I've recently increased the loops involved so that I create many more (~ 500,000 in all). When I do this, the program starts off fine, until up to a certain point (at about the 175,000th file), when I suddenly get this message:

```
% OPENW: Error opening file. Unit: (...)  
      File: (...)  
      Too many links  
% Execution halted at: $MAIN$      (...)
```

I have not seen this error before. At first I thought that the file unit was being reused too much, so I tried to make every OPENW statement have a corresponding FREE_LUN statement when I was finished writing to a different file (I'm still using the same variable, "lun" for all these units, because I thought that FREE_LUN would mean I could reuse it again for another file), but I still get the same message at the same point in time. What else could be the problem here? I've not managed to find a similar instance of this problem occurring anywhere else and the IDL documentation isn't helping much.

Thanks,

Jas.
