
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.

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

Posted by skymaxwell@gmail.com on Sun, 07 Jul 2013 11:33:34 GMT

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> Hey all,

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>

> 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:

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> % OPENW: Error opening file. Unit: (...)
>
> File: (...)
>
> Too many links
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> Thanks,
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>
> Jas.

Hi, from IDL help on GET_LUN procedure

"The file unit number obtained is in the range 100 to 128"

I think you need check lun numbers and check that all files are closed correct.
Also i can guess that if you have a loops, check type of counter variables there.

for example if you have
FOR I=0,10000000 DO BEGIN

change to
FOR I=0,10000000LL DO BEGIN

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

Posted by [Carsten Lechte](#) on Tue, 09 Jul 2013 10:27:36 GMT

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On 05/07/13 19:00, Jas wrote:

```
> files was about 90,000. However, I've recently increased the loops involved  
> so that I create many more (~ 500,000 in all).
```

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

That looks like the underlying file system complaining that the maximum number of files in a directory has been reached. Depending on which filesystem on which operating system you use, it may be possible to increase this limit. However, it might be better to reconsider generating so many files in the first place. If you really need so many separate files, you could group them into 500 directories with about 1000 files each.

chl
