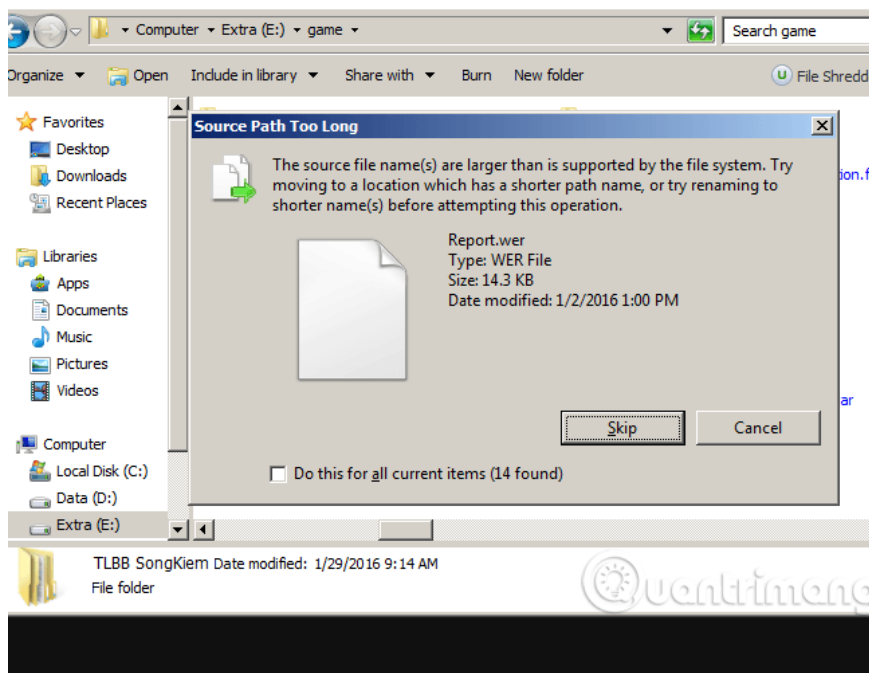


A simple way to delete a folder with a long name on Windows

This is a situation that is quite common for Windows users. This phenomenon is when we copy, cut, move, delete, rename ... or do anything to the directory, data file that has a length in the path that exceeds 255 characters in Windows (theoretically on Microsoft is 260 characters), the system will display the error as below. So how to delete files and folders with long path names ???

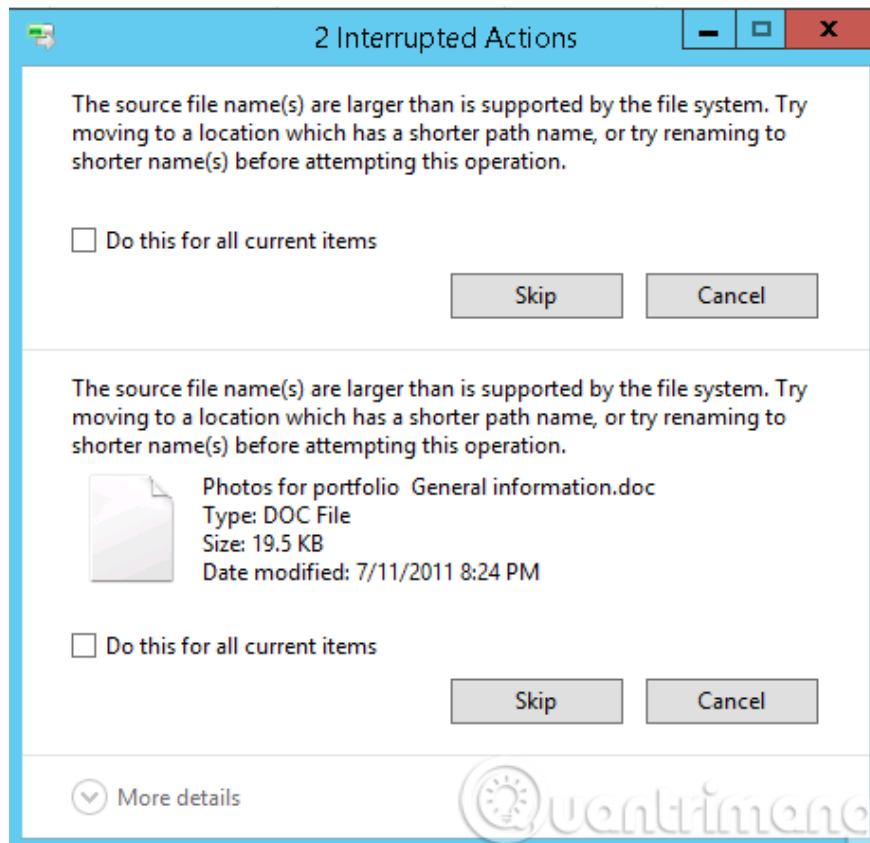
Yes, friends. This is a situation that is quite common for Windows users. This phenomenon is when we copy, cut, move, delete, rename . or do anything to the directory, data file that has a length in the path that exceeds 255 characters in Windows (theoretically on Microsoft is 260 characters), the system will display an error as shown below:

1. Tên tệp tin tên (s) b? l?n h?n ???c h? tr? b?i h? th?ng t?p tin. ?ang th? chuy?n ??n m?t v? trí mà có tên ???ng d?n nh? h?n, ho?c renaming ?? ?óng tên (s) tr??c khi th? này.



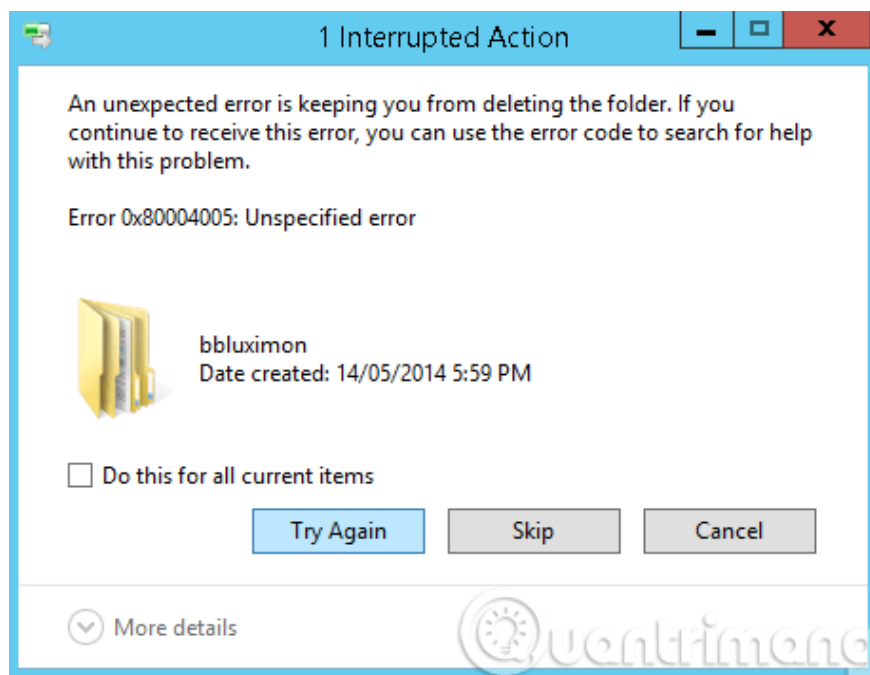
Illustrative error occurred on Windows 7

Or here:



This error message is similar:

1. **L?i l?i b?t th??ng, gi? l?i b?n t? th? m?c. N?u b?n ti?p t?c ?? nh?n l?i này, b?n có th? s? d?ng mã l?i ?? tìm ki?m ?? làm vi?c v?i l?i này.**
2. **Error: 0x80004005: Unspecified error**



For these types of errors, even if you use assassins like Folder Lock, Folder Guard, Unlocker . they don't lose. Even the PowerShell utility still has to bundle:

1. **Remove-Item: ???ng d?n ??a ra, t?p tin tên, ho?c c? hai là quá dài. Nh?ng ?? xác ??nh t?p tin tên ph?i là ít h?n 260 ký t?, và tên th? m?c ph?i là ít nh?t 248 ký t?.**

```
PS E:\> Remove-Item .\sjfarrell -Recurse
Remove-Item : The specified path, file name, or both are too long. The fully qualified file
characters, and the directory name must be less than 248 characters.
At line:1 char:1
+ Remove-Item .\sjfarrell -Recurse
+ ~~~~~
+ CategoryInfo          : WriteError: (E:\sjfarrell:String) [Remove-Item], PathTooLong
+ FullyQualifiedErrorId : RemoveItemIOError,Microsoft.PowerShell.Commands.RemoveItemCommand
```

Simply because PowerShell cannot support all files, the directory path is longer than 255 characters, even if the partition you are storing is in NTFS format. However, not all ways to handle this situation. In the article below, TipsMake.com will introduce to you a rare tool that can help us overcome this situation. That is the software support **Long Path Tool** , link download the latest version here.

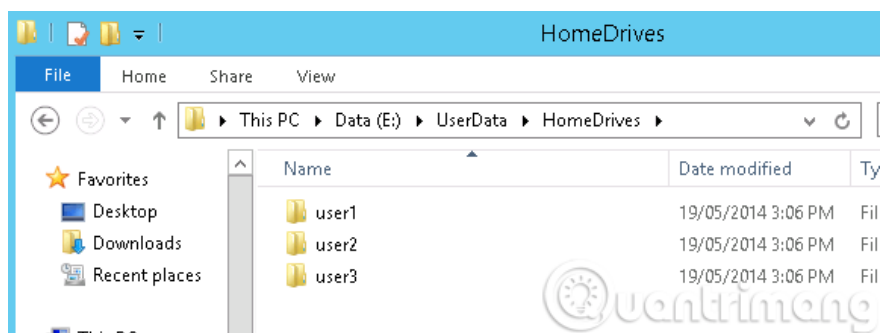
How to use the Long Path Tool is quite simple, please see the video tutorial below:

But besides, do you know that there are still tools available from Microsoft that support this very well, that is **Robocopy** . In essence, **Robocopy** works as follows:

1. When used with the command /MIR, Robocopy will proceed to create a backup of the entire folder, the current file name on another partition, and when your root folder is empty - empty then the system The system will delete the current files and folders.

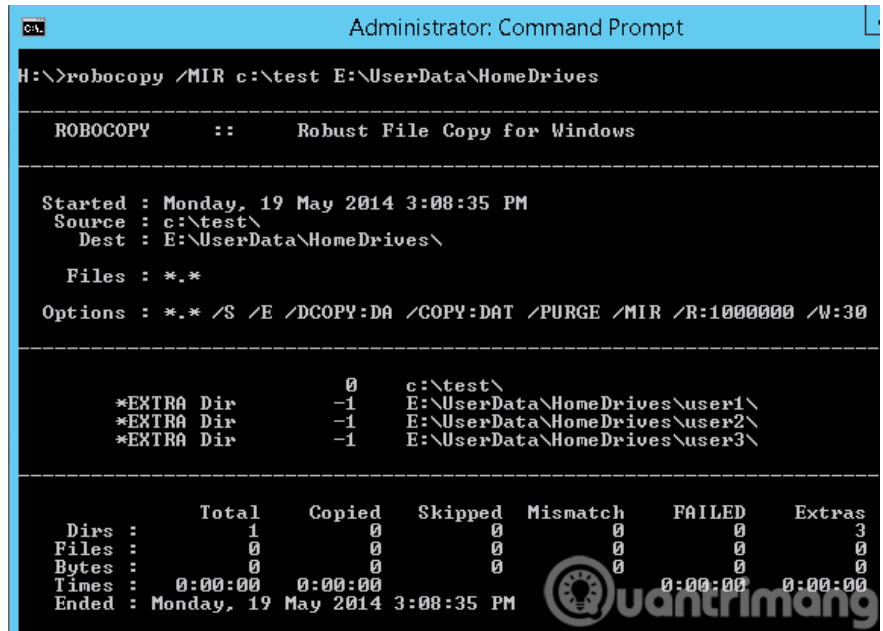
As shown in the example image above, you can see in the game folder that has the directory, in which there are many other subdirectories, so the total number of characters appearing on the path has exceeded 260 characters, and leads As a result, it is impossible to delete, move, copy or rename those folders. Or here, I have 3

subdirectories with the same path structure as above. And of course, Windows Explorer can't do anything right now:



At drive C (or any other drive), I create a new empty folder (name it whatever you want), then use the following command to copy the entire HomeDrives internal directory to the new address:

1. robocopy /MIR c: test E: UserDataHomeDrives



After executing the above command, the entire directory inside **E: UserDataHomeDrives** has been **deliberately** deleted, and our rest has been much simpler. Robocopy has shown its immensely powerful ability to handle, copy, delete, rename folders with too long names, exceeding the standard 255 characters of Windows and you still don't have to use support tools. external support.

Video demo using Robocopy to remove files and folders with too long names in Windows:

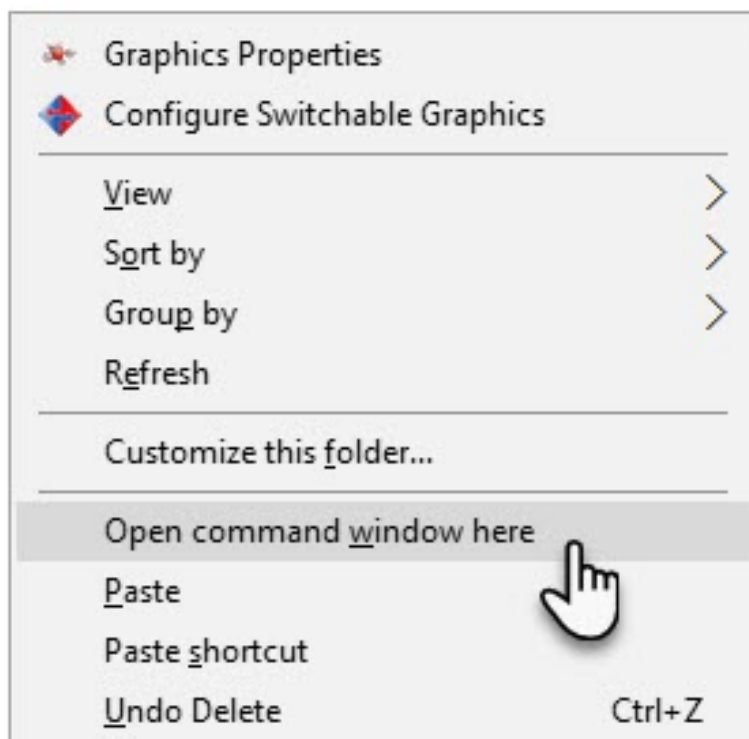
How to delete a long name directory with the command line tool

In addition to the above two ways, deleting the long name directory with the command line tool is a simple three-step process. The trick is to automatically create shorter names and use it.

1. Open the command prompt in the file folder.
2. Use the **DOS** command to get a short file name in 8.3 file format.
3. Now, use the **DEL** command in DOS to delete the file.

See how this tool works in the example below with a long name file in the directory.

Open File Explorer and browse for files in the folder. Press **Shift** , then right-click an empty area. Select **Open command window here** . The Command Prompt window will appear with a link to the folder you are visiting.



Enter the DOS command to list the folders and files in the current directory. The **dir** command is an internal command and is available on all Microsoft operating systems. The / **X** attribute displays short names for non-8.3 file names. You can also use **DIR / X / P** to pause and switch from one screen to the next screen when there are too many files to check.

The screenshot below shows the text file that we want to delete with the edited short file name.

```
C:\WINDOWS\system32\cmd.exe
C:\Users\hp\Desktop\Images>dir /x
Volume in drive C is Main
Volume Serial Number is C4BF-5F47

Directory of C:\Users\hp\Desktop\Images

01/17/2017  05:02 PM    <DIR>          .
01/17/2017  05:02 PM    <DIR>          ..
01/17/2017  04:46 PM                0 ABCDEF~1.TXT abcdefghijklmnopqrstuvwxyzabcd
efghijklmnopqrstuvwxyzlmnoprstuvw
xyzlmnopqrstuvwxyzabcdefghijklmnopqrstuvwxyz
nopqrstuvwxyzabcdefghijklmnopqrstuvwxyz
xyz.txt
                1 File(s)             0 bytes
                2 Dir(s)  40,733,466,624 bytes free
```

So you can see how we use DOS to automatically create a shorter name for the file. Now just use the simple DEL command on the short file name to remove the file.

```
C:\WINDOWS\system32\cmd.exe
C:\Users\hp\Desktop\Images>dir /x
Volume in drive C is Main
Volume Serial Number is C4BF-5F47

Directory of C:\Users\hp\Desktop\Images

01/17/2017  05:02 PM    <DIR>          .
01/17/2017  05:02 PM    <DIR>          ..
01/17/2017  04:46 PM                0 ABCDEF~1.TXT abcdefghijklmnopqrstuvwxyzabcd
efghijklmnopqrstuvwxyzlmnoprstuvw
xyzlmnopqrstuvwxyzabcdefghijklmnopqrstuvwxyz
nopqrstuvwxyzabcdefghijklmnopqrstuvwxyz
xyz.txt
                1 File(s)             0 bytes
                2 Dir(s)  40,733,466,624 bytes free

C:\Users\hp\Desktop\Images: del ABCDEF~1.TXT
```

The lesson here is to not ignore DOS. There are many useful DOS commands that can save you time.

Good luck!

You finished reading the article "A simple way to delete a folder with a long name on Windows" edited by the [TipsMake](#) team. We hope this article has provided you with many useful tech tips and tricks. You can search for similar articles on tips and guides. Thank you for reading and for following us regularly.