

Fixing Locked Jrun Log Files Without Restarting Coldfusion

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In a follow up to my previous post on [Jrun Processor Pegging Issues and Solutions](#) I was intrigued by an idea given to me by [Steven Erat](#). The problem is that the "-err" and "-out" logs do not roll over like the event logs. This is a problem that is slated to be fixed in the next version. To "fix" this problem Steven thought it might be possible to move or delete the file using CFFILE without restarting CF. He reasoned that while windows could not defeat the lock, perhaps CF could defeat it because it owned the lock to begin with. Here's what I found.

Deleting, Moving and Renaming the File will all Fail

If you try to delete the file:

```
<Cffile action="DELETE"
    file="*path*\logs\coldfusion-out.log"
/>
...OR...
<Cffile action="DELETE"
    file="*path*\logs\*instance*-out.log"
/>
```

It errors out with a message that says *"ColdFusion could not delete the file '*path*\logs\coldfusion-out.log' for an unknown reason."* If you try to either move or rename the file as in these examples

Move

```
<Cffile action="MOVE"
    source="*path*\logs\coldfusion-out.log"
    destination="*path*\oldlogs\"
/>
...OR...
<Cffile action="MOVE"
    source="*path*\logs\*instance*-out.log"
    destination="*path*\oldlogs\"
/>
```

Rename

```
<Cffile action="RENAME"
    source="*path*\logs\coldfusion-out.log"
    destination="*path*\logs\oldOut.log"
/>
...OR...
<Cffile action="RENAME"
    source="*path*\logs\*instance*-out.log"
    destination="*path*\logs\oldOut.log"
/>
```

The code errors out with a message that the *"The value of the attribute source, which is currently '*path*\logs\coldfusion-out.log', is invalid."* That's the bad news. The good news is that it actually is possible to solve this problem without restarting the coldfusion instance. How? Use the "WRITE" action.

Overwriting the File

When I tried the write attribute like this:

```
<Cffile
  action="WRITE"
  file="*path*\logs\coldfusion-out.log"
  output="## Created by Bob, May 3, 2006"
  addnewline="yes"
/>
```

It worked perfectly. When I opened the file it now contains my message, "#Created by Bob, May 3, 2006", as the header. I restarted the server just to make sure that this file was not corrupted by my effort. When I reexamined the file it was collecting log data normally.

The Catch

The thing to note here is that the data is now gone. To quote Monty Python's Dead Parrot sketch, "It is deceased, it is no more, it has passed away, crossed over, pushing up daisies, gone toward the light, kicked the bucket, given up the ghost, bought the farm..." So before you try the code above, copy the file *using windows* so you have a copy of the data if you need it.

Why copy it using windows? Why not just do both operations using CFFILE? Ah... well, if you read my post from yesterday (5/2/2006) you will note that the problem we are most often trying to solve is that the "out" and "err" log files grow quite large (hundreds of megabytes perhaps even gigabytes) and do not "roll over" like the other "event" style log files. This creates a problem and I suspect it is the culprit in at least one case of JRUN pegging at 100%. Have you ever tried to copy a very very large file using Coldfusion? Quite simply, Coldfusion is not the best tool for this sort of thing. I suspect that Coldfusion reads the entire file into memory before writing it out to disk. If it's a very large file, it may even exhaust your server resources. Instead, use an alternative method for backing up the file, then overwrite it using the code above. This will give you the best of both worlds.