

## Re: [Q] Delete file get "parameter too long"

**Source:** <http://unix.derkeiler.com/Mailing-Lists/AIX-L/2004-04/0306.html>

---

**From:** Robert Miller (*rmiller\_at\_SMUD.ORG*)

**Date:** 04/27/04

Date: Tue, 27 Apr 2004 06:39:27 -0700  
To: aix-l@Princeton.EDU

I have also recently used regular expressions – 'rm [a-f]\*;rm [g-m]\*;rm [n-z]\*;rm [A-F]\*', etc... which also works – I do like the for loop idea though, it's much easier :)

--rm

-----Original Message-----

From: IBM AIX Discussion List [mailto:aix-l@Princeton.EDU] On Behalf Of Harvey, Bruce T.

Sent: Tuesday, April 27, 2004 5:45 AM

To: aix-l@Princeton.EDU

Subject: Re: [Q] Delete file get "parameter too long"

1. Use the find command. But be absolutely certain either the directory you specify or the directory you're in. This would also remove files in lower directories, though, so be careful.

Ex: find /mydir -type f -name "\*somepattern\*" -exec rm -f {} \;  
-print

2. List the files into a temporary file, create a 'for' loop or 'while read' loop, then remove one at a time.

```
Ex: ls >/tmp/myfile
for f in `cat /tmp/myfile`
do
    rm -f $f
done
```

-or-

```
cat /tmp/myfile | while read f
do
    rm -f $f
done
```

Bruce T. Harvey  
Legg Mason Wood Walker, Inc.

AIX-L: Re: [Q] Delete file get "parameter too long"

Corporate Technology – Mgr. UNIX Engineering  
11155 Red Run Blvd – Owings Mills, MD 21117-3256  
(410) 580-7383 ----- BTHarvey@LeggMason.com

---

-----Original Message-----

From: bbb bb [mailto:mccux1@HOTMAIL.COM]  
Sent: Tuesday, April 27, 2004 8:29 AM  
To: aix-l@Princeton.EDU  
Subject: [Q] Delete file get "parameter too long"

We have AIX 4.3.3 on RS6000. I tried to delte files and get "parameter too long". I need change to that directory to delete it.  
Does anyone know why and how to fix it?

The procedures I do:

```
$ rm /user1/dir1/*  
ksh: /usr/bin/rm: 0403-027 The parameter list is too long.  
$ ls -al /user1/dir1/*|wc -l  
ksh: /usr/bin/ls: 0403-027 The parameter list is too long.  
0  
$ cd /user1/dir1  
$ ls -lt|wc -l  
1042  
$ rm *  
$ ls -al  
total 232  
drwxrwxrwx 2 informix sys 22016 Apr 27 07:00 .  
drwxrwsrwx 16 informix sys 90624 Apr 27 06:01 ..
```

Thanks.

---

Stop worrying about overloading your inbox – get MSN Hotmail Extra Storage!  
<http://join.msn.com/?pgmarket=en-us&page=hotmail/es2&ST=1/go/onm00200362ave/direct/01/>

**IMPORTANT:** The security of electronic mail sent through the Internet is not guaranteed. Legg Mason therefore recommends that you do not send confidential information to us via electronic mail, including social security numbers, account numbers, and personal identification numbers.

Delivery, and timely delivery, of electronic mail is also not guaranteed. Legg Mason therefore recommends that you do not send time-sensitive or action-oriented messages to us via electronic mail, including authorization to "buy" or "sell" a security or instructions to conduct any other financial transaction. Such requests, orders or instructions will not be processed until Legg Mason can confirm your instructions or obtain appropriate written documentation where necessary.

Re: [Q] Delete file get "parameter too long"