



Note: This API call is for DOS and Win16 personality only. Use [Family API](#) for portability.

2018/09/07 05:04 · prokushev · [0 Comments](#)

Int 21H, AH=41H

Version

2 and higher

Brief

“UNLINK” - DELETE FILE

Family API

Input

```
AH = 41h
DS:DX -> ASCIZ filename (no wildcards, but see notes)
CL = attribute mask for deletion (server call only, see notes)
```

Return

CF clear if successful

```
AX destroyed (DOS 3.3) AL seems to be drive of deleted file
CF set on error
AX = error code (02h,03h,05h) (see #01680 at AH=59h/BX=0000h)
```

Notes

```
(DOS 3.1+) wildcards are allowed if invoked via AX=5D00h, in which case
the filespec must be canonical (as returned by AH=60h), and only
files matching the attribute mask in CL are deleted
DR DOS 5.0-6.0 returns error code 03h if invoked via AX=5D00h; DR DOS
```

3.41 crashes if called via AX=5D00h with wildcards
 DOS does not erase the file's data; it merely becomes inaccessible because the FAT chain for the file is cleared
 deleting a file which is currently open may lead to filesystem corruption. Unless SHARE is loaded, DOS does not close the handles referencing the deleted file, thus allowing writes to a nonexistant file.
 under DR DOS and DR Multiuser DOS, this function will fail if the file is currently open
 under the FlashTek X-32 DOS extender, the pointer is in DS:EDX
 BUG: DR DOS 3.41 crashes if called via AX=5D00h

See also

AH=13h,AX=4301h,AX=4380h,AX=5D00h,AH=60h,AX=7141h,AX=F244h, INT 2F/AX=1113h

Note

Text based on [Ralf Brown Interrupt List Release 61](#)

| DOS API | |
|-----------------------------|---|
| Process manager | INT 20H , INT 21H : 00H , 25H , 26H , 31H , 34H , 35H , 4BH , 4CH , 4DH , 50H , 51H , 52H , 55H , 62H , INT 22H , INT 27H , INT 28H |
| File manager | INT 25H , INT 26H , INT 21H : 0DH , 0EH , 0FH , 10H , 11H , 12H , 13H , 14H , 15H , 16H , 17H , 19H , 1AH , 1BH , 1CH , 21H , 22H , 23H , 24H , 27H , 28H , 29H , 2EH , 2FH , 32H , 3305H , 36H , 39H , 3AH , 3BH , 3CH , 3DH , 3EH , 3FH , 40H , 41H , 42H , 4300H , 4301H , 45H , 45H , 46H , 4EH , 4FH , 54H , 56H , 5700H , 5701H , 5AH , 5BH , 5c00H , 5c01H , 60H , 67H , 68H , 6900H , 6901H , 6AH , 6CH |
| Character Device I/O | INT 29H , INT 21H : 01H , 02H , 03H , 04H , 05H , 06H , 07H , 08H , 09H , 0AH , 0BH , 0AH , 0CH , 5D07H , 5D08H , 5D09H , 5D0AH |
| Signals | INT 23H , INT 24H , INT 21H : 3300H , 3301H , 3302H |
| Memory manager | INT 21H : 48H , 49H , 4AH , 5800H , 5801H , 5802H , 5803H |
| Date and Time | INT 21H : 2AH , 2BH , 2CH , 2DH |
| Misc | INT 21H : 30H , 3306H , 3700H , 3701H , 3702H , 3703H , 59H |
| NLS | INT 21H : 3303H , 3304H , 3800H , 3801H , 6300H , 6301H , 6301H , 6500H , 6501H , 6502H , 6503H , 6504H , 6505H , 6506H , 6507H , 6520H , 6521H , 6522H , 6523H , 65A0H , 65A1H , 65A2H , 6601H , 6602H |
| Devices | INT 21H : 4400H , 4401H , 4402H , 4403H , 4404H , 4405H , 4406H , 4407H , 4408H , 4409H , 440AH , 440BH , 440CH , 440DH , 440EH , 440FH , 4410H , 4411H , 53H |
| Network | INT 21H : 5E00H , 5E01H , 5E02H , 5E03H , 5E04H , 5E05H , 5F00H , 5F01H , 5F02H , 5F03H , 5F04H , 5F05H , 5F07H , 5F08H |
| osFree Macro Library | |
| Video I/O | @SetMode @SetCurSz @SetCurPos @GetCur @SetPage @ScrollUp @ScrollDn @Scroll @GetChAtr @PutChAtr @PutCh @SetPalet @SetColor @SetDot @GetDot @WrtTTY @VideoState @GetMode @GetDisplay @GetVideoState @GetEGAInfo @Cls |

osFree Macro Library

| | |
|----------------|--|
| Hardware info | @Equipment @MemSize |
| Serial I/O | @AuxInit @AuxSendChar @AuxRecieveChar @AuxStatus |
| Tape I/O | @TapeOn @TapeOff @TapeRead @TapeWrite |
| Keyboard I/O | @KbdStatus @CharIn @CharPeek |
| Printer I/O | @PrnPrint @PrnInit @PrnStatus |
| Disk I/O | @DskReset @DskStatus @DskRead @DskWrite @DskVerify @DskFormat |
| Date and Time | @SetTime @GetTime |
| Mouse | @MouInit @MouShowPointer @MouStatus @MouSetPos @MouSetMickey @MouRegion |
| Memory manager | @ModBlok SET_BLOCK |

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Family API

| | | |
|-----------|-----------------|---|
| DOS | Process Manager | DosBeep DosExit DosSleep DosExecPgm |
| | File Manager | DosChDir DosChgFilePtr DosClose DosDelete DosDupHandle DosMkDir DosMove DosQCurDir DosQCurDisk DosSetFileMode DosOpen DosQFileInfo DosRead DosQFileMode DosQFSInfo DosQVerify DosRmdir DosSelectDisk DosFindClose DosFindFirst DosFindNext DosSetFileInfo DosSetVerify DosWrite DosFileLocks DosSetFHandState DosNewSize DosBufReset DosQFHandState DosSetFSinfo DosShutdown |
| | Memory Manager | DosFreeSeg DosSubAlloc DosSubFree DosSubSet DosAllocHuge DosAllocSeg DosReallocHuge DosReallocSeg DosGetHugeShift DosCreateCSAlias |
| | NLS | DosCaseMap DosGetCtryInfo DosGetDBCSEv DosSetCtryCode DosGetCollate DosGetMessage DosInsMessage DosPutMessage |
| | Date and Time | DosSetDateTime DosGetDateTime |
| | Devices | DosDevConfig DosDevIOctl DosDevIOctl2 |
| | Signals | DosHoldSignal DosSetSigHandler |
| | Misc | BadDynLink DosGetEnv DosGetMachineMode DosGetVersion DosError DosErrClass DosSetVec |
| KBD | | KbdCharIn KbdFlushBuffer KbdGetStatus KbdSetStatus KbdStringIn KbdPeek |
| VIO | | VioGetBuf VioGetConfig VioGetCurPos VioGetCurType VioGetPhysBuf VioReadCellStr VioReadCharStr VioScrollUp VioScrollDn VioScrollLf VioScrollRt VioScrUnLock VioSetCurPos VioSetCurType VioSetMode VioGetMode VioShowBuf VioWrtCellStr VioWrtCharStr VioWrtCharStrAtt VioWrtNAttr VioWrtNCell VioWrtNChar VioWrtTTY VioScrLock VioPopUp |
| Tools | | BIND |
| Modules | | DOSCALLS.DLL VIOCALLS.DLL KBDCALLS.DLL MSG.DLL |
| Libraries | | API.LIB OS2386.LIB FAPI.LIB DOSCALLS.LIB SUBCALLS.LIB |

2018/08/25 15:05 · prokushev · 0 Comments

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