

# I have enabled “take ownership” permission, but I still cannot obtain write access



A customer was trying to write to a file that was protected with an access control list that did not grant write access to anyone, not even administrators. They found that they couldn't open the file with `dwDesiredAccess` equal to `GENERIC_WRITE`, not even if they ran the process elevated and enabled the `SE_TAKE_OWNERSHIP_NAME` privilege.

The `SE_TAKE_OWNERSHIP_NAME` privilege does not affect access control masks. The `SE_TAKE_OWNERSHIP_NAME` privilege controls whether you can call `SetNamedSecurityInfo` with the `OWNER_SECURITY_INFORMATION` flag to change the owner of an object.

Taking ownership of an object still doesn't grant you write access, though. What you do get from ownership is automatic `READ_CONTROL` and `WRITE_DAC` access: The permission to read and write permissions.

Gaining write access to a file starting from “take ownership” privilege is therefore a multi-step procedure.

First, enable the “take ownership” privilege. This makes it possible to change a file's owner.

Next, call `SetNamedSecurityInfo` with the `OWNER_SECURITY_INFORMATION` flag to set yourself as the file owner. This gives you permission to change permissions.

Next, call `SetNamedSecurityInfo` again, this time with the `DACL_SECURITY_INFORMATION` flag, passing an access control list that grants you write access.

Now you have write access to the file and can open it for `GENERIC_WRITE`.