

Removing a Locked Virtualbox VM

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Abstract

Occasionally you will get a Virtualbox VM into a locked state and this will prevent it being deleted. Attempts to delete or unregister the VM result in the error `Stderr: VBoxManage: error: The machine 'centos64_c6402_1454036461345_59755' is already locked for a session (or being unlocked)`. This article describes how to resolve this problem.

The Virtualbox virtual machine (VM) you are trying to remove or unregister is 'locked' producing an error like the following.

```
1 Stderr: VBoxManage: error: The machine           >
  ◁ 'centos64_c6402_1454036461345_59755' is already locked  >
  ◁ for a session (or being unlocked)                       >
2 VBoxManage: error: Details: code                 >
  ◁ VBOX_E_INVALID_OBJECT_STATE (0x80bb0007), component    >
  ◁ MachineWrap, interface IMachine, callee nsISupports   >
3 VBoxManage: error: Context: "LockMachine(a->session,   >
  ◁ LockType_Write)" at line 493 of file                   >
  ◁ VBoxManageModifyVM.cpp
```

The simplest way I know the 'unlock' this sort of VM is using an 'emergencystop'.

```
bash
1 VBoxManage startvm <vm-uuid> --type emergencystop
```

Where <vm-uuid> is found using `VBoxManage list vms` (the UUID being the long collection of characters between the `\{\}` at the end of each line).

```
bash
1 VBoxManage list vms
```

```
1 "Whonix-Gateway" {d89a93c5-d0f3-48ef-9e5c-bf0df89931f1}
2 "Whonix-Workstation"
  {05647ae6-792c-4caf-be5e-1508c6d012cf}
3 "Buscador-1.2(3-10-18)"
  {c44145ec-5a71-44b2-a6cb-c590ab92d273}
```

Once the VM is unlocked you can remove it as usual.

```
bash
1 VBoxManage unregistervm --delete <vm-uuid>
```

Or simply unregister it if you have deleted the VM files already.

```
bash
1 VBoxManage unregistervm <vm-uuid>
```