

How to create a file mapping that allows others to open the file in exclusive mode?

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A customer had a tool that opens files like DLLs and TLBs in order to extract information from them.

We currently use `CreateFile`, `CreateFileMapping`, and `MapViewOfFile` to access the file. The problem is that the `CreateFileMapping` prevents the file from being renamed or deleted, even if the `CreateFile` opened the file with a sharing mode that permits those operations. It is our understanding that this is expected behavior.

Since DLLs and TLBs under active development are frequently deleted or overwritten, our use of `CreateFileMapping` interferes with developer workflow because the user's build will fail with a sharing violation. We were wondering if there is an alternative to `CreateFileMapping` that would allow the file to be renamed, deleted, or written to. We know that we could slurp the entire file into memory and operate on the in-memory copy, but we were hoping for something less drastic.

Yes, there is something less drastic. In fact, this is the type of scenarios for which opportunistic locks were created: You want to access a file, but you don't want your access to interfere with anybody else who wants to access the file after you get access.

For a code sample, I defer to [my earlier discussion of opportunistic locks](#).

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