

## Flash Drive error

*"Cannot copy (file name): the request could not be performed because of an I/O device error"*

Answer from <http://ask-leo.com/>

"I/O" stands for Input/Output, so an "I/O Device" is the Input/Output device you happen to be using at the time. An "I/O Device error" means that some kind of unrecoverable error happened on that device.

The device, of course, could be either the device that contains the file you're copying - in other words an error reading the file - or the device you're copying the file to - in other words an error writing the file.

If you can copy the file anywhere else - like perhaps a different hard disk - then the problem is likely to be writing to the destination, which in your case is the flash drive.

As I've written about before, [flash drives wear out](#), and cheap ones wear out most quickly. When they begin to fail they start showing errors exactly like what you're seeing.

When this happens you really have only one option: copy off all the data you might want to preserve from that flash drive, and replace it with a new one. Simple, and hopefully effective if you do it as soon as the flash drive starts showing problems.

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When this error occurs on your primary hard drive in your computer, it may indicate a 'bad sector'. Do a Scandisk or on XP Error Checking and be sure that both boxes are checked. You'll have to say YES to schedule the Error Checking to run, then restart your computer. It takes a few hours if you have a very large hard drive, so do this when you don't need the computer for a long time.

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