

Computers, unfortunately, speak a language all their own. That's okay, as long as they keep it to themselves. However, there are times that it'd be good to know what they're whining about—error messages. Here are some common error messages and the fix for them.

File is controlled by another user

This error message sometimes happens when you try to open Blue Ribbon, and it just won't run until you fix it. Normally, the error message contains something about a file named "Pdoxurs.lck" or "Paradox.lck"

Why does this happen?

When Blue Ribbon is running, there are some temporary "lock" files that are created that keep two concurrent users from accessing and changing the same record at the same time. Two people can use Blue Ribbon at the same time, you just can't be in Johnny Smith's record at the same time. Normally, when the last (or only) user exits from Blue Ribbon, those files are deleted automatically by the program.

However, sometimes funky things happen with computers. They creatively decide to shut themselves off, the lights go out, Blue Ribbon locks up and you ctl-alt-delete out of it, the auto-update thing happens, whatever. If BR doesn't get shut down in the "normal" way, sometimes those files are not deleted. At that point, nobody can get into the program.

How to fix it:

This is lots shorter than the explanation. Go to your Data folder, and open it. Look for any files that end in ".lck"—there may be 2 or 3 of them. Delete those files only. Do the same thing in your Locks folder. Once the files have been deleted, BR will work normally again.