



**Note: This API call is for DOS and Win16 personality only. Use [Family API](#) for portability.**

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# Int 21H, AH=41H

## Version

2 and higher

## Brief

“UNLINK” - DELETE FILE

## Family API

## Input

```
AH = 41h
DS:DX -> ASCIZ filename (no wildcards, but see notes)
CL = attribute mask for deletion (server call only, see notes)
```

## Return

CF clear if successful

```
AX destroyed (DOS 3.3) AL seems to be drive of deleted file
CF set on error
AX = error code (02h,03h,05h) (see #01680 at AH=59h/BX=0000h)
```

## Notes

```
(DOS 3.1+) wildcards are allowed if invoked via AX=5D00h, in which case
the filespec must be canonical (as returned by AH=60h), and only
files matching the attribute mask in CL are deleted
DR DOS 5.0-6.0 returns error code 03h if invoked via AX=5D00h; DR DOS
```

3.41 crashes if called via AX=5D00h with wildcards  
 DOS does not erase the file's data; it merely becomes inaccessible because the FAT chain for the file is cleared  
 deleting a file which is currently open may lead to filesystem corruption. Unless SHARE is loaded, DOS does not close the handles referencing the deleted file, thus allowing writes to a nonexistant file.  
 under DR DOS and DR Multiuser DOS, this function will fail if the file is currently open  
 under the FlashTek X-32 DOS extender, the pointer is in DS:EDX  
 BUG: DR DOS 3.41 crashes if called via AX=5D00h

## See also

AH=13h,AX=4301h,AX=4380h,AX=5D00h,AH=60h,AX=7141h,AX=F244h, INT 2F/AX=1113h

## Note

Text based on [Ralf Brown Interrupt List Release 61](#)

| <b>DOS API</b>              |   |
|-----------------------------|---|
| Process manager             | <a href="#">INT 20H</a> , <a href="#">INT 21H</a> : <a href="#">00H</a> , <a href="#">25H</a> , <a href="#">26H</a> , <a href="#">31H</a> , <a href="#">34H</a> , <a href="#">35H</a> , <a href="#">4BH</a> , <a href="#">4CH</a> , <a href="#">4DH</a> , <a href="#">50H</a> , <a href="#">51H</a> , <a href="#">52H</a> , <a href="#">55H</a> , <a href="#">62H</a> , <a href="#">INT 22H</a> , <a href="#">INT 27H</a> , <a href="#">INT 28H</a>   |
| File manager                | <a href="#">INT 25H</a> , <a href="#">INT 26H</a> , <a href="#">INT 21H</a> : <a href="#">0DH</a> , <a href="#">0EH</a> , <a href="#">0FH</a> , <a href="#">10H</a> , <a href="#">11H</a> , <a href="#">12H</a> , <a href="#">13H</a> , <a href="#">14H</a> , <a href="#">15H</a> , <a href="#">16H</a> , <a href="#">17H</a> , <a href="#">19H</a> , <a href="#">1AH</a> , <a href="#">1BH</a> , <a href="#">1CH</a> , <a href="#">21H</a> , <a href="#">22H</a> , <a href="#">23H</a> , <a href="#">24H</a> , <a href="#">27H</a> , <a href="#">28H</a> , <a href="#">29H</a> , <a href="#">2EH</a> , <a href="#">2FH</a> , <a href="#">32H</a> , <a href="#">3305H</a> , <a href="#">36H</a> , <a href="#">39H</a> , <a href="#">3AH</a> , <a href="#">3BH</a> , <a href="#">3CH</a> , <a href="#">3DH</a> , <a href="#">3EH</a> , <a href="#">3FH</a> , <a href="#">40H</a> , <a href="#">41H</a> , <a href="#">42H</a> , <a href="#">4300H</a> , <a href="#">4301H</a> , <a href="#">45H</a> , <a href="#">45H</a> , <a href="#">46H</a> , <a href="#">4EH</a> , <a href="#">4FH</a> , <a href="#">54H</a> , <a href="#">56H</a> , <a href="#">5700H</a> , <a href="#">5701H</a> , <a href="#">5AH</a> , <a href="#">5BH</a> , <a href="#">5c00H</a> , <a href="#">5c01H</a> , <a href="#">60H</a> , <a href="#">67H</a> , <a href="#">68H</a> , <a href="#">6900H</a> , <a href="#">6901H</a> , <a href="#">6AH</a> , <a href="#">6CH</a> |
| Character Device I/O        | <a href="#">INT 29H</a> , <a href="#">INT 21H</a> : <a href="#">01H</a> , <a href="#">02H</a> , <a href="#">03H</a> , <a href="#">04H</a> , <a href="#">05H</a> , <a href="#">06H</a> , <a href="#">07H</a> , <a href="#">08H</a> , <a href="#">09H</a> , <a href="#">0AH</a> , <a href="#">0BH</a> , <a href="#">0AH</a> , <a href="#">0CH</a> , <a href="#">5D07H</a> , <a href="#">5D08H</a> , <a href="#">5D09H</a> , <a href="#">5D0AH</a>   |
| Signals                     | <a href="#">INT 23H</a> , <a href="#">INT 24H</a> , <a href="#">INT 21H</a> : <a href="#">3300H</a> , <a href="#">3301H</a> , <a href="#">3302H</a>   |
| Memory manager              | <a href="#">INT 21H</a> : <a href="#">48H</a> , <a href="#">49H</a> , <a href="#">4AH</a> , <a href="#">5800H</a> , <a href="#">5801H</a> , <a href="#">5802H</a> , <a href="#">5803H</a>   |
| Date and Time               | <a href="#">INT 21H</a> : <a href="#">2AH</a> , <a href="#">2BH</a> , <a href="#">2CH</a> , <a href="#">2DH</a>   |
| Misc                        | <a href="#">INT 21H</a> : <a href="#">30H</a> , <a href="#">3306H</a> , <a href="#">3700H</a> , <a href="#">3701H</a> , <a href="#">3702H</a> , <a href="#">3703H</a> , <a href="#">59H</a>   |
| NLS                         | <a href="#">INT 21H</a> : <a href="#">3303H</a> , <a href="#">3304H</a> , <a href="#">3800H</a> , <a href="#">3801H</a> , <a href="#">6300H</a> , <a href="#">6301H</a> , <a href="#">6301H</a> , <a href="#">6500H</a> , <a href="#">6501H</a> , <a href="#">6502H</a> , <a href="#">6503H</a> , <a href="#">6504H</a> , <a href="#">6505H</a> , <a href="#">6506H</a> , <a href="#">6507H</a> , <a href="#">6520H</a> , <a href="#">6521H</a> , <a href="#">6522H</a> , <a href="#">6523H</a> , <a href="#">65A0H</a> , <a href="#">65A1H</a> , <a href="#">65A2H</a> , <a href="#">6601H</a> , <a href="#">6602H</a>   |
| Devices                     | <a href="#">INT 21H</a> : <a href="#">4400H</a> , <a href="#">4401H</a> , <a href="#">4402H</a> , <a href="#">4403H</a> , <a href="#">4404H</a> , <a href="#">4405H</a> , <a href="#">4406H</a> , <a href="#">4407H</a> , <a href="#">4408H</a> , <a href="#">4409H</a> , <a href="#">440AH</a> , <a href="#">440BH</a> , <a href="#">440CH</a> , <a href="#">440DH</a> , <a href="#">440EH</a> , <a href="#">440FH</a> , <a href="#">4410H</a> , <a href="#">4411H</a> , <a href="#">53H</a>   |
| Network                     | <a href="#">INT 21H</a> : <a href="#">5E00H</a> , <a href="#">5E01H</a> , <a href="#">5E02H</a> , <a href="#">5E03H</a> , <a href="#">5E04H</a> , <a href="#">5E05H</a> , <a href="#">5F00H</a> , <a href="#">5F01H</a> , <a href="#">5F02H</a> , <a href="#">5F03H</a> , <a href="#">5F04H</a> , <a href="#">5F05H</a> , <a href="#">5F07H</a> , <a href="#">5F08H</a>   |
| <b>osFree Macro Library</b> |   |
| Video I/O                   | <a href="#">@SetMode</a> <a href="#">@SetCurSz</a> <a href="#">@SetCurPos</a> <a href="#">@GetCur</a> <a href="#">@SetPage</a> <a href="#">@ScrollUp</a> <a href="#">@ScrollDn</a> <a href="#">@Scroll</a> <a href="#">@GetChAtr</a> <a href="#">@PutChAtr</a> <a href="#">@PutCh</a> <a href="#">@SetPalet</a> <a href="#">@SetColor</a> <a href="#">@SetDot</a> <a href="#">@GetDot</a> <a href="#">@WrtTTY</a> <a href="#">@VideoState</a> <a href="#">@GetMode</a> <a href="#">@GetDisplay</a> <a href="#">@GetVideoState</a> <a href="#">@GetEGAInfo</a> <a href="#">@Cls</a>  |

**osFree Macro Library**

|                |  |
|----------------|--|
| Hardware info  | @Equipment @MemSize  |
| Serial I/O     | @AuxInit @AuxSendChar @AuxRecieveChar @AuxStatus                           |
| Tape I/O       | @TapeOn @TapeOff @TapeRead @TapeWrite                                      |
| Keyboard I/O   | @KbdStatus @CharIn @CharPeek   |
| Printer I/O    | @PrnPrint @PrnInit @PrnStatus  |
| Disk I/O       | @DskReset @DskStatus @DskRead @DskWrite @DskVerify @DskFormat              |
| Date and Time  | @SetTime @GetTime  |
| Mouse          | @MouInit @MouShowPointer @MouStatus @MouSetPos @MouSetMickey<br>@MouRegion |
| Memory manager | @ModBlok SET_BLOCK   |

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**Family API**

|           |                 |   |
|-----------|-----------------|---|
| DOS       | Process Manager | DosBeep DosExit DosSleep DosExecPgm   |
|           | File Manager    | DosChDir DosChgFilePtr DosClose DosDelete DosDupHandle DosMkDir DosMove<br>DosQCurDir DosQCurDisk DosSetFileMode DosOpen DosQFileInfo DosRead<br>DosQFileMode DosQFSInfo DosQVerify DosRmdir DosSelectDisk DosFindClose<br>DosFindFirst DosFindNext DosSetFileInfo DosSetVerify DosWrite DosFileLocks<br>DosSetFHandState DosNewSize DosBufReset DosQFHandState DosSetFSinfo<br>DosShutdown |
|           | Memory Manager  | DosFreeSeg DosSubAlloc DosSubFree DosSubSet DosAllocHuge DosAllocSeg<br>DosReallocHuge DosReallocSeg DosGetHugeShift DosCreateCSAlias   |
|           | NLS             | DosCaseMap DosGetCtryInfo DosGetDBCSEv DosSetCtryCode DosGetCollate<br>DosGetMessage DosInsMessage DosPutMessage  |
|           | Date and Time   | DosSetDateTime DosGetDateTime   |
|           | Devices         | DosDevConfig DosDevIOct1 DosDevIOct2  |
|           | Signals         | DosHoldSignal DosSetSigHandler  |
|           | Misc            | BadDynLink DosGetEnv DosGetMachineMode DosGetVersion DosError DosErrClass<br>DosSetVec  |
| KBD       |                 | KbdCharIn KbdFlushBuffer KbdGetStatus KbdSetStatus KbdStringIn KbdPeek  |
| VIO       |                 | VioGetBuf VioGetConfig VioGetCurPos VioGetCurType VioGetPhysBuf<br>VioReadCellStr VioReadCharStr VioScrollUp VioScrollDn VioScrollLf VioScrollRt<br>VioScrUnLock VioSetCurPos VioSetCurType VioSetMode VioGetMode VioShowBuf<br>VioWrtCellStr VioWrtCharStr VioWrtCharStrAtt VioWrtNAttr VioWrtNCell<br>VioWrtNChar VioWrtTTY VioScrLock VioPopUp   |
| Tools     |                 | BIND  |
| Modules   |                 | DOSCALLS.DLL VIOCALLS.DLL KBDCALLS.DLL MSG.DLL  |
| Libraries |                 | API.LIB OS2386.LIB FAPI.LIB DOSCALLS.LIB SUBCALLS.LIB   |

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