

# qmail

## How do I fix "qmail: alert: cannot start: unable to open mutex"?

Hello,

well, this shouldn't happen at all, but it happens if you empty the queue by just deleting the files in the `/var/qmail/queue` directory, anyhow, just recreate the file and you will be fine:

- `/etc/init.d/qmail stop` (or `qmailctl stop`)
- `touch /var/qmail/queue/lock/sendmutex`
- `chown qmails:qmail /var/qmail/queue/lock/sendmutex`
- `/etc/init.d/qmail start` (or `qmailctl start`)

that should do the trick!

Unique solution ID: #1015

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