

How is it possible to get ERROR_KEY_DELETED when I'm creating a key?

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Some time ago, I explained that the ERROR_KEY_DELETED error code means that you tried to perform an operation on a deleted key. But what does it mean when you get the error when trying to *create* a key?

The key it's complaining about is not the key you're trying to create. The problem is with the key that you are trying to create the key *beneath*.

```
auto err = RegCreateKeyEx(parentKey, subkeyName,  
    0, nullptr, REG_OPTION_NON_VOLATILE, KEY_WRITE, nullptr, &childKey);
```

If the parent key is deleted, then any future attempt to use that parent key (including creating child keys under it) will return **ERROR_KEY_DELETED**.

We'll look into this some more next time.