SQL Server 2005, "5(Access Denied)" Error Posted At: November 20, 2009 8:44 AM | Posted By: Jon Hartmann

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I got the following error this morning trying to restore a SQL Server backup file:

 $Additional information: System. Data. SqlClient. SqlError: The operating system returned the error '5 (Access is denied.)' while attempting 'RestoreContainer::ValidateTargetForCreation' on 'c:\Program Files\Microsoft SQL Server\MSSQL.2\MSSQL\[my database name].mdf'. (Microsoft.SqlServer.Express.Smo)$

And a little bit of Googling brought me to a page which set me straight; it turns out SQL Server was trying to put the files into the wrong directory. You can read more about it here, in the original post where I found the info.