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How do I make a Linux or FreeBSD file an executable file?

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You need to use chmod command which is use to change file access permissions as well as to setup an executable permission on file.

General syntax:
chmod +x file-name

For example to setup executable permission on a file called foo.sh (shell script):

$ chmod +x foo.sh

To execute file:

$ ./foo.sh

To setup executable permission on a binary file called bar:

$ chmod +x bar

To execute binary file:

$ ./bar

See also:

- Compiling C program and creating executable file [1]

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[1] Compiling C program and creating executable file: **http://www.cyberciti.biz/faqs/2006/03/compiling-c-program-and-creating.php**