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## Linux / UNIX advantage of creating soft links instead of copy a file

Posted by [Vivek Gite](#) <[vivek@nixcraft.com](mailto:vivek@nixcraft.com)>



**Q.** What is the main advantage of creating soft / hard links to a file instead of copies of the file?

**A.** To make links between files you use [ln command](#) <sup>[2]</sup>. To copy a file you use cp command. The main advantage is **access permission**. If you want to change the permissions for a file called foo, you only have to do it on the original. With copies you have to find all of the copies and change permission on each of the copies.

[1]

### Other advantages :

[a] Create a shortcut for example /webroot/home/httpd can be soft linked at /home/httpd

[b] Ease of management

[c] Save disk space etc

Please note that the link will show permissions of lrwxrwxrwx but that is for the link itself and not the access to the file.

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[1] Image: <http://www.cyberciti.biz/faq/faq/category/unix/>

[2] ln command: <http://www.cyberciti.biz/tips/understanding-unixlinux-symbolic-soft-and-hard-links.html>