

Hidden Files

Objectives:

At the end of this episode, I will be able to:

1. Describe the function of hidden files and folders in macOS.
2. Utilize `chflags` and the hidden flag to hide a file or folder.
3. Utilize UNIX-style hidden files and folders.
4. Navigate to hidden resources in the macOS file system.

Additional resources used during the episode can be obtained using the download link on the overview episode.

- Hidden System Folders

- Many files/folders are hidden from the end users
- Not needed by the average user
- Hidden for convenience and protection
- Example
 - Each user has a `Library` folder
 - `/User/dpezet/Library`
 - Contains user settings and system data
 - Hidden by default

- Using the *hidden* flag

- `chflags hidden ~/file.txt`
- `chflags nohidden ~/file.txt`
- Hidden from Finder only

- Hiding a folder

- `chflags hidden /User/dpezet/Test`

- UNIX-style hidden files and folders

- File name is preceded with a `.`
- e.g. `/User/dpezet/.ssh/`
- Hidden from Finder and Terminal

- Accessing Hidden folders

- Some are listed in Finder `Go` menu
 - Hold `Option` to see `Library` in the menu
- Otherwise, `Go -> Go to Other Folder` and manually type path

- Hidden Root Folders

- For most users, their file system rotates around their home directory
- There are numerous hidden system folders also
- `ls -la /`