



Item Navigation

Using umask (Lab)

Exercise

Create an empty file with:

```
1 $ touch afile
2 $ ls -l afile
3 -rw-rw-r-- 1 coop coop 0 Jul 26 12:43 afile
```

which shows it is created by default with read/write permissions for owner and group, and read for world.

In fact, the default permissions given when creating a file is actually read/write for owner, group and world (0666); it has been modified by the current **umask**.

If you just type **umask** you get the current value:

```
1 $ umask
2 0002
```

which is the most conventional value set by system administrators for users. This value is combined with the file creation permissions to get the actual result; i.e.:

```
1 0666 & ~002 = 0664; i.e., rw-rw-r--
```

Try modifying the **umask** and creating new files and see the resulting permissions as in:

```
1 $ umask 0022
2 $ touch afile2
3 $ umask 0666
4 $ touch afile3
5 $ ls -l afile*
```