

03 - Manipulating Files and Using Git

CS 2043: Unix Tools and Scripting, Spring 2016 [1]

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Table of contents

1. Working with Files
2. Types of Files and Usages
3. Let's Git Started
4. Demo Time!

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- A note about HW1...

Working with Files

Users and Groups

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- All accounts are presided over by the Superuser, or **root** account
- Each user has absolute control over any files they own, which can only be superseded by **root**
- Files can also be owned by a **group**, allowing more users to have access

File Ownership

You can discern who owns a file many ways, the most immediate being `ls -l`

Permissions with `ls`

```
> ls -l Makefile
-rw-rw-r--. 1 sven users 4.9K Jan 31 04:42 Makefile
           sven      # the user
           users    # the group
```

The third column is the *user*, and the fourth column is the *group*.

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Directory permissions begin with a **d** instead of a **-**.

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What would the permissions `-rwxr-----` mean?

- It is a file.
- User can read and write to the file, as well as execute it
- Group members are allowed to read the file, but cannot write to or execute
- Other cannot do *anything* with it

Changing Permissions

Change Mode

`chmod <mode> <file>`

- Changes file / directory permissions to **<mode>**
- The format of **<mode>** is a combination of three fields:
 - Who is affected - a combination of **u**, **g**, **o**, or **a** (all)
 - Whether adding or removing permissions; add with **+**, remove with **-**
 - Which permissions are being modified - any combination of **r**, **w**, **x**
- Or you can specify mode in octal: user, then group, then other
 - e.g. **777** means user=7, group=7, other=7

The octal version can be confusing, but will save you time.
Excellent resource in [2].

Changing Ownership

Changing the group

Change Group

```
chgrp group <file>
```

- Changes the group ownership of <file>

As the super user, you can change who owns a file

Change Ownership

```
chown user:group <file>
```

- Changes the ownership of <file>
- **group** is optional
- the **-R** flag is useful for recursively modifying everything in a directory

File Ownership, Alternate

If you are like me, you often forget which column is which in
`ls -l...`

Stat of a file or filesystem

`stat [opts] <filename>`

- Gives you a wealth of information, generally more than you will need
- **Uid** is the user, **Gid** is the group
- Can be useful if you want to mimic file permissions you don't know
 - `--format=%A`: human readable, e.g. `-rw-rw-r--`
 - `--format=%a`: octal (great for `chmod`), e.g. `664`

Convenience flag for **chown** and **chmod** on non-BSD Unix

```
> chmod --reference=<src> <dest>
```

It will set the permissions of **dest** to the permissions of **src**!

Mac users: sorry :/

The **stat** on BSD: the **--format** does not exist, it is just **-f**.

The options seem to be the same, but read the man page.

Platform Notes II

The **stat** command performs a little differently on OSX by default. For example, on the **Makefile** it produces this giant wall (on one line, continued for presentation purposes):

```
> stat Makefile
> 16777218 6517959 -rw-r--r-- 1 sven staff 0 4945
  "Feb  1 11:48:14 2016" "Jan 31 07:02:42 2016"
  "Jan 31 08:28:22 2016" "Jan 31 07:02:42 2016"
  4096 16 0 Makefile
```

To get more useful output for the intended purpose of **stat** in how I am presenting it, you need to do **stat -x Makefile**. This will print out the **Uid** and **Gid** for you.

Types of Files and Usages

Plain Files

Plain text files are human-readable, and are usually used for things like

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- Documentation
- Application settings
- Source code
- Logs
- Anything you may want to read via the terminal (e.g. README.txt)

Binary Files

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- Executables
- Libraries
- Media files
- Archives (.zip, etc)

Reading Files Without Opening

Print a file to the screen

```
cat <filename>
```

- Prints the contents of the file to the terminal window

```
cat <file1> <file2>
```

- Prints `file1` first, then `file2`.

more

```
more <filename>
```

- Scroll through one page at a time

less

```
less <filename>
```

- Scroll by pages or lines (mouse wheel, space bar, and arrows)

Beginning and End

Long files can be a pain with the previous tools.

Head and Tail

```
head -[numlines] <filename>
```

```
tail -[numlines] <filename>
```

- Prints the first / last numlines of the file
- Default is 10 lines

Not Really a File...YET

You can talk to yourself in the terminal too!

Echo

`echo <text>`

- Prints the input string to the standard output (the terminal)
- We will soon learn how to use **echo** to put things into files, append to files, etc

Let's Git Started

Another Brief Git Demo

If you are not at lecture, don't worry about this slide not making any sense.

```
> git clone <url>  
> git status  
> git add <file(s)>  
> git commit  
> git push
```

Demo Time!

Our first in class demo

Instructions are here:

<https://github.com/cs2043-sp16/lecture-demos/tree/master/lec03>

References I

[1] B. Abrahao, H. Abu-Libdeh, N. Savva, D. Slater, and others over the years.

Previous cornell cs 2043 course slides.

[2] C. Hope.

Linux and unix chmod command help and examples.

<http://www.computerhope.com/unix/uchmod.htm>,
2016.