anymore. In that case, you could try a more specific wildcard. Or, instead of a wildcard, you can simply list the filenames you want to change, separated by spaces, as in "**chmod ug=rw afile bfile cfile**".

- To protect the files in a directory and all its subdirectories from everyone else on your system, but still keep the access permissions *you* have there, you could use "**chmod go-rwx** *dirname*" in order to delete all "group" and "others" permission to read, write, and execute. A simpler way is to use the command "**chmod go=** *dirname*" to set "group" and "others" permission to exactly nothing.
- You want full access to a directory. Other people on the system should be able to see what's in the directory—and read or edit the files if the file permissions allow it—but not rename, remove, or add files. To do that, give yourself all permissions, but give "group" and "others" only read and execute permission. Use the command "**chmod u=rwx,go=rx** *dirname*".

After you change permissions, it's a good idea to check your work at first with "**ls -l** *filename*" or "**ls -ld** *dirname*".

More Protection Under Linux

Most Linux systems have a program named **chattr** that gives you more choices on file and directory protection. **chattr** is being developed, and your version may not have all the features that it will have in later Linux versions. For instance, **chattr** can make a Linux file *append-only* (so it can't be overwritten, only added to), *compressed* (to save disk space automatically), *immutable* (so it can't be changed at all), *undeletable*, and more. Check your online documentation (type **man chattr**—see Chapter 8).

Problem checklist

I get the message "chmod: Not owner."

Only the owner of a file or directory—or the superuser—can set its permissions. Use **ls -l** to find the owner, or ask a system staff person to change the permissions.

A file is writable, but my program says it can't be written.

First, check the file permissions with **ls -l** and be sure you're in the category (user, group, or others) that has write permission.