

# File permissions in Linux

## Project description

The project's main goal is to implement the least privilege hardening security. For this I am using Bash scripting in LINUX to view, and edit permissions as per the role to make system secure.

## Check file and directory details

Using the code `ls -la` the permissions of the files inside the projects directory have been displayed.

```
researcher2@e9bd56d7f569:~$ pwd
/home/researcher2
researcher2@e9bd56d7f569:~$ ls
projects
researcher2@e9bd56d7f569:~$ cd projects
researcher2@e9bd56d7f569:~/projects$ ls -la
total 32
drwxr-xr-x 3 researcher2 research_team 4096 Jun  3 00:38 .
drwxr-xr-x 3 researcher2 research_team 4096 Jun  3 00:49 ..
-rw--w---- 1 researcher2 research_team  46 Jun  3 00:38 .project_x.txt
drwx--x--- 2 researcher2 research_team 4096 Jun  3 00:38 drafts
-rw-rw-rw- 1 researcher2 research_team  46 Jun  3 00:38 project_k.txt
-rw-r----- 1 researcher2 research_team  46 Jun  3 00:38 project_m.txt
-rw-rw-r-- 1 researcher2 research_team  46 Jun  3 00:38 project_r.txt
-rw-rw-r-- 1 researcher2 research_team  46 Jun  3 00:38 project_t.txt
researcher2@e9bd56d7f569:~/projects$
```

## Describe the permissions string

In the above screenshot, for example, consider the file `project_k.txt`. The permissions for `project_k.txt` have been provided as `-rw-rw-rw-` which is a 10-character string. The first character `-` shows that it is a file. The 2,3,4 characters represent permissions for a user which is shown as `rw-` which means the user has read and write permissions and no execute permissions. Similarly, 5,6,7 characters represent the permissions for a group which is represented as `rw-` that shows the group has read and write permissions but not execute permissions. The final three characters 8,9,10 represent the permissions for others which is

shown as rw-. This shows that others have both read and write permissions apart from execute permissions.

## Change file permissions

For suppose I want this file project\_k.txt to have only user permissions of all r,w,x and remove access for groups, and others. The code implemented below

```
researcher2@e9bd56d7f569:~/projects$ chmod u+x,g-rw,o-rw project_k.txt
researcher2@e9bd56d7f569:~/projects$ ls -la
total 32
drwxr-xr-x 3 researcher2 research_team 4096 Jun  3 00:38 .
drwxr-xr-x 3 researcher2 research_team 4096 Jun  3 00:49 ..
-rw--w---- 1 researcher2 research_team  46 Jun  3 00:38 .project_x.txt
drwx--x--- 2 researcher2 research_team 4096 Jun  3 00:38 drafts
-rwx----- 1 researcher2 research_team  46 Jun  3 00:38 project_k.txt
-rw-r----- 1 researcher2 research_team  46 Jun  3 00:38 project_m.txt
-rw-rw-r-- 1 researcher2 research_team  46 Jun  3 00:38 project_r.txt
-rw-rw-r-- 1 researcher2 research_team  46 Jun  3 00:38 project_t.txt
researcher2@e9bd56d7f569:~/projects$
```

In the above screenshot, I have used the code `chmod u+x,g-rw,o-rw project_k.txt` to add execute access to the user and remove read and write access to groups and others.

## Change file permissions on a hidden file

Here the hidden file starts with .

In the above screenshot, .project\_x.txt is the hidden file that has rw permissions for the user and w permission for the group.

Now I want to remove rw permissions for both user and group for a hidden file named .project\_x.txt as follows

```
researcher2@e9bd56d7f569:~/projects$ chmod u-rw,g-rw .project_x.txt
researcher2@e9bd56d7f569:~/projects$ ls -la
total 32
drwxr-xr-x 3 researcher2 research_team 4096 Jun  3 00:38 .
drwxr-xr-x 3 researcher2 research_team 4096 Jun  3 00:49 ..
----- 1 researcher2 research_team  46 Jun  3 00:38 .project_x.txt
drwx--x--- 2 researcher2 research_team 4096 Jun  3 00:38 drafts
-rwx----- 1 researcher2 research_team  46 Jun  3 00:38 project_k.txt
-rw-r----- 1 researcher2 research_team  46 Jun  3 00:38 project_m.txt
-rw-rw-r-- 1 researcher2 research_team  46 Jun  3 00:38 project_r.txt
-rw-rw-r-- 1 researcher2 research_team  46 Jun  3 00:38 project_t.txt
researcher2@e9bd56d7f569:~/projects$
```

## Change directory permissions

In the above screenshot, we see a directory draft. We know it is a directory from the 10-character string where the first character is d.

It has the following permissions drwx- - x - - - which means the user has r,w,x access and the group has only x access. Now I am going to provide r,w access to group and r access to other which is implemented as follows

```
researcher2@e9bd56d7f569:~/projects$ chmod g+rw,o+r drafts
researcher2@e9bd56d7f569:~/projects$ ls -la
total 32
drwxr-xr-x 3 researcher2 research_team 4096 Jun  3 00:38 .
drwxr-xr-x 3 researcher2 research_team 4096 Jun  3 00:49 ..
----- 1 researcher2 research_team  46 Jun  3 00:38 .project_x.txt
drwxrwxr-- 2 researcher2 research_team 4096 Jun  3 00:38 drafts
-rwx----- 1 researcher2 research_team  46 Jun  3 00:38 project_k.txt
-rw-r----- 1 researcher2 research_team  46 Jun  3 00:38 project_m.txt
-rw-rw-r-- 1 researcher2 research_team  46 Jun  3 00:38 project_r.txt
-rw-rw-r-- 1 researcher2 research_team  46 Jun  3 00:38 project_t.txt
researcher2@e9bd56d7f569:~/projects$
```

I have implemented the code `chmod g+rw,o+r drafts` to provide read and write access for the group and read access for others.

## Summary

We have followed the least privilege security protocol to provide better security to the organization by implementing code in Linux bash script.