Figure Out Who Owns the File, Then Use Either *chown* or *chgrp*

Display ownership and group information using the following command:

```
1  ls -l file.txt
2  -rw-rw-r-- 1 root www-data 0 Feb 25 15:51 file.txt
```

This file is owned by the root user and belongs to the www-data group.

Changing the Ownership of a File Using *chown*

You can change the ownership of a specific file using the *chown command.* For security purposes only, the root user or members of the sudo group may transfer ownership of a file.

To change the ownership of a file:

```
1  chown robert file.txt
2
3  ls -l file.txt
4  -rw-rw-r-- 1 robert www-data 0 Feb 25 15:51 file.txt
```

The file *file.txt* is now owned by Robert. By default, *chown* follows symbolic links and changes the owner of the file pointed to by the symbolic link. If you wish to change ownership of all files inside a directory, you can use the *-R option.*

```
1  chown -R user directory/
```

Changing the Group Ownership of a File Using *chgrp*

All users on the system belong to at least one group. You can find out which groups you belong to using the following command:

```
1  groups username
```

You can then change the group ownership of a specific file using the *chgrp* command:

```
1  chgrp webdev file.txt
2
3  ls -l file.txt
4  -rw-rw-r-- 1 robert webdev 0 Feb 25 15:51 file.txt
```

The file *file.txt* now belongs to the webdev group.

Changing Both the Owner and the Group Using *chown*

You can change both the owner and group of a file using just the *chown command.*

```
1  chown tito:editors file.txt
2
3  ls -l file.txt
4  -rw-rw-r-- 1 tito editors 0 Feb 25 15:51 file.txt
```

The file *file.txt* is now owned by Tito and belongs to the editors group.