

2. touch - Create an Empty File

Basic Syntax

```
touch [OPTION]... FILE...
```

Common Uses and Examples

1. Creating an Empty File

```
touch myfile.txt
```

- If `myfile.txt` does not exist, this command creates an empty file.
 - If it already exists, it updates the access and modification timestamps.
-

2. Updating Timestamps

```
touch existingfile.txt
```

- This updates the "last modified" and "last accessed" times of `existingfile.txt` to the current time.
-

3. Creating Multiple Files

```
touch file1.txt file2.txt file3.txt
```

- Creates multiple empty files at once.
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4. Setting a Specific Timestamp

You can set a specific timestamp using the `-t` option.

```
touch -t 202402271530 myfile.txt
```

- This sets the timestamp to **February 27, 2024, 15:30 (3:30 PM)**.
 - The format is `YYYYMMDDHHMM` .
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5. Using a Reference File's Timestamp

```
touch -r reference.txt target.txt
```

- This sets `target.txt` 's timestamp to be the same as `reference.txt` .
-

6. Preventing File Creation

If you only want to update timestamps but don't want to create a new file:

```
touch -c myfile.txt
```

- If `myfile.txt` does not exist, nothing happens.
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7. Changing Only the Access Time (`a`)

```
touch -a myfile.txt
```

- Updates only the **last accessed** time.
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8. Changing Only the Modification Time (`m`)

```
touch -m myfile.txt
```

- Updates only the **last modified** time.
-

Practical Uses

Automating Log Files

```
touch /var/log/custom.log
```

- Creates a log file if it does not exist.

Modifying File Timestamps in Forensics

- If an attacker wants to hide their tracks, they may use `touch` to modify timestamps.

Creating a Series of Files

```
touch file{1..5}.txt
```

- Creates `file1.txt` to `file5.txt` at once.
- For a more detailed explanation.

<https://youtu.be/tpUyBbD4LQE?si=36tgW8G3iUCvDTbG>

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