

File Security: Standard File Permissions in Linux

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PC:/etc$ ls -lih
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total 313K

281474977411668	drwxr-xr-x	1	root	root	512	Aug 5 2020	NetworkManager
281474977411671	drwxr-xr-x	1	root	root	512	Aug 5 2020	PackageKit
281474977411674	drwxr-xr-x	1	root	root	512	Aug 5 2020	X11
281474977411707	-rw-r--r--	1	root	root	3.0K	Aug 5 2020	adduser.conf
281474977411708	drwxr-xr-x	1	root	root	512	Aug 5 2020	alternatives
281474977411823	drwxr-xr-x	1	root	root	512	Aug 5 2020	apparmor
281474977412010	-rw-r-----	1	root	daemon	144	Nov 12 2018	at.deny
281474977412484	lrwxrwxrwx	2	root	root	21	Jul 15 2020	os-release ->../usr/lib/os-releas

File Inode Number

File Type & Permissions For
Owner, Group & Others

Number of Links To File

Owner of File

Group Owner of File

File Size

Date & Time Stamp

Name of File

drwxr-xr-x

Permissions For Other Users

Permissions For Group

Permissions For User (Owner)

File Type

first character	file type
-	normal file
d	directory
l	symbolic link
p	named pipe
b	block device
c	character device
s	socket

permission	on a file	on a directory
r (read)	read file contents (cat)	read directory contents (ls)
w (write)	change file contents (vi)	create files in (touch)
x (execute)	execute the file	enter the directory (cd)

Permissions Bit Weightage:

Read Permission → $r = 4$

Write Permission → $w = 2$

Execute Permission → $x = 1$

Maximum Permissions (Full Permission) → $rwX = 4+2+1 = 7$

Minimum Permissions (No Permission) → $--- = 0+0+0 = 0$

Permissions can be represented by 8 numbers starting from number 0 to number 7, Which means by Octal number system having a base of 8.

Octal Number System → $(0-7)_8$

We need three binary bits to represent Octal numbers. These three bits can be used to represent permission, here first bit represent read (r), second bit represent write (w) and third bit represents execute (x) permissions.

Octal Number	Binary	Permissions
0	000	---
1	001	--X
2	010	-W-
3	011	-WX
4	100	r--
5	101	r-X
6	110	rw-
7	111	rwX