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Change folder permissions and ownership

I would like the user to have full rights on this folder (as well as all sub-directories and files in it):

`~/.blabla`

currently owned by root.

I have found numerous posts (in this forum and elsewhere) on how to do this for files but I can't find a way to do it for whole folders.

command-line   permissions   folder

edited Nov 2 '10 at 21:36   asked Oct 13 '10 at 9:31
                                     user2413
                                     590   2   9   25

2   Could anyone add a graphical method I wonder? – fluteflute Oct 13 '10 at 19:23

1   @fluteflute is there a graphical method? – Marco Ceppi ♦ Oct 13 '10 at 19:33

1   `gksu nautilus` perhaps. I'm not quite sure and would like to know.... ;) – fluteflute Oct 13 '10 at 19:39

6 Answers

Use `chown` to change ownership and `chmod` to change rights.

As Paweł Karpiński said, use the -R option to apply the rights for all files inside of a directory too.

Note that both these commands just work for directories too. The -R option makes them also change the permissions for all files and directories inside of the directory.

For example

`sudo chown -R username:group directory`

will change ownership (both user and group) of all files and directories inside of `directory` and `directory` itself.

`sudo chown username:group directory`

will only change the permission of the folder `directory` but will leave the files and folders inside the directory alone.

As enzotib mentioned, you need to use `sudo` to change the ownership from root to yourself.

edited Sep 5 '12 at 17:35   answered Oct 13 '10 at 9:42
endolith   Ikke
204   1   3   13   **613**   4   10

**1**   It should be said that "sudo" is required for chown. – enzotib Oct 13 '10 at 9:45

fatanstic. You should consider maybe replacing 'user:user' by username. – user2413 Oct 13 '10 at 9:48

If you prefer, this can be done with a GUI as well. You will need to open Nautilus as root to do so. Press `Alt+F2` to access the "Run Applications" dialog and enter `gksu nautilus`

Next, browse to and right click on the folder you would like to modify. Then, select "Properties" from the context menu. You can now select the user or group that you would like to be the "Owner" of the folder as well as the permissions you would like to grant them. Finally, press "Apply Permissions to Enclosed Files" to apply the changes recursively.

Though it seems this does not always work for some operations in a deep folder tree. If it does not work use the appropriate terminal command.
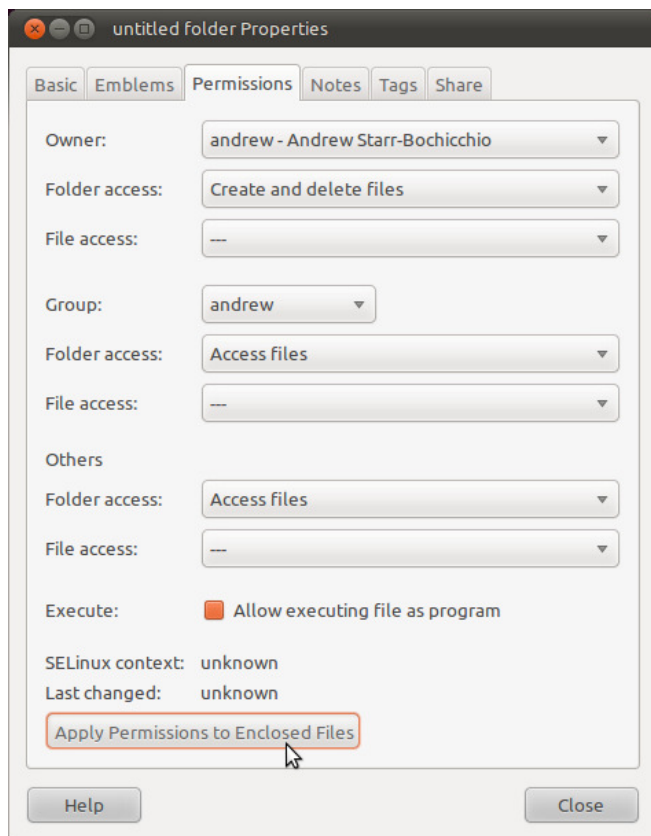
edited Jul 4 '12 at 22:01
Community ♦
1

answered Oct 13 '10 at 22:04
andrewsomething
15k   3   34   89

Make the current user own everything inside the folder (and the folder itself).

```
chown $USER -R ~/.blabla
```

answered Oct 13 '10 at 10:07
Lucian Adrian Grijincu
620   4   11

very helpful for newbies (like me) when don't know what to type in 'usergroup' for `sudo chown <your username>:<your usergroup> -R <path to>/.blabla` – quantme Jan 5 '12 at 1:49

If it's owned by root you can do this

```
sudo chown <your username>:<your usergroup> -R <path to>/.blabla
```

Since ./blabla owned by root you need to gain root privileges to change that. That's what sudo will do. The -R option for the chown command says: this directory and everything in it recursively.

answered Oct 13 '10 at 11:14
AndyB
104   4

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you should try `chmod -R`

answered Oct 13 '10 at 9:33
Paweł Karpiński
2,705   2   14   36

First you have to create a root password

Type in terminal without brackets `sudo passwd root`

Enter your normal password press enter

It ask for a new unix password type in a new `root` pass word when ask (it will ask twice)

Type `clear` enter

Type `su` now enter your new root pass word here (the terminal is now root denoted by the # sign)

Now type in `nautilus` to start up the unix explorer window

Navigate to your desired folder and right click on it click the permissions tab and change accordingly when done close window and type < exit > to leave root terminal and close terminal.

edited Jan 24 at 3:28   answered Jan 24 at 2:51

Ringtail   Any
9,399   7   23   129   **1**   1

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1   There are very few reasons to give the root account a password and this certainly is not a good reason. Press alt-F2 and `gksu nautilus` instead – Warren Hill Feb 7 at 15:05

Not to mention that to get exactly the effect you were after, you could have just typed `sudo su` and used your regular account password. That way you avoid giving a password to the root account, and can still have a terminal open as root. – Jez W yesterday

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