

Linux File/Directory Ownership and Permissions

Robertus Diawan Chris

1. How to check ownership and permission

To check the ownership and permission you can use `ls -l`. The file/directory ownership is on column 3 (username) and 4 (group) and the file/directory permissions is on column 1 with sequence like this `-rw-r--r--` if it's a file, or like this `drwxr-xr-x` if it's a directory.

2. How to change ownership

You can change ownership by using this command

```
chown user:group <file/directory>
```

for example, if i want to change ownership from root to bruhtus user, i need to use this command:

```
sudo chown bruhtus:bruhtus <file/directory>
```

we need to use sudo because the previous owner is root, if it's not root then we don't need sudo.

We can also change ownership the file within directory (not only the directory itself) by using this command

```
chown -R user:group <directory>
```

3. How to change permission

Below is the table of the file/directory permission:

Directory	Owner	Group	Others
d or -	rwX or ---	rwX or ---	rwX or ---

if `-` on beginning that means it's not a directory and other than that it's doesn't have read, write, or execute permissions. Here's the table of the point from read, write, execute:

Symbol	Meaning	Point
r	read	4
w	write	2
x	executable	1

You can use the point with the command below

```
chmod <point> <file/directory>
```

For example, if we want to give read and write permission to owner/user and read only permission to group and others, we can use this command

```
chmod 644 <file>
```

or if we want to add execute permission to owner/user, group, and others to those file then we can use this command

```
chmod 755 <file>
```

The command above is equivalent to this command (add executable permission to owner/user, group, and others)

```
chmod +x <file>
```

Other than using the point, you can also using the command below instead

Command	Explanation
<code>chmod u+x <file></code>	execute permission only for user/owner
<code>chmod g+x <file></code>	execute permission only for group
<code>chmod o+x <file></code>	execute permission only for others
<code>chmod ug+x <file></code>	execute permission only for user/owner and group
<code>chmod a+x <file></code>	similar to +x, give user/owner, group, and others execute permission

you can use other symbol like `r` and `w` too. You can also change permission recursively like change ownership, by using this command

```
chmod -R u+x <directory>
```