



The install command in Linux – Copy files, Create Directories, Change User permissions and File ownerships

By Jayant Verma / November 25, 2020



**INSTALL COMMAND
IN LINUX**



The install command in Linux copies files and sets file attributes. It is not to be used for installing packages. For installing packages on to your Linux system you should use [apt command](#) or yum command. In this tutorial, we will learn how to use the install command for copying files and changing file attributes.

Let's go over a list of things that you can do using the install command.

- Copy files (cp command)

- Create the target directory if it does not exist(mkdir command).

- Set the user permission flags of the files (chmod command).

- Set the ownership of the files (chown command).

How to copy files using install?

To copy files using the install command use the following syntax :



```
1  install [OPTION]... SOURCE... DIRECTORY
```

This will copy the file at the source to the destination directory with the same name.

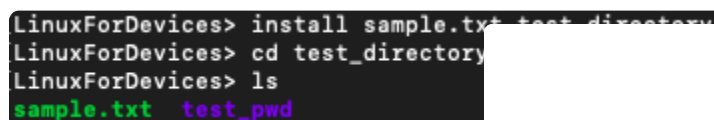
Let's see an example :

```
1  install sample.txt test_directory
```

To check the contents of the directory we will cd into it.

```
1  cd test_directory
2  ls
```

Output :



```
LinuxForDevices> install sample.txt test_directory
LinuxForDevices> cd test_directory
LinuxForDevices> ls
sample.txt  test_pwd
```



How to get a verbose output?

To get a verbose output from the install command use the -v flag along with it.

```
1  install -v sample.txt test_directory
```

Output :

```
1  'sample.txt' -> 'test_directory/sample.txt'
```

You can also use the install command for creating directories. Let's learn about it in the next section.

How to create directories using the install command?

Let's try running the following command in Linux :

```
1  install sample.txt new_parent/new_f:
```



```
1  install: cannot create regular file 'new_parent/new_file': No such
```

However, if we use the -D flag along with the command above then install command creates the parent directory and then performs the copy operation.

```
1  install -D -v sample.txt new_parent/new_file
```

Output :

```
1  install: creating directory 'new_parent'
2  'sample.txt' -> 'new_parent/new_file'
```

Using the -v flag provided a verbose output.

How to set user permissions?

To set user permission you can use the -m flag along with install command. This works just like the [chmod command](#).



This will copy the contents of the old file to the new file. The permission for the new file is set to `-rwx---`.

To check use :

```
1  ls -l new_directory
```

Output :

```
1  -rwx----- 1 root root 314 Nov 20 09:05 new_directory
```

How to change ownership of files?

To change the ownership of files you can use the `-o` flag along with the `install` command. This works exactly like the `chown` command.

```
1  install -o Adam sample.txt new_directory
```

Output:



```
1  ls -l new_directory
```

Output :

```
1  -rwxr-xr-x 1 Adam root 314 Nov 20 09:04 new_directory
```

Conclusion

This tutorial was about install command in Linux. We covered different utilities provided by the command. We copied files, created directories, changed user ownerships and file permissions all using just one command. Hope you had fun learning with us!

[← Previous Post](#)

[Next Post →](#)



Recent Posts

[Install, Set Up, and Use Flameshot in Linux](#)

[Installing Arch Linux Using the Archinstall Script](#)

[How to Install Cmatrix and Customize It In Linux](#)

[Installing, Setting Up, and Using SNMP in Linux](#)

[How to Play PC Games on Linux](#)

Favorite Sites

[Python Tutorials](#)

[GoLang Tutorials](#)

[CodeForGeek](#)

[VM-Help](#)

[MySQL Tutorials](#)

[Excel Tutorials](#)



Copyright © 2023 · LinuxForDevices · LinuxForDevices is part of JournalDev IT Services Private
Limited

Linux® is a registered trademark of Linus Torvalds.

