

In early versions of macOS locked/immutable files could not be deleted from the trashcan. In Mac OS X 10.1 and later locked files can easily be deleted by pressing press Shift-Option or Option key combination while emptying the Trash.

Symbolic links do not have flags, so unless the -H or -L option is set, chflags on a symbolic link always succeeds and has no effect. The -H, -L and -P options are ignored unless the -R option is specified. In addition, these options override each other and the command's actions are determined by the last one specified.

The sappnd and schg flags can only be unset when the system is in single-user mode. chflags(2).

Use ls -10 to see the flags of existing files.

nohidden Will set the hidden flag

The return status is zero if the mode is successfully changed, and >0 if an error occurs.

Examples

Lock the folder "finance" against changes:

\$ chflags uchg finance

Unlock the folder named "finance" and allow changes to all the contents:

\$ chflags -R nouchg finance

Make the folder ~/Library visible (this was the default setting prior to OS X Lion):

\$ chflags nohidden ~/Library

An alternative method to view the library is to use the 'Go' drop down menu in Finder and hold down the option key:

Hide the folder ~/Library from finder:

\$ chflags hidden ~/Library

Make the file MyLogs.txt append-only:

\$ chflags uappnd MyLogs.txt

Unlock your Documents directory and everything in it:

\$ chflags -R nouchg ~/Documents

"Fifteen referees. I want fifteen referees to be at this fight because there ain't no one man who can keep up with the pace I'm gonna set except me. There's not a man alive who can whup me. I'm too fast. I'm too smart. I'm too pretty. I should be a postage stamp. That's the only way I'll ever get licked" ~ Muhammad Ali

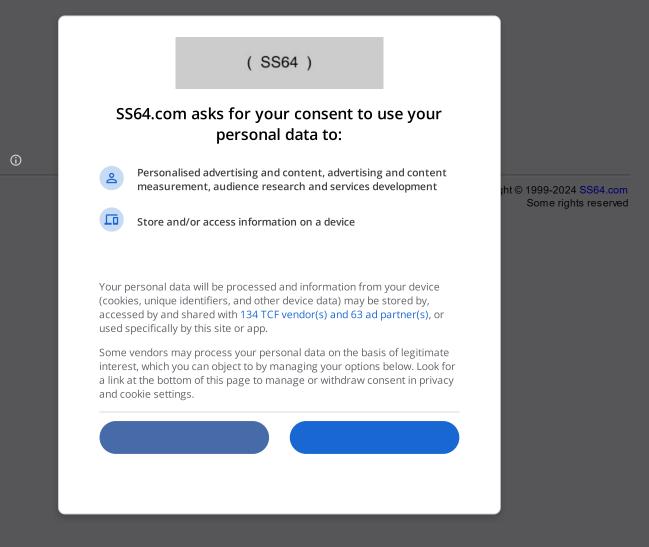
Related macOS commands

Local man page: chflags - Command line help page on your local machine. HT1526 - Empty the (locked) trash with chflags.

In - Make links between files (hard links, symbolic links).

ls - List information about file(s).

setfile - Set attributes of HFS+ files.



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