

[Listing the Content of a Directory](#)**Walking the File Tree**[Watching a Directory for Changes](#)

# Walking the File Tree

Do you need to create an application that will recursively visit all the files in a file tree? Perhaps you need to delete every `.class` file in a tree, or find every file that has not been accessed in the last year. You can do so with the [FileVisitor](#) interface.

## The FileVisitor Interface

To walk a file tree, you first need to implement a [FileVisitor](#). A [FileVisitor](#) specifies the required behavior at key point the traversal process: when a file is visited, before a directory is accessed, after a directory is accessed, or when a failure occurs. The interface has four methods that correspond to these situations:

- [preVisitDirectory\(\)](#) – Invoked before a directory's entries are visited.
- [postVisitDirectory\(\)](#) – Invoked after all the entries in a directory are visited. If any errors are encountered, the specific exception is passed to the method.
- [visitFile\(\)](#) – Invoked on the file being visited. The file's [BasicFileAttributes](#) is passed to the method, or you can use the file attributes package to read a specific set of attributes. For example, you can choose to read the file's [DosFileAttributeView](#) to determine if the file has the "hidden" bit set.
- [visitFileFailed\(\)](#) – Invoked when the file cannot be accessed. The specific exception is passed to the method. You choose whether to throw the exception, print it to the console or a log file, and so on.

If you do not need to implement all four of the [FileVisitor](#) methods, instead of implementing the [FileVisitor](#) interface you can extend the [SimpleFileVisitor](#) class. This class is an adapter, which implements the [FileVisitor](#) interface, visits all files in a tree and throws an [IOException](#) when an error is encountered. You can extend this class and override only the methods that you require.

Here is an example that extends [SimpleFileVisitor](#) to print all entries in a file tree. It prints the entry whether the entry is a regular file, a symbolic link, a directory, or some other "unspecified" type of file. It also prints the size, in bytes, of each file. Any exception that is encountered is printed to the console.

The [FileVisitor](#) methods are shown in the following code:

```

1  import static java.nio.file.FileVisitResult.*;
2
3  public static class PrintFiles
4      extends SimpleFileVisitor<Path> {
5
6      // Print information about
7      // each type of file.
8      @Override // from FileVisitor
9      public FileVisitResult visitFile(Path file,
10                                     BasicFileAttributes attr) {
11          if (attr.isSymbolicLink()) {
12

```

```

12         System.out.format("Symbolic link: %s ", file);
13     } else if (attr.isRegularFile()) {
14         System.out.format("Regular file: %s ", file);
15     } else {
16         System.out.format("Other: %s ", file);
17     }
18     System.out.println("(" + attr.size() + "bytes)");
19     return CONTINUE;
20 }
21
22 // Print each directory visited.
23 @Override // from FileVisitor
24 public FileVisitResult postVisitDirectory(Path dir,
25                                           IOException exc) {
26     System.out.format("Directory: %s%n", dir);
27     return CONTINUE;
28 }
29
30 // If there is some error accessing
31 // the file, let the user know.
32 // If you don't override this method
33 // and an error occurs, an IOException
34 // is thrown.
35 @Override // from FileVisitor
36 public FileVisitResult visitFileFailed(Path file,
37                                       IOException exc) {
38     System.err.println(exc);
39     return CONTINUE;
40 }
41 }

```

## Kickstarting the Process

Once you have implemented your [FileVisitor](#), how do you initiate the file walk? There are two `walkFileTree()` methods in the `Files` class.

- [walkFileTree\(Path, FileVisitor\)](#).
- [walkFileTree\(Path, Set, int, FileVisitor\)](#).

The first method requires only a starting point and an instance of your [FileVisitor](#). You can invoke the `PrintFiles` file visitor as follows:

```

1 Path startingDir = ...;
2 PrintFiles pf = new PrintFiles();
3 Files.walkFileTree(startingDir, pf);

```

The second `walkFileTree()` method enables you to additionally specify a limit on the number of levels visited and a set of [FileVisitOption](#) enums. If you want to ensure that this method walks the entire file tree, you can specify [Integer.MAX\\_VALUE](#) for the maximum depth argument.

You can specify the [FileVisitOption](#) enum, [FOLLOW\\_LINKS](#), which indicates that symbolic links should be followed.

This code snippet shows how the four-argument method can be invoked:

```

1 import static java.nio.file.FileVisitResult.*;
2
3

```

```

4 Path startingDir = ...;
5
6 EnumSet<FileVisitOption> opts = EnumSet.of(FOLLOW_LINKS);
7
8 Finder finder = new Finder(pattern);
Files.walkFileTree(startingDir, opts, Integer.MAX_VALUE, finder);

```

## Considerations When Creating a FileVisitor

A file tree is walked depth first, but you cannot make any assumptions about the iteration order that subdirectories are visited.

If your program will be changing the file system, you need to carefully consider how you implement your [FileVisitor](#).

For example, if you are writing a recursive delete, you first delete the files in a directory before deleting the directory itself. In this case, you delete the directory in [postVisitDirectory\(\)](#).

If you are writing a recursive copy, you create the new directory in [preVisitDirectory\(\)](#) before attempting to copy the files in it (in [visitFiles\(\)](#)). If you want to preserve the attributes of the source directory (similar to the UNIX `cp -p` command), you need to do that after the files have been copied, in [postVisitDirectory\(\)](#). The [Copy](#) example shows how to do this.

If you are writing a file search, you perform the comparison in the [visitFile\(\)](#) method. This method finds all the files that match your criteria, but it does not find the directories. If you want to find both files and directories, you must also perform comparison in either the [preVisitDirectory\(\)](#) or [postVisitDirectory\(\)](#) method. The [Find](#) example shows how to do this.

You need to decide whether you want symbolic links to be followed. If you are deleting files, for example, following symbolic links might not be advisable. If you are copying a file tree, you might want to allow it. By default, [walkFileTree\(\)](#) does not follow symbolic links.

The [visitFile\(\)](#) method is invoked for files. If you have specified the [FOLLOW\\_LINKS](#) option and your file tree has a circular link to a parent directory, the looping directory is reported in the [visitFileFailed\(\)](#) method with the [FileSystemLoopException](#). The following code snippet shows how to catch a circular link and is from the [Copy](#) example: [visitFile\(\)](#) method is invoked for files. If you have specified the [FOLLOW\\_LINKS](#) option and your file tree has a circular link to a parent directory, the looping directory is reported in the [visitFileFailed\(\)](#) method with the [FileSystemLoopException](#). The following code snippet shows how to catch a circular link and is from the [Copy](#) example:

```

1  @Override
2  public FileVisitResult
3      visitFileFailed(Path file,
4                      IOException exc) {
5      if (exc instanceof FileSystemLoopException) {
6          System.err.println("cycle detected: " + file);
7      } else {
8          System.err.format("Unable to copy: " + " %s: %s\n", file, exc);
9      }
10     return CONTINUE;
11 }

```

This case can occur only when the program is following symbolic links.

## Controlling the Flow

Perhaps you want to walk the file tree looking for a particular directory and, when found, you want the process to terminate. Perhaps you want to skip specific directories.

The [FileVisitor](#) methods return a [FileVisitResult](#) value. You can abort the file walking process or control whether a directory is visited by the values you return in the [FileVisitor](#) methods:

- [CONTINUE](#) – Indicates that the file walking should continue. If the [preVisitDirectory\(\)](#) method returns [CONTINUE](#), the directory is visited.
- [TERMINATE](#) – Immediately aborts the file walking. No further file walking methods are invoked after this value is returned.
- [SKIP\\_SUBTREE](#) – When [preVisitDirectory\(\)](#) returns this value, the specified directory and its subdirectories are skipped. This branch is "pruned out" of the tree.
- [SKIP\\_SIBLINGS](#) – When [preVisitDirectory\(\)](#) returns this value, the specified directory is not visited, [postVisitDirectory\(\)](#) is not invoked, and no further unvisited siblings are visited. If returned from the [postVisitDirectory\(\)](#) method, no further siblings are visited. Essentially, nothing further happens in the specified directory.

In this code snippet, any directory named SCCS is skipped:

```
1 public FileVisitResult
2     preVisitDirectory(Path dir,
3         BasicFileAttributes attrs) {
4     if (dir.getFileName().toString().equals("SCCS")) {
5         return SKIP_SUBTREE;
6     }
7     return CONTINUE;
8 }
```

In this code snippet, as soon as a particular file is located, the file name is printed to standard output, and the file walking terminates:

```
1 import static java.nio.file.FileVisitResult.*;
2
3 // The file we are looking for.
4 Path lookingFor = ...;
5
6 public FileVisitResult
7     visitFile(Path file,
8         BasicFileAttributes attr) {
9     if (file.getFileName().equals(lookingFor)) {
10        System.out.println("Located file: " + file);
11        return TERMINATE;
12    }
13    return CONTINUE;
14 }
```

## Finding Files

If you have ever used a shell script, you have most likely used pattern matching to locate files. In fact, you have probably used it extensively. If you have not used it, pattern matching uses special characters to create a pattern and then file names can be compared against that pattern. For example, in most shell scripts, the asterisk, `*`, matches any number of characters. For example, the following command lists all the files in the current directory that end in `.html`:

```
1 | $ ls *.html
```

The [java.nio.file](#) package provides programmatic support for this useful feature. Each file system implementation provides a [PathMatcher](#). You can retrieve a file system's [PathMatcher](#) by using the [getPathMatcher\(String\)](#) method in the [FileSystem](#) class. The following code snippet fetches the path matcher for the default file system:

```
1 | String pattern = ...;
2 | PathMatcher matcher =
3 |     FileSystems.getDefault().getPathMatcher("glob:" + pattern);
```

The string argument passed to [getPathMatcher\(String\)](#) specifies the syntax flavor and the pattern to be matched. This example specifies glob syntax. If you are unfamiliar with glob syntax, see the section [What is a Glob](#).

Glob syntax is easy to use and flexible but, if you prefer, you can also use regular expressions, or regex, syntax. For further information about regex, see the section [Regular Expressions](#). Some file system implementations might support other syntaxes.

If you want to use some other form of string-based pattern matching, you can create your own [PathMatcher](#) class. The examples in this page use glob syntax.

Once you have created your [PathMatcher](#) instance, you are ready to match files against it. The [PathMatcher](#) interface has single method, [matches\(\)](#), that takes a [Path](#) argument and returns a [boolean](#): It either matches the pattern, or it does not. The following code snippet looks for files that end in [.java](#) or [.class](#) and prints those files to standard output:

```
1 | PathMatcher matcher =
2 |     FileSystems.getDefault().getPathMatcher("glob:*.{java,class}");
3 |
4 | Path filename = ...;
5 | if (matcher.matches(filename)) {
6 |     System.out.println(filename);
7 | }
```

## Recursive Pattern Matching

Searching for files that match a particular pattern goes hand-in-hand with walking a file tree. How many times do you know a file is somewhere on the file system, but where? Or perhaps you need to find all files in a file tree that have a particular file extension.

The [Find](#) example does precisely that. [Find](#) is similar to the UNIX [find](#) utility, but has pared down functionality. You can extend this example to include other functionality. For example, the [find](#) utility supports the [-prune](#) flag to exclude an entire subtree from the search. You could implement that functionality by returning [SKIP\\_SUBTREE](#) in the [preVisitDirectory\(\)](#) method. To implement the [-L](#) option, which follows symbolic links, you could use the four-argument [walkFileTree\(Path, Set, int, FileVisitor\)](#) method and pass in the [FOLLOW\\_LINKS](#) enum (but make sure that you test for circular links in the [visitFile\(\)](#) method).

To run the [Find](#) application, use the following format:

```
1 | $ java Find <path> -name "<glob_pattern>"
```

The pattern is placed inside quotation marks so any wildcards are not interpreted by the shell. For example:

```
1 | $ java Find . -name "*.html"
```

## The Find Example

Here is the source code for the [Find](#) example:

```
1  /**
2   * Sample code that finds files that match the specified glob pattern.
3   * For more information on what constitutes a glob pattern, see
4   * https://docs.oracle.com/javase/tutorial/essential/io/fileOps.html#glob
5   *
6   * The file or directories that match the pattern are printed to
7   * standard out. The number of matches is also printed.
8   *
9   * When executing this application, you must put the glob pattern
10  * in quotes, so the shell will not expand any wild cards:
11  *     java Find . -name "*.java"
12  */
13
14  import java.io.*;
15  import java.nio.file.*;
16  import java.nio.file.attribute.*;
17  import static java.nio.file.FileVisitResult.*;
18  import static java.nio.file.FileVisitOption.*;
19  import java.util.*;
20
21
22  public class Find {
23
24      public static class Finder
25          extends SimpleFileVisitor<Path> {
26
27          private final PathMatcher matcher;
28          private int numMatches = 0;
29
30          Finder(String pattern) {
31              matcher = FileSystems.getDefault()
32                  .getPathMatcher("glob:" + pattern);
33          }
34
35          // Compares the glob pattern against
36          // the file or directory name.
37          void find(Path file) {
38              Path name = file.getFileName();
39              if (name != null && matcher.matches(name)) {
40                  numMatches++;
41                  System.out.println(file);
42              }
43          }
44
45          // Prints the total number of
46          // matches to standard out.
47          void done() {
48              System.out.println("Matched: "
49                  + numMatches);
50          }
51
52          // Invoke the pattern matching
53          // method on each file.
54          @Override
55          public FileVisitResult visitFile(Path file,
56              BasicFileAttributes attrs) {
57              find(file);
58          }
59      }
60  }
```

```

59         return CONTINUE;
60     }
61
62     // Invoke the pattern matching
63     // method on each directory.
64     @Override
65     public FileVisitResult preVisitDirectory(Path dir,
66         BasicFileAttributes attrs) {
67         find(dir);
68         return CONTINUE;
69     }
70
71     @Override
72     public FileVisitResult visitFileFailed(Path file,
73         IOException exc) {
74         System.err.println(exc);
75         return CONTINUE;
76     }
77 }
78
79 static void usage() {
80     System.err.println("java Find <path>" +
81         " -name \"<glob_pattern>\"");
82     System.exit(-1);
83 }
84
85 public static void main(String[] args)
86     throws IOException {
87
88     if (args.length < 3 || !args[1].equals("-name"))
89         usage();
90
91     Path startingDir = Paths.get(args[0]);
92     String pattern = args[2];
93
94     Finder finder = new Finder(pattern);
95     Files.walkFileTree(startingDir, finder);
96     finder.done();
97 }

```

## The Copy Example

```

1  import java.io.IOException;
2  import java.nio.file.*;
3  import java.nio.file.attribute.BasicFileAttributes;
4  import java.nio.file.attribute.FileTime;
5  import java.util.EnumSet;
6  import java.util.stream.Stream;
7
8  import static java.nio.file.FileVisitResult.CONTINUE;
9  import static java.nio.file.FileVisitResult.SKIP_SUBTREE;
10 import static java.nio.file.StandardCopyOption.COPY_ATTRIBUTES;
11 import static java.nio.file.StandardCopyOption.REPLACE_EXISTING;
12
13 /**
14  * Sample code that copies files recursively
15  * from a source directory to a destination folder.
16

```

```

17  * The maximum number of directory levels to copy
18  * is specified after -depth.
19  * The number of files copied is printed
20  * to standard out.
21  * You can execute the application using:
22  * @code java Copy . new -depth 4
23  */
24
25  public class Copy {
26
27      /**
28       * A {@code FileVisitor} that finds
29       * all files that match the
30       * specified pattern.
31       */
32      public static class Replicator
33          extends SimpleFileVisitor<Path> {
34
35          Path source;
36          Path destination;
37
38          public Replicator(Path source, Path destination) {
39              this.source = source;
40              this.destination = destination;
41          }
42
43          // Prints the total number of
44          // files copied to standard out.
45          void done() throws IOException {
46              try (Stream<Path> path = Files.list(Paths.get(destination.toUri())) {
47                  System.out.println("Number of files copied: "
48                      + path.filter(p -> p.toFile().isFile()).count());
49              }
50          }
51
52      }
53
54      // Copy a file in destination
55      @Override
56      public FileVisitResult visitFile(Path file,
57          BasicFileAttributes attrs) {
58          System.out.println("Copy file: " + file);
59          Path newFile = destination.resolve(source.relativize(file));
60          try{
61              Files.copy(file,newFile);
62          }
63          catch (IOException ioException){
64              //log it and move
65          }
66          return CONTINUE;
67      }
68
69      // Invoke copy of a directory.
70      @Override
71      public FileVisitResult preVisitDirectory(Path dir,
72          BasicFileAttributes attrs) {
73          System.out.println("Copy directory: " + dir);
74          Path targetDir = destination.resolve(source.relativize(dir));
75          try {
76              Files.copy(dir, targetDir, REPLACE_EXISTING, COPY_ATTRIBUTES);
77          } catch (IOException e) {
78              System.err.println("Unable to create " + targetDir + " [" + e + "]);
79              return SKIP_SUBTREE;

```



```

80         }
81
82         return CONTINUE;
83     }
84
85     @Override
86     public FileVisitResult postVisitDirectory(Path dir, IOException exc) throws IOException {
87         if (exc == null) {
88             Path destination = this.destination.resolve(source.relativize(dir));
89             try {
90                 FileTime time = Files.getLastModifiedTime(dir);
91                 Files.setLastModifiedTime(destination, time);
92             } catch (IOException e) {
93                 System.err.println("Unable to copy all attributes to: " + destination + " [" + e + "]");
94             }
95         } else {
96             throw exc;
97         }
98
99         return CONTINUE;
100     }
101
102     @Override
103     public FileVisitResult visitFileFailed(Path file,
104                                           IOException exc) {
105         if (exc instanceof FileSystemLoopException) {
106             System.err.println("cycle detected: " + file);
107         } else {
108             System.err.format("Unable to copy:" + " %s: %s%n",
109                               file, exc);
110         }
111         return CONTINUE;
112     }
113 }
114
115 static void usage() {
116     System.err.println("java Copy <source> <destination>" +
117                       " -depth \"<max_level_dir>\"");
118     System.exit(-1);
119 }
120
121 public static void main(String[] args)
122     throws IOException {
123
124     if (args.length < 4 || !args[2].equals("-depth"))
125         usage();
126
127     Path source = Paths.get(args[0]);
128     Path destination = Paths.get(args[1]);
129     int depth = Integer.parseInt(args[3]);
130
131     Replicator walk = new Replicator(source, destination);
132     EnumSet<FileVisitOption> opts = EnumSet.of(FileVisitOption.FOLLOW_LINKS);
133     Files.walkFileTree(source, opts, depth, walk);
134     walk.done();
135 }

```

## The Chmod Example

```

1  import java.nio.file.*;
2  import java.nio.file.attribute.*;
3  import static java.nio.file.attribute.PosixFilePermission.*;
4  import static java.nio.file.FileVisitResult.*;
5  import java.io.IOException;
6  import java.util.*;
7
8  /**
9   * Sample code that changes the permissions of files in a similar manner to the
10   * chmod(1) program.
11   */
12
13  public class Chmod {
14
15      /**
16       * Compiles a list of one or more symbolic mode expressions that
17       * may be used to change a set of file permissions. This method is
18       * intended for use where file permissions are required to be changed in
19       * a manner similar to the UNIX chmod program.
20       *
21       * 

The {@code exprs} parameter is a comma separated list of expressions
22       * where each takes the form:


23       * 

```
<i>who operator [<i>permissions</i>]
```


24       * 

where who is one or more of the characters {@code 'u'}, {@code 'g'},
25       * {@code 'o'}, or {@code 'a'} meaning the owner (user), group, others, or
26       * all (owner, group, and others) respectively.


27       *
28       * 

operator is the character {@code '+'}, {@code '-'}, or {@code '='}
29       * signifying how permissions are to be changed. {@code '+'} means the
30       * permissions are added, {@code '-'} means the permissions are removed, and
31       * {@code '='} means the permissions are assigned absolutely.


32       *
33       * 

permissions is a sequence of zero or more of the following:


34       *
35       * 


36       * - 'r' for read permission, 'w' for write permission, and

37       * - 'x' for execute permission. If permissions is omitted

38       * - when assigned absolutely, then the permissions are cleared for

39       * - the owner, group, or others as identified by who. When omitted

40       * - when adding or removing then the expression is ignored.

41       * 

42       *
43       * 

The following examples demonstrate possible values for the {@code


44       * 

exprs} parameter:


45       *
46       * 

|                   |                                                                   |
|-------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|
| {@code u=rw}      | Sets the owner permissions to be read and write.                  |
| {@code ug+w}      | Sets the owner write and group write permissions.                 |
| {@code u+w,o-rwx} | Sets the owner write, and removes the others read, others write   |
| {@code o=}        | Sets the others permission to none (others read, others write and |
|                   | others execute permissions are removed if set)                    |


```

```

63  * </tr>
64  * </table>
65  *
66  * @param   exprs
67  *          List of one or more <em>symbolic mode expressions</em>
68  *
69  * @return  A {@code Changer} that may be used to changer a set of
70  *          file permissions
71  *
72  * @throws  IllegalArgumentException
73  *          If the value of the {@code exprs} parameter is invalid
74  */
75  public static Changer compile(String exprs) {
76      // minimum is who and operator (u= for example)
77      if (exprs.length() < 2)
78          throw new IllegalArgumentException("Invalid mode");
79
80      // permissions that the changer will add or remove
81      final Set<PosixFilePermission> toAdd = new HashSet<PosixFilePermission>();
82      final Set<PosixFilePermission> toRemove = new HashSet<PosixFilePermission>();
83
84      // iterate over each of expression modes
85      for (String expr: exprs.split(",")) {
86          // minimum of who and operator
87          if (expr.length() < 2)
88              throw new IllegalArgumentException("Invalid mode");
89
90          int pos = 0;
91
92          // who
93          boolean u = false;
94          boolean g = false;
95          boolean o = false;
96          boolean done = false;
97          for (;;) {
98              switch (expr.charAt(pos)) {
99                  case 'u' : u = true; break;
100                 case 'g' : g = true; break;
101                 case 'o' : o = true; break;
102                 case 'a' : u = true; g = true; o = true; break;
103                 default : done = true;
104             }
105             if (done)
106                 break;
107             pos++;
108         }
109         if (!u && !g && !o)
110             throw new IllegalArgumentException("Invalid mode");
111
112         // get operator and permissions
113         char op = expr.charAt(pos++);
114         String mask = (expr.length() == pos) ? "" : expr.substring(pos);
115
116         // operator
117         boolean add = (op == '+');
118         boolean remove = (op == '-');
119         boolean assign = (op == '=');
120         if (!add && !remove && !assign)
121             throw new IllegalArgumentException("Invalid mode");
122
123         // who= means remove all
124         if (assign && mask.length() == 0) {
125             assign = false;

```

```

126         remove = true;
127         mask = "rwx";
128     }
129
130     // permissions
131     boolean r = false;
132     boolean w = false;
133     boolean x = false;
134     for (int i=0; i<mask.length(); i++) {
135         switch (mask.charAt(i)) {
136             case 'r' : r = true; break;
137             case 'w' : w = true; break;
138             case 'x' : x = true; break;
139             default:
140                 throw new IllegalArgumentException("Invalid mode");
141         }
142     }
143
144     // update permissions set
145     if (add) {
146         if (u) {
147             if (r) toAdd.add(OWNER_READ);
148             if (w) toAdd.add(OWNER_WRITE);
149             if (x) toAdd.add(OWNER_EXECUTE);
150         }
151         if (g) {
152             if (r) toAdd.add(GROUP_READ);
153             if (w) toAdd.add(GROUP_WRITE);
154             if (x) toAdd.add(GROUP_EXECUTE);
155         }
156         if (o) {
157             if (r) toAdd.add(OTHERS_READ);
158             if (w) toAdd.add(OTHERS_WRITE);
159             if (x) toAdd.add(OTHERS_EXECUTE);
160         }
161     }
162     if (remove) {
163         if (u) {
164             if (r) toRemove.add(OWNER_READ);
165             if (w) toRemove.add(OWNER_WRITE);
166             if (x) toRemove.add(OWNER_EXECUTE);
167         }
168         if (g) {
169             if (r) toRemove.add(GROUP_READ);
170             if (w) toRemove.add(GROUP_WRITE);
171             if (x) toRemove.add(GROUP_EXECUTE);
172         }
173         if (o) {
174             if (r) toRemove.add(OTHERS_READ);
175             if (w) toRemove.add(OTHERS_WRITE);
176             if (x) toRemove.add(OTHERS_EXECUTE);
177         }
178     }
179     if (assign) {
180         if (u) {
181             if (r) toAdd.add(OWNER_READ);
182             else toRemove.add(OWNER_READ);
183             if (w) toAdd.add(OWNER_WRITE);
184             else toRemove.add(OWNER_WRITE);
185             if (x) toAdd.add(OWNER_EXECUTE);
186             else toRemove.add(OWNER_EXECUTE);
187         }
188         if (g) {

```

```

189         if (r) toAdd.add(GROUP_READ);
190         else toRemove.add(GROUP_READ);
191         if (w) toAdd.add(GROUP_WRITE);
192         else toRemove.add(GROUP_WRITE);
193         if (x) toAdd.add(GROUP_EXECUTE);
194         else toRemove.add(GROUP_EXECUTE);
195     }
196     if (o) {
197         if (r) toAdd.add(OTHERS_READ);
198         else toRemove.add(OTHERS_READ);
199         if (w) toAdd.add(OTHERS_WRITE);
200         else toRemove.add(OTHERS_WRITE);
201         if (x) toAdd.add(OTHERS_EXECUTE);
202         else toRemove.add(OTHERS_EXECUTE);
203     }
204 }
205 }
206
207 // return changer
208 return new Changer() {
209     @Override
210     public Set<PosixFilePermission> change(Set<PosixFilePermission> perms) {
211         perms.addAll(toAdd);
212         perms.removeAll(toRemove);
213         return perms;
214     }
215 };
216 }
217
218 /**
219  * A task that <i>changes</i> a set of {@link PosixFilePermission} elements.
220  */
221 public interface Changer {
222     /**
223      * Applies the changes to the given set of permissions.
224      *
225      * @param perms
226      *      The set of permissions to change
227      *
228      * @return The {@code perms} parameter
229      */
230     Set<PosixFilePermission> change(Set<PosixFilePermission> perms);
231 }
232
233 /**
234  * Changes the permissions of the file using the given Changer.
235  */
236 static void chmod(Path file, Changer changer) {
237     try {
238         Set<PosixFilePermission> perms = Files.getPosixFilePermissions(file);
239         Files.setPosixFilePermissions(file, changer.change(perms));
240     } catch (IOException x) {
241         System.err.println(x);
242     }
243 }
244
245 /**
246  * Changes the permission of each file and directory visited
247  */
248 static class TreeVisitor implements FileVisitor<Path> {
249     private final Changer changer;
250
251     TreeVisitor(Changer changer) {

```

```

252         this.changer = changer;
253     }
254
255     @Override
256     public FileVisitResult preVisitDirectory(Path dir, BasicFileAttributes attrs) {
257         chmod(dir, changer);
258         return CONTINUE;
259     }
260
261     @Override
262     public FileVisitResult visitFile(Path file, BasicFileAttributes attrs) {
263         chmod(file, changer);
264         return CONTINUE;
265     }
266
267     @Override
268     public FileVisitResult postVisitDirectory(Path dir, IOException exc) {
269         if (exc != null)
270             System.err.println("WARNING: " + exc);
271         return CONTINUE;
272     }
273
274     @Override
275     public FileVisitResult visitFileFailed(Path file, IOException exc) {
276         System.err.println("WARNING: " + exc);
277         return CONTINUE;
278     }
279 }
280
281 static void usage() {
282     System.err.println("java Chmod [-R] symbolic-mode-list file...");
283     System.exit(-1);
284 }
285
286 public static void main(String[] args) throws IOException {
287     if (args.length < 2)
288         usage();
289     int argi = 0;
290     int maxDepth = 0;
291     if (args[argi].equals("-R")) {
292         if (args.length < 3)
293             usage();
294         argi++;
295         maxDepth = Integer.MAX_VALUE;
296     }
297
298     // compile the symbolic mode expressions
299     Changer changer = compile(args[argi++]);
300     TreeVisitor visitor = new TreeVisitor(changer);
301
302     Set<FileVisitOption> opts = Collections.emptySet();
303     while (argi < args.length) {
304         Path file = Paths.get(args[argi]);
305         Files.walkFileTree(file, opts, maxDepth, visitor);
306         argi++;
307     }
308 }
309 }

```

**Last update:** January 4, 2024

[Listing the Content of a Directory](#)



**Walking the File Tree**



[Watching a Directory for Changes](#)

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