

Unix-like Operating Systems

Access permissions.

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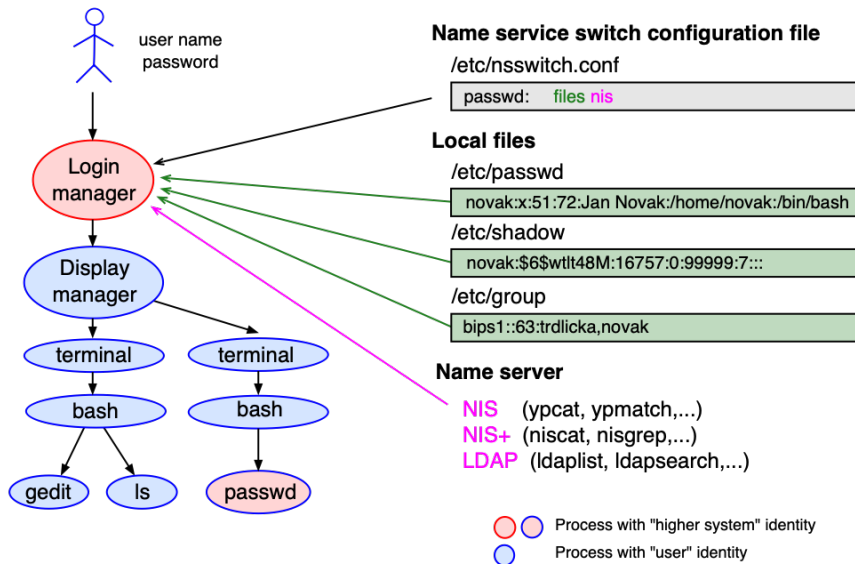
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- New process creation

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System login



User account

- A user account must be created before the user can log on.
- The following informations represent the user account.
 - User name
 - User ID: *UID*
 - $UID = 0$ represents admin account (root account).
 - Primary group ID: *GID₁*
 - User belongs to at least one primary group.
 - List of secondary group ID's: *GID₂, GID₃, ... , GID_n* (optional)
 - User can set his secondary to primary group by command `newgrp`.
 - Comment
 - Description of the user account.
 - Home directory
 - Working directory is set to home directory after login.
 - Login shell
 - User password

User account database

- The information defined within the user account can be stored in different locations.
- Name service switch configuration file
 - `/etc/nsswitch.conf`
 - Defines where the information about user accounts are saved.
 - This information can be get by command `getent`.
- Local Files
 - `/etc/passwd`
 - `/etc/shadow`
 - `/etc/group`
- Central name service
 - Keeps information about user accounts at one place (not only about user accounts ...).
 - NIS (commands `ypcat`, `ypmatch`, ...)
 - NIS+ (commands `niscat`, `nisgrep`, ...)
 - LDAP (commands `ldaplist`, `ldapsearch`, ...)

User account database – local file structure

- File `/etc/passwd`

name:x:UID:GID₁:comment:home_directory:login_shell

- File `/etc/shadow`

name:password:lastchg:min:max:warn:inactive:expire:flag

- File `/etc/group`

group::GID_i:list_of_users

Login process

- ① System asks for user name and password.
- ② System verifies the name and password in databases.
- ③ After successful verification
 - Login shell is started with the user identity
 - real-user-ID: $RUID = UID$
 - real-group-ID: $RGID = GID_1$
 - effective-user-ID: $EUID = UID$
 - effective-group-ID: $EGID = GID_1$
 - list of group-ID's: $GID_1, GID_2, \dots, GID_n$
 - Working directory is set to home directory of the user account

Process identity change

- Process identity is set by kernel during process startup or kernel can change it on demand of process.
- Real and effective identities of process (RUID, RGID, EUID and EGID) are the same in most cases and they are inherited from the parent process.
- In some cases, they are not inherited from the parent process and can be different
 - During login (e.g. process `systemd-logind/dtlogin`).
 - By commands `su/newgrp`.
 - Execution of binary files with special access permission `set-user-ID`.
 - Execution of binary files with special access permission `set-group-ID`.

Classic model of security access to data

• Process

• Real process identity *RUID* and *RGID*

- It equals to the identity of the user that starts the process.
- It defines the owner of the process.
- It can be printed by commands

```
ps -o ruser,ruid,rgroup,rgid,comm
```

```
pcrcd $$ # only Solaris
```

• Effective process identity *EUID* and *EGID*

- It is equals to real identity (by most cases).
- It is used to verify process access to objects (files, directories, ...).
- It can be printed by commands

```
ps -o user,uid,group,gid,comm
```

```
pcrcd $$ # only Solaris
```

Classic model of security access to data

- **Object (file, directory, ...)**

- User and group identity of the owner *OUID/OGID*.
- Access rights for each category
 - user,
 - group,
 - other.
- Types of access rights
 - Basic: read, write, execute.
 - Special: set-user-ID bit, set-group-ID bit, sticky bit.
- These information can be get by command `ls -l`.

access permissions

user group other

`-r-xr-xr-x 1 root bin 22288 Oct 6 2015 /usr/bin/date`

file type user (OUID) group (OGID)

Classic model of security access to data

- Access permissions

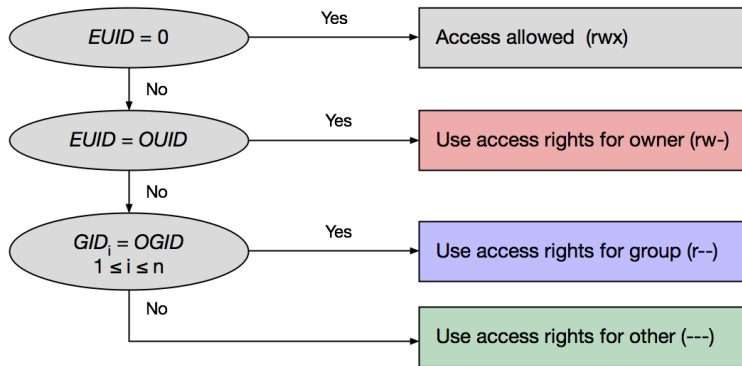
Permission	File	Directory
r (read)	Read content of file (<code>cat file</code>).	List content of directory without attributes (<code>ls directory</code>).
w (write)	Modify content of file (<code>vi file</code>).	Create or remove files/subdirectory (<code>rm file</code>).
x (execute)	Execute program (<code>./file</code>).	Set and browse directory (<code>cd directory</code> or <code>ls -l file</code>).
s (set-user-ID)	After execution of binary file, the process <i>EUID</i> = <i>OUID</i> .	No meaning.
s (set-group-ID)	After execution of binary file, the process <i>EGID</i> = <i>OGID</i> .	New file inherits <i>OGID</i> from directory, not from <i>EGID</i> of process.
t (sticky bit)	No meaning.	Anybody can create item in this directory. Only owner can remove them.

Classic model of security access to data

- Access control of processes to object

Process: $EUID, GID_1 \dots GID_n$

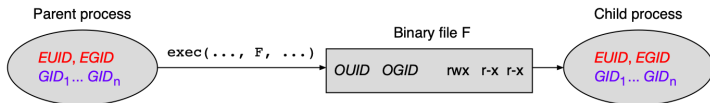
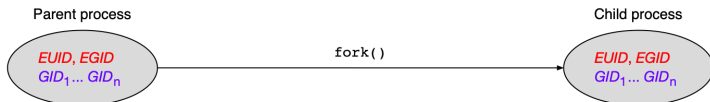
Object: $OID, OGID, rw-, r--, ---$



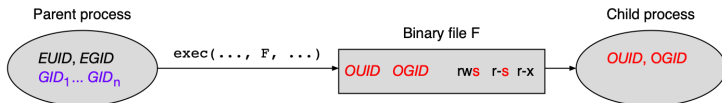
Classic model of security access to data

New process creation

- New process can be created by system call `fork()` or `exec()`.
- The identity of the process is inherited from the parent



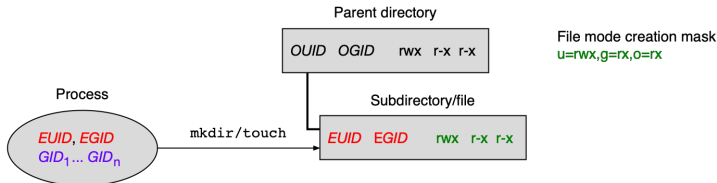
- The process identity is set according to the file owner



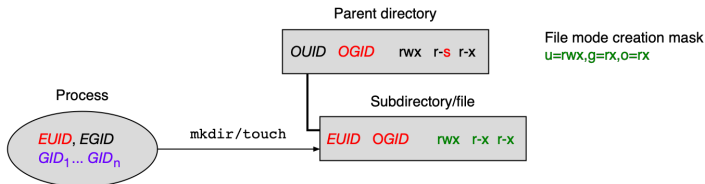
Classic model of security access to data

New file creation

- The user/group of file is inherited from the process



- The group of file is inherited from the parent directory



Ownership and access permissions settings

- User/group ownership settings

`chown [-R] user [:group] file/directory`

`chgrp [-R] group file/directory`

- Only system administrator can change the ownership of file/directory.

- Useful options

- `-R` ... change files and directories recursively.

- Access permission settings

`chmod [-R] symbolic_mode file/directory`

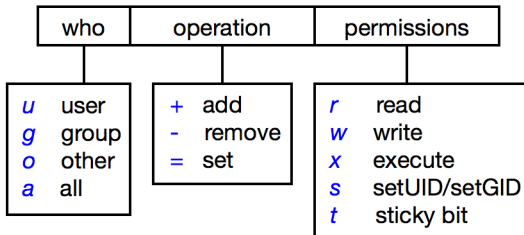
`chmod [-R] octal_mode file/directory`

- Useful options

- `-R` ... change files and directories recursively.

Access permission settings – symbolic mode

Permission specification:



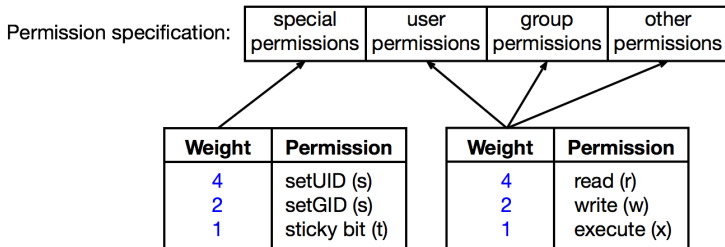
Examples

```
~> ls -l a.txt
-rw-r--r-- 1 honza users 12 Nov 26 16:21 a.txt
```

```
~> chmod u+x,g-r,o+w a.txt
~> ls -l a.txt
-rwx---rw- 1 honza users 12 Nov 26 16:21 a.txt
```

```
~> chmod a=rx a.txt
~> ls -l a.txt
-r-xr-xr-x 1 honza users 12 Nov 26 16:21 a.txt
```


Access permission settings – absolute (octal) mode



Examples

```
~> ls -l a.txt
-rw-r--r-- 1 honza users 12 Nov 26 16:21 a.txt
```

```
~> chmod 706 a.txt
~> ls -l a.txt
-rwx---rw- 1 honza users 12 Nov 26 16:21 a.txt
```

```
~> chmod 555 a.txt
~> ls -l a.txt
-r-xr-xr-x 1 honza users 12 Nov 26 16:21 a.txt
```

Default access permissions of new file/new directory

- The user file-creation mask defines permissions of new file/directory.
- It is inherited from the parent process.
- Maximum allowed default permissions
 - 0777 (rwx) for a new directory.
 - 0666 (rw-) for a new file.
- It can be printed or modified by command `umask`.
- Examples

```
~> umask
0022                                # forbidden rights for directory
~> umask -S
u=rwx,g=rx,o=rx                    # allowed rights
```

```
~> mkdir dir ; touch file
~> ls -ld dir file
drwxr-xr-x 1 honza users 0 Nov 26 17:11 dir
-rw-r--r-- 1 honza users 0 Nov 26 17:11 file
```