

Jun
13

My Homebrew Multi User Setup

By leif.hanack development, mac-osx

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Currently I'm setting up a new SSD. One of my first installations is [homebrew](#), a must have IMO.

I have two users. Allen the admin and Stan the standard user. Stan is a developer who works most of his time inside our company network. Allen is responsible for installing apps and so on. For security reasons Stan don't want to be admin. Nevertheless Stan wants to use homebrew, he loves it too. Allen don't want to have two homebrew installations so that he allows Stan to use *his* homebrew.

Update 2013-05-31: considering /Library/Caches/Homebrew

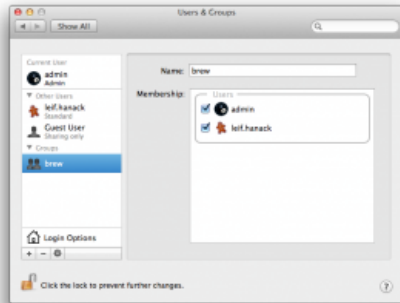
Setup

1. Create a group `brew` and add Stan
2. `brew doctor` (Allen checks if he installed brew correctly)
3. `sudo chgrp -R brew /usr/local` (Change the group of homebrew installation directory)
4. `sudo chmod -R g+w /usr/local` (Allow group members to write inside this directory)
5. `sudo chgrp -R brew /Library/Caches/Homebrew` (Change the group of homebrew cache directory)
6. `sudo chmod -R g+w /Library/Caches/Homebrew` (Allow group members to write inside this directory)
7. `brew doctor` (Stan checks if he can use homebrew)
8. We are done!

Detailed Setup

Create a group `brew` and add Stan

One way to create a group `brew` is to open the *System Preferences* and select *Users & Groups*. Unlock this screen and press the lower left `+`. Select the account type *Group* and name it `brew`. After creating this group add Allen and Stan.



Allen checks if he installed brew correctly

```
allen$ brew doctor
Your system is raring to brew.
```

Change the group of homebrew installation directory

```
allen$ sudo chgrp -R brew /usr/local
Password:
allen$ ls -la /usr/local
total 16
drwxrwxr-x 8 root brew 272 Jun 12 22:31 .
drwxr-xr-x@ 13 root wheel 442 Jun 12 22:36 ..
-rw-r--r-- 1 admin brew 159 Jun 12 22:28 .gitignore
drwxr-xr-x 2 admin brew 68 Jun 12 22:33 Cellar
drwxr-xr-x 6 admin brew 204 Jun 12 22:28 Library
-rw-r--r-- 1 admin brew 789 Jun 12 22:28 README.md
drwxr-xr-x 3 admin brew 102 Jun 12 22:28 bin
drwxr-xr-x 3 admin brew 102 Jun 12 22:28 share
```

Allow group members to write inside this directory

```
allen$ sudo chmod -R g+w /usr/local
allen$ ls -la /usr/local
total 16
drwxrwxr-x 8 root brew 272 Jun 12 22:31 .
drwxr-xr-x@ 13 root wheel 442 Jun 12 22:36 ..
-rw-rw-r-- 1 admin brew 159 Jun 12 22:28 .gitignore
drwxrwxr-x 2 admin brew 68 Jun 12 22:33 Cellar
drwxrwxr-x 6 admin brew 204 Jun 12 22:28 Library
-rw-rw-r-- 1 admin brew 789 Jun 12 22:28 README.md
drwxrwxr-x 3 admin brew 102 Jun 12 22:28 bin
drwxrwxr-x 3 admin brew 102 Jun 12 22:28 share
```

Change the homebrew cache directory accordingly

```
sudo chgrp -R brew /Library/Caches/Homebrew
sudo chmod -R g+w /Library/Caches/Homebrew
```

Stan checks if he can use homebrew

In my case Allen and Stan is one person, so that a simple login do the trick.

```
allen$ login stan
Password:
stan$ brew doctor
Your system is raring to brew.
```

5 Responses to "My Homebrew Multi User Setup"



Robert says:

December 3, 2012 at 12:52 am

Thanks for posting your instructions, it worked perfectly. I have the same setup: admin account to install apps, and a regular user account for using.

[Reply](#)



jimothy says:

May 29, 2013 at 11:08 pm

I also had to run:

```
chgrp -R brew /Library/Caches/Homebrew
chmod -R g+w /Library/Caches/Homebrew
```

'brew install ruby', at a minimum, would not work without this.

[Reply](#)



leif.hanack says:

May 31, 2013 at 9:27 pm

You are right. Thanks.

[Reply](#)



Craig McDaniel says:

July 7, 2013 at 6:30 pm

I think I found another one. Added group read to this .gitignore file:

```
chmod g+r /usr/local/Library/Formula/.gitignore
```

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MacBook Air – OSX 初體驗 I 阿喵就像家 says:

October 1, 2013 at 2:05 am

[...] homebrew multiuser setup [...]

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