



# Lec-04-1

## File System Permissions

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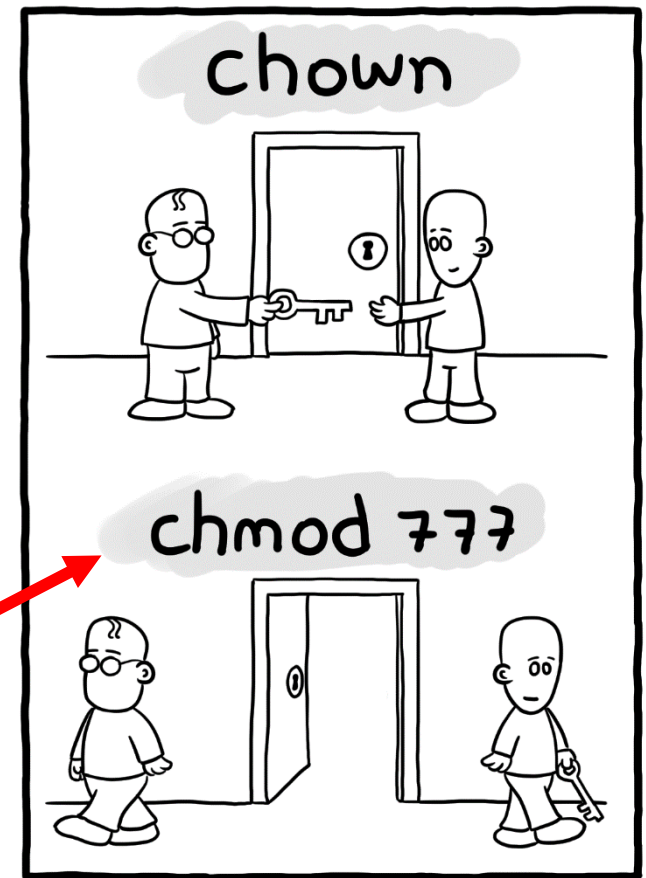
*Dunedin, New Zealand*

**Bachelor of Information Technology**  
**IN616 – Operating Systems Concepts**  
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# Schedule

- File system permissions
  - Levels of permission
  - Types of access
- Modifying permissions
  - chown
  - chmod

**Worst method ever!**



Daniel Stori {turnoff.us}

# TOPIC:

# Overview of File System Permissions

# File System Permissions

- Controls who can access what (in the file system)
- Permissions can be divided into two principles
  - 1. Levels of permission**
  - 2. Types of access**
- We can view permissions using:  
`ls -l`  
`ls -lisa`

# File System Permissions

- **There are three types of permission levels**
  1. **User** (commonly referred to as the owner)
  2. **Group** (usually the owners group)
  3. **Others** (anyone else)
    - Together they make **ugo**
- **There are three types of access**
  1. **Read**
  2. **Write**
  3. **Execute**
    - Together they make **rwX**

# File System Permissions: Levels

- **There are three types of permission levels**
  - User (commonly referred to as the owner)
  - Group (usually the owners group, not always)
  - Others
  - Together they make **ugo**



# File System Permissions: Access

- There are three types of access
  1. Read
  2. Write
  3. Execute
  - Together they make **rwX**

Really **W**eird **X**ray

→ → →



# File System Permissions

## 1. Levels of permission

**WHO CAN ACCESS THE FILE**

## 2. Types of access

**WHAT ACCESS DO THEY HAVE**





# File System Permissions: Visual

**Command: `ls -l`**

Mode		Owner	Group	File Size	Last Modified			Filename
drwxrwxrwx	2	sammy	sammy	4096	Nov	10	12:15	everyone_directory
drwxrwx---	2	root	developers	4096	Nov	10	12:15	group_directory
-rw-rw----	1	sammy	sammy	15	Nov	10	17:07	group_modifiable
drwx-----	2	sammy	sammy	4096	Nov	10	12:15	private_directory
-rw-----	1	sammy	sammy	269	Nov	10	16:57	private_file
-rwxr-xr-x	1	sammy	sammy	46357	Nov	10	17:07	public_executable
-rw-rw-rw-	1	sammy	sammy	2697	Nov	10	17:06	public_file
drwxr-xr-x	2	sammy	sammy	4096	Nov	10	16:49	publicly_accessible_directory
-rw-r--r--	1	sammy	sammy	7718	Nov	10	16:58	publicly_readable_file
drwx-----	2	root	root	4096	Nov	10	17:05	root_private_directory

# File System Permissions: Visual

User

Group

Other

Mode		Owner	Group	File Size	Last Modified			Filename
drwxrwxrwx	2	sammy	sammy	4096	Nov	10	12:15	everyone_directory
drwxrwx---	2	root	developers	4096	Nov	10	12:15	group_directory
-rw-rw----	1	sammy	sammy	15	Nov	10	17:07	group_modifiable
drwx-----	2	sammy	sammy	4096	Nov	10	12:15	private_directory
-rw-----	1	sammy	sammy	269	Nov	10	16:57	private_file
-rwxr-xr-x	1	sammy	sammy	46357	Nov	10	17:07	public_executable
-rw-rw-rw-	1	sammy	sammy	2697	Nov	10	17:06	public_file
drwxr-xr-x	2	sammy	sammy	4096	Nov	10	16:49	publicly_accessible_directory
-r--r--r--	1	sammy	sammy	7718	Nov	10	16:58	publicly_readable_file
drwxr-xr-x	2	sammy	sammy	4096	Nov	10	17:05	root_private_directory



Where is other????

# File System Permissions: Visual

```
user@vCloud:/home/user1$ ls -lisa
total 28
131639 4 drwxr-xr-x 3 user1 user1 4096 Aug  2 22:50 .
  12 4 drwxr-xr-x 6 root  root  4096 Jul 28 21:45 ..
137088 4 -rw----- 1 user1 user1  115 Jul 13 23:49 .bash_history
136208 4 -rw-r--r-- 1 user1 user1  220 Jul 13 21:28 .bash_logout
131678 4 -rw-r--r-- 1 user1 user1 3637 Jul 13 21:28 .bashrc
137077 4 drwx----- 2 user1 user1 4096 Jul 13 21:30 .cache
137048 4 -rw-r--r-- 1 user1 user1  675 Jul 13 21:28 .profile
```

# File System Permissions

```
manager@server:/home/student$ ls -lisa
total 36
 727 4 drwxr-xr-x 3 student student 4096 Aug  6 07:54 .
 792 4 drwxr-xr-x 4 root    root    4096 Jul 13 08:47 ..
1113 4 -rw----- 1 student student  943 Jul 13 15:52 .bash_history
38136 4 -rw-r--r-- 1 student student  220 Jul 13 08:22 .bash_logout
36330 4 -rw-r--r-- 1 student student 3771 Jul 13 08:22 .bashrc
155078 4 drwx----- 2 student student 4096 Jul 13 08:31 .cache
36328 4 -rw-r--r-- 1 student student  655 Jul 13 08:22 .profile
38167 0 -rw-r--r-- 1 student student    0 Jul 13 08:31 .sudo_as_admin_successful
 312 4 -rw----- 1 root    root    875 Jul 13 08:50 .viminfo
```

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

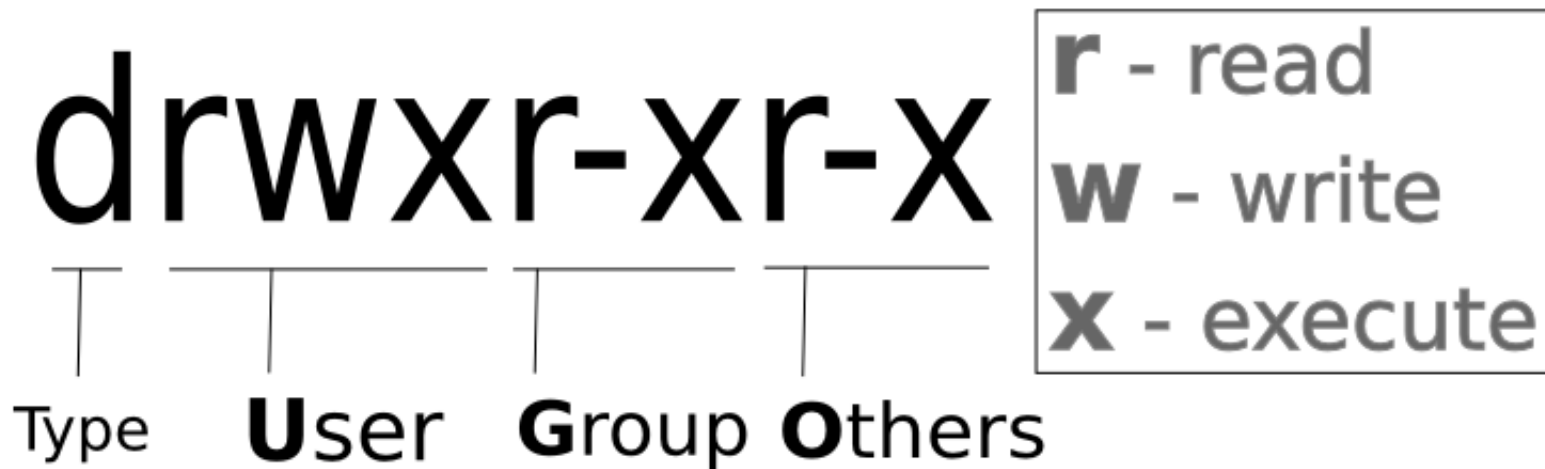
8

9

1. inode
2. Size of file (in blocks)
3. Permissions set (Really Weird Xray)
4. Number of links (discussed in another lecture)
5. Owner (Yu-Gi-Oh – the user)
6. Group (Yu-Gi-Oh – the group)
7. Size (in bytes)
8. Modification date
9. Name of directory or file

# Permissions in UNIX/Linux

- A total of 10 characters (well 9 for permissions)
- The first character is the type (file, directory and others)



- **ENABLED**: A letter means it is enabled (can only be **r**, **w** or **x**)
- **DISABLED**: A dash “-” means it is disabled
- **What can user, group and other access?**



# Permissions in UNIX/Linux

– = file  
d = directory  
l = symbolic link  
b = block device  
c = character device

Meta Information	Owner (u)	Owning Group (g)	Others (o)
–	r w x	r w x	r w x

Symbolic representation

How the computer sees it

1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

Bit representation

How the user sees it

4	2	1	4	2	1	4	2	1
7			7			7		

Decimal representation

Octal values  
(Sum of decimal values per user type)

# Permissions in UNIX/Linux

Owner

**r w x**



Group

**r w x**



Other

**r w x**





# Permissions in UNIX/Linux

Owner

**r w x**



Group

**r - x**



Other

**r - x**



t/

# Permissions in Octal Representation

For each user, group, other in the permission ...

There are 8 variations for each **R**ead, **W**rite, e**X**ecute (**RWX**)

– 0

– 1

– 2

– 3

– 4

– 5

– 6

– 7

# Permissions Table

BINARY	Decimal	Permission	Representation
000	0 (0+0+0)	No Permission	---
001	1 (0+0+1)	Execute	--x
010	2 (0+2+0)	Write	-w-
011	3 (0+2+1)	Write + Execute	-wx
100	4 (4+0+0)	Read	r--
101	5 (4+0+1)	Read + Execute	r-x
110	6 (4+2+0)	Read + Write	rw-
111	7 (4+2+1)	Read + Write + Execute	rw <del>x</del>



INTERESTING



IMPORTANT



IMPORTANT



IMPORTANT



# Is Octal Important?

# YES

- But there are online tools?!
  - <http://permissions-calculator.org/>
- It's still important
  - To fully understand permissions in Linux
  - To have better permission control
  - To understand Linux tutorials

# Permissions on Files

- **Read (r)**
  - Permission to read a file
  - Example command?
  - `cat TestFile`
- **Write (w)**
  - Permission to write or modify a file
  - Deletion is managed by directory permissions
  - Example command?
  - `touch TestFile`
- **Execute (x)**
  - Permission to execute (run) a file
  - Very important for running BASH scripts (.sh files)
  - `sh script.sh` OR `./script.sh`



# Permissions on Directories

- **Read (r)**
  - Ability to list a directory
  - Example command?
  - `ls /etc/ssh`
- **Write (w)**
  - Ability to add, delete and rename files in a directory
  - Example command?
  - `touch /etc/ssh/TestFile`
- **Execute (x)**
  - Ability to enter a directory and access files
  - Example command?
  - `cd /etc/ssh`

# TOPIC:

**Modifying:**

**1. Ownership**

**2. Permissions**

# Modifying Owners: `chown`

- There are three types of permission levels
  - User
  - Group
  - Others
- `chown`
  - Change ownership for file or directory





# Modifying Permissions: `chmod`

- There are three types of access

1. Read
  2. Write
  3. Execute
- Together they make `rwX`

Really **W**eird **X**ray

→ → →



- `chmod`
  - Change/modification of permission for file or directory

# Modifying Owners: `chown`

- **`chown`**
  - Change ownership for file or directory
  - `chown <username>:<groupname> <target>`
  - `chown <username> <target>`
    - Change user ownership
  - `chown :<groupname> target`
    - Only change group ownership
- Examples:
  - `chown frodo theonering.png`
  - `chown -R samwise recipes/`
  - `chown -R frodo:fellowship maps-of-Mordor/`
  - `chown :fellowship fellowship-members.csv`



# Modifying Permissions: `chmod`

- **chmod**
  - Change permissions for file or directory
  - `chmod <permission-set> <target>`
- Examples:
  - `chmod 600 theonering.png`
  - `chmod -R 770 recipes/`

# Using chmod with octals

- **chmod 212 theonering.png**  
User = write, Group = execute, Other = write  
**-w---x-w-**
- **chmod 401 youshallnotpass.txt**  
User = read, Group = none, Other = execute  
**r-----x**
- **chmod 777 /theShire**  
User = full, Group = full, Other = full  
**rw-rw-rwx**
- **chmod -R 644 maps-of-Mordor/**  
User = read/write, Group = read, Other = read  
**rw-r--r--**
- **chmod 511 recipes/**  
User = read/execute, Group = execute, Other = execute  
**r-x--x--x**

## Remember!

**r = 4**

**w = 2**

**x = 1**

# Modifying Permissions: `chmod`

- **`chmod` can also modify single permissions**
  - Symbolic notation is finer-grained
  - Can modify user, group or other (ugo) or all (a)
  - Can modify read, write, execute (rwx)
  - Can add, remove or make exact permissions (+, -, =)
- **`chmod g+w painting-of-Mordor.png`**
  - Add group write permission to file
- **`chmod u=x script.sh`**
  - Only allow user execution permission to file
- **`chmod a-w do-not-edit.txt`**
  - Remove all (ugo) write permission to file

# chmod and symbolic modes

Reference	Class	Description
u	owner	file's owner
g	group	users who are members of the file's group
o	others	users who are neither the file's owner nor members of the file's group
a	all	all three of the above, same as ugo

Operator	Description
+	adds the specified modes to the specified classes
-	removes the specified modes from the specified classes
=	the modes specified are to be made the exact modes for the specified classes

Mode	Name	Description
r	read	read a file or list a directory's contents
w	write	write to a file or directory
x	execute	execute a file or recurse a directory tree

# Lab-04-1 – Start

- **TOPICS:**
- **Setting ownership**
- **Setting permissions**

