**How to make a File Read Only in Java**

[**JAVA I/O**](http://beginnersbook.com/category/java-io/)

Making a file read only is very easy in java. In this tutorial, we will learn following three things.  
1) How to make a file read only  
2) How to check whether the existing file is in read only mode or not  
3) How to make a read only file writable in java.

**1) Changing file attributes to read only**

To make a file read only, we can use setReadOnly() method of File class. It returns a boolean value which we can further use to verify whether the operation got successful or not, same way as I did in the below program. As you can see that in the below program, I am changing the file attributes to read only of file “Myfile.txt” which is present in “C drive” of my computer.

import java.io.File;

import java.io.IOException;

public class ReadOnlyChangeExample

{

public static void main(String[] args) throws IOException

{

File myfile = new File("C://Myfile.txt");

//making the file read only

boolean flag = myfile.setReadOnly();

if (flag==true)

{

System.out.println("File successfully converted to Read only mode!!");

}

else

{

System.out.println("Unsuccessful Operation!!");

}

}

}

Output:

File successfully converted to Read only mode!!

**2) Check whether the file is writable or read only**

In order to check the file attributes, we can use canWrite() method of file class. This methods returns true if the file is writable else it returns false. As I am performing the operation on the file “Myfile.txt” which I already set to read only in the previous program, I am getting output as “File is read only”.

import java.io.File;

import java.io.IOException;

public class CheckAttributes

{

public static void main(String[] args) throws IOException

{

File myfile = new File("C://Myfile.txt");

if (myfile.canWrite())

{

System.out.println("File is writable.");

}

else

{

System.out.println("File is read only.");

}

}

}

Output:

File is read only.

**3) How to make a read only file writable in java**

To make a read only file to writable file, we can use setWritable()method. This method can also be used to make a file read only.  
file.setWritable(true): To make file writable.  
file.setWritable(false): To make file read only.

import java.io.File;

import java.io.IOException;

public class MakeWritable

{

public static void main(String[] args) throws IOException

{

File myfile = new File("C://Myfile.txt");

//changing the file mode to writable

myfile.setWritable(true);

if (myfile.canWrite())

{

System.out.println("File is writable.");

}

else

{

System.out.println("File is read only.");

}

}

}

Output:

File is writable.