

Linux Files & Directories



2

File and Directory Management Commands

How to create a new empty file ?



NPTEL

Linux Files & Directories



2

File and Directory Management Commands

\$ touch

How to create a new empty file ?



NPTEL

Linux Files & Directories



2

File and Directory Management Commands

\$ touch

master@localhost:~/Desktop

File Edit View Search Terminal Help

```
[master@localhost Desktop]$ ls
simpleproject TestDir2
[master@localhost Desktop]$ touch file1
[master@localhost Desktop]$ ls
file1 simpleproject TestDir2
[master@localhost Desktop]$
```

NPTEL

Linux Files & Directories



2

File and Directory Management Commands

How to create a new file
and add some data?



NPTEL

Linux Files & Directories



2

File and Directory Management Commands

Text Editors

In Linux, **text editors** are programs that allow users to create, view, and modify text files.

- **Command-line** (terminal-based)
 - vim, nano, emacs etc.
- **Graphical** (GUI-based) editors
 - gedit, kate, leafpad etc.

**How to create a new file
and add some data?**



NPTEL

Linux Files & Directories



2

File and Directory Management Commands

\$ vim



Command-line
based



How to create a new file
and add some data?



NPTEL

Linux Files & Directories



2

File and Directory Management Commands



\$ vim

master@localhost:~/Desktop

File Edit View Search Terminal Help

```
[master@localhost Desktop]$ ls  
file1 simpleproject TestDir2  
[master@localhost Desktop]$ vim file2
```

NPTEL

Linux Files & Directories



2

File and Directory Management Commands



\$ vim

```
master@localhost:~/Desktop
File Edit View Search Terminal Help
[master@localhost Desktop]$ ls
file1 simple
[master@localhost Desktop]$ vim file1
File Edit View Search Terminal Help
My name is Linux
I am the best !
~
```

Linux Files & Directories



2

File and Directory Management Commands



\$ vim

```
master@localhost:~/Desktop
File Edit View Search Terminal Help
[master@localhost Desktop]$ ls
file1 simpleproject TestDir2
[master@localhost Desktop]$ vim file2
[master@localhost Desktop]$ ls
file1 file2 simpleproject TestDir2
[master@localhost Desktop]$ ls -la
total 8
drwxr-xr-x. 4 master master 69 Sep 25 09:49 .
drwx-----. 22 master master 4096 Sep 25 09:49 ..
-rw-rw-r--. 1 master master 0 Sep 25 07:35 file1
-rw-rw-r--. 1 master master 33 Sep 25 09:49 file2
drwxr-xr-x. 5 root root 115 Sep 27 2023 simpleproject
drwxrwxr-x. 3 master master 19 Sep 24 11:27 TestDir2
[master@localhost Desktop]$
```

Linux Files & Directories



2

File and Directory Management Commands

\$ gedit



GUI based

How to create a new file
and add some data?



NPTEL

Linux Files & Directories



2

File and Directory Management Commands



\$ gedit

```
master@localhost:~/Desktop
File Edit View Search Terminal Help
[master@localhost Desktop]$ ls
file1 file2 simpleproject TestDir2
[master@localhost Desktop]$ gedit file3
```

NPTEL

Linux Files & Directories



2

File and Directory Management Commands

\$ gedit



```
[master@localhost ~]$ ls
file1 file2 simpleproject TestDir2
[master@localhost ~]$ gedit file3
[master@localhost ~]$
```

The terminal window shows the command `ls` outputting files `file1`, `file2`, `simpleproject`, and `TestDir2`. It then runs `gedit file3`, opening a new file named `*file3` in the Gedit text editor. The editor's status bar indicates "Plain Text" and "Ln 2, Col 11". A red box highlights the Gedit window.

NPTEI

Linux Files & Directories



2

File and Directory Management Commands

\$ gedit



master@localhost:~/Desktop

```
File Edit View Search Terminal Help
[master@localhost Desktop]$ ls
file1 file2 simpleproject TestDir2
[master@localhost Desktop]$ gedit file3
[master@localhost Desktop]$ ls
file1 file2 file3 simpleproject TestDir2
[master@localhost Desktop]$ ls -la
total 12
drwxr-xr-x. 4 master master 82 Sep 25 09:56 .
drwx-----. 22 master master 4096 Sep 25 09:49 ..
-rw-rw-r--. 1 master master 0 Sep 25 07:35 file1
-rw-rw-r--. 1 master master 33 Sep 25 09:49 file2
-rw-rw-r--. 1 master master 28 Sep 25 09:56 file3
drwxr-xr-x. 5 root root 115 Sep 27 2023 simpleproject
drwxrwxr-x. 3 master master 19 Sep 24 11:27 TestDir2
[master@localhost Desktop]$ █
```

NPIEEL

Linux Files & Directories



2

File and Directory Management Commands

How to delete a
file/dir/subdirectories ?



NPTEL

Linux Files & Directories



2

File and Directory Management Commands

\$ rm

How to delete a
file/dir/subdirectories ?



NPTEL

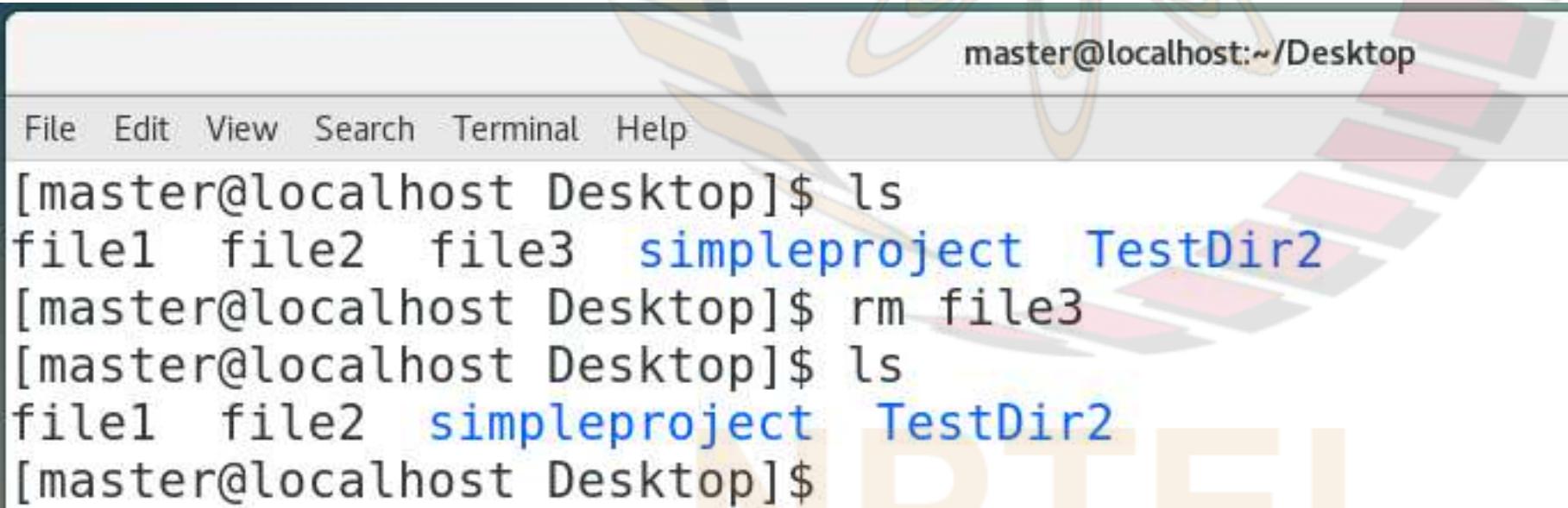
Linux Files & Directories



2

File and Directory Management Commands

\$ rm



```
master@localhost:~/Desktop
File Edit View Search Terminal Help
[master@localhost Desktop]$ ls
file1 file2 file3 simpleproject TestDir2
[master@localhost Desktop]$ rm file3
[master@localhost Desktop]$ ls
file1 file2 simpleproject TestDir2
[master@localhost Desktop]$
```

NPTEL

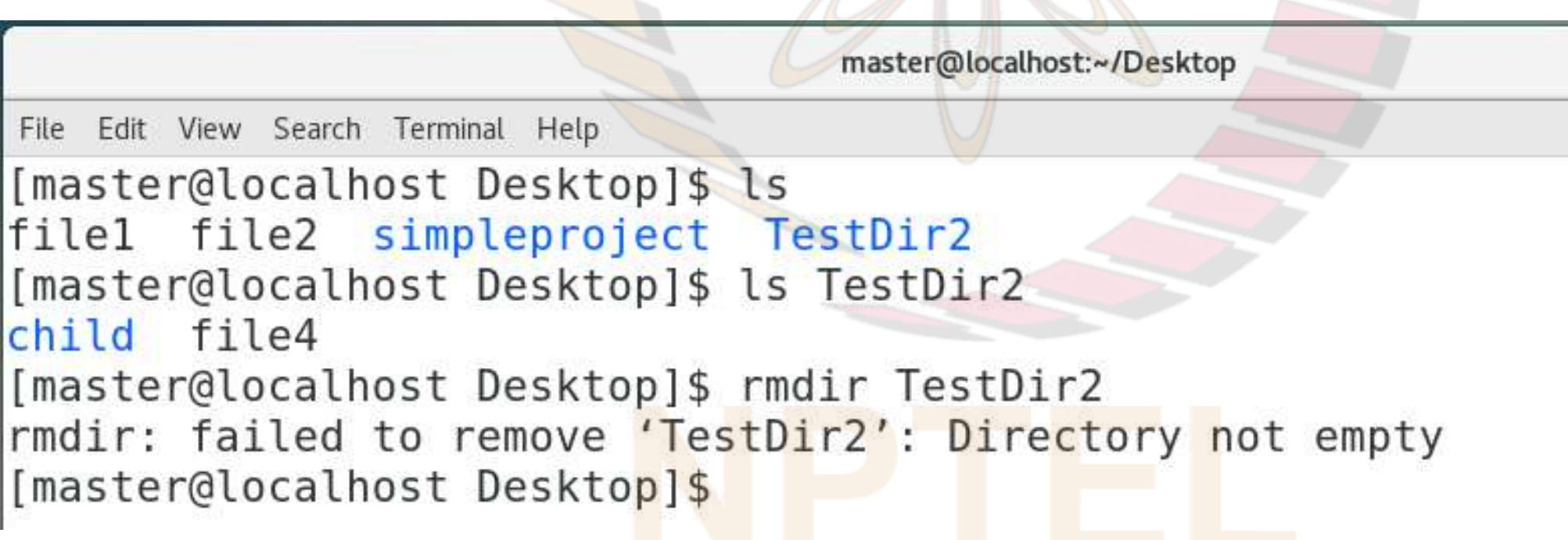
Linux Files & Directories



2

File and Directory Management Commands

\$ rm -r



```
master@localhost:~/Desktop
File Edit View Search Terminal Help
[master@localhost Desktop]$ ls
file1 file2 simpleproject TestDir2
[master@localhost Desktop]$ ls TestDir2
child file4
[master@localhost Desktop]$ rmdir TestDir2
rmdir: failed to remove 'TestDir2': Directory not empty
[master@localhost Desktop]$
```

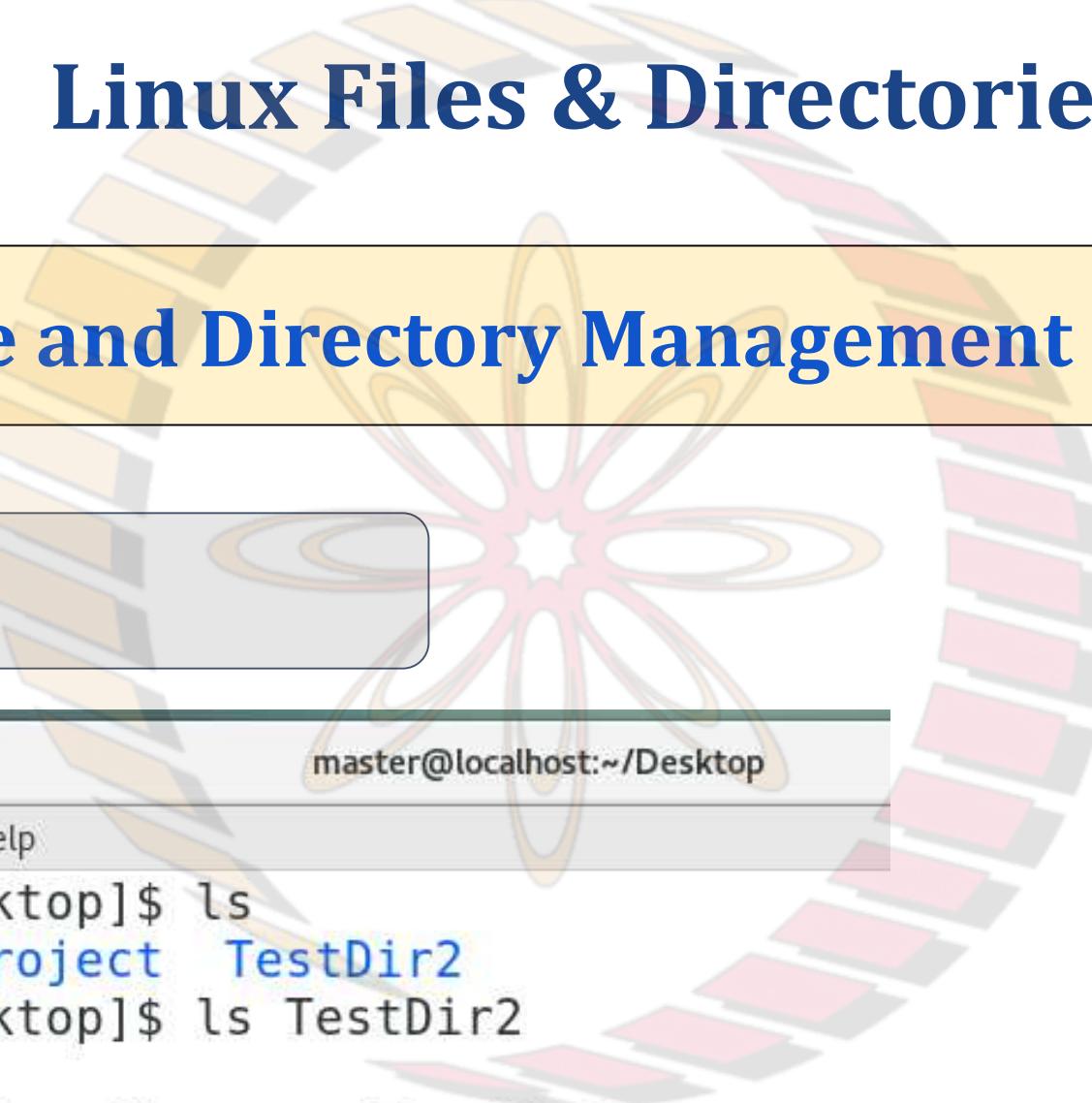
Linux Files & Directories



2

File and Directory Management Commands

\$ rm -r



```
master@localhost:~/Desktop
File Edit View Search Terminal Help
[master@localhost Desktop]$ ls
file1 file2 simpleproject TestDir2
[master@localhost Desktop]$ ls TestDir2
child file4
[master@localhost Desktop]$ rm -r TestDir2
[master@localhost Desktop]$ ls
file1 file2 simpleproject
[master@localhost Desktop]$
```

NPTEL

Linux Files & Directories



2

File and Directory Management Commands

\$ rm -r

```
File Edit View Search Terminal Help  
[master@localhost Desktop]$ file1 file2 simplep  
[master@localhost Desktop]$ child file4  
[master@localhost Desktop]$  
[master@localhost Desktop]$ file1 file2 simpleproject  
[master@localhost Desktop]$
```

Use **rm** command
with caution, as it
permanantly deletes
the data

Linux Files & Directories



2

File and Directory Management Commands

How to display/print the
content of a file on
terminal?



NPTEL

Linux Files & Directories



2

File and Directory Management Commands

\$ cat

How to display/print the
content of a file on
terminal?



NPTEL

Linux Files & Directories



2

File and Directory Management Commands



\$ cat

master@localhost:~/Desktop

File Edit View Search Terminal Help

```
[master@localhost Desktop]$ ls  
file1 file2 simpleproject
```

```
[master@localhost Desktop]$ cat file2
```

My name is Linux

I am the best !

```
[master@localhost Desktop]$
```

NPTEL

Linux Files & Directories



2

File and Directory Management Commands

\$ cat

```
master@localhost:~/Desktop  
File Edit View Search Terminal Help  
[master@localhost Desktop]$ ls  
file1 file2 file3 simpleproject  
[master@localhost Desktop]$ cat file2 file3  
My name is Linux  
I am the best !  
Hello from GNU  
I am Open Source !  
[master@localhost Desktop]$
```

Concatenation: Join multiple files and display them together

Linux Files & Directories



2

File and Directory Management Commands



\$ cat

```
[master@localhost Desktop]$ ls  
fil3-bk file1 file2 file3 simpleproject Test test.sh  
[master@localhost Desktop]$ cat file2 file3 > file4  
[master@localhost Desktop]$ ls  
fil3-bk file1 file2 file3 file4 simpleproject Test test.sh  
[master@localhost Desktop]$ cat file4  
My name is Linux  
I am the best !  
Hello from GNU  
I am Open Source !  
[master@localhost Desktop]$
```

NPTEL

Linux Files & Directories



2

File and Directory Management Commands

\$ cat



```
[master@localhost Desktop]$ cat file2 file3 > file4
[master@localhost Desktop]$ cat file4
My name is Linux
I am the best !
Hello from GNU
I am Open Source !
[master@localhost Desktop]$ cat file2 file3 >> file4
[master@localhost Desktop]$ cat file4
My name is Linux
I am the best !
Hello from GNU
I am Open Source !
My name is Linux
I am the best !
Hello from GNU
I am Open Source !
[master@localhost Desktop]$ █
```

Linux Files & Directories



2

File and Directory Management Commands

How to copy
files/directories ?



NPTEL

Linux Files & Directories



2

File and Directory Management Commands

\$ cp

How to copy
files/directories ?



NPTEL

Linux Files & Directories



2

File and Directory Management Commands



\$ cp

```
[master@localhost Desktop]$ ls  
file1 file2 file3 simpleproject  
[master@localhost Desktop]$ cat file3  
Hello from GNU  
I am Open Source !  
[master@localhost Desktop]$ cp file3 file4  
[master@localhost Desktop]$ ls  
file1 file2 file3 file4 simpleproject  
[master@localhost Desktop]$ cat file4  
Hello from GNU  
I am Open Source !  
[master@localhost Desktop]$ █
```

NPTEL

Linux Files & Directories



2

File and Directory Management Commands



\$ cp -r

```
[master@localhost Desktop]$ ls  
file1 file2 file3 file4 simpleproject  
[master@localhost Desktop]$ ls simpleproject  
package.json public README.md src yarn.lock  
[master@localhost Desktop]$ cp -r simpleproject project2  
[master@localhost Desktop]$ ls  
file1 file2 file3 file4 project2 simpleproject  
[master@localhost Desktop]$ ls project2  
package.json public README.md src yarn.lock  
[master@localhost Desktop]$
```



Linux File's Permissions and Ownerships

NPTEL

Linux Files Authorization



3

File Permissions and Ownership Commands

NPTEL

Linux Files Authorization



3

File Permissions and Ownership Commands

- It is a fundamental part of Linux's security and management.
- These commands are used to manage file permissions, ownership, and access control
- In Linux, file permissions and ownership determine who can access and modify files and directories

Linux Files Authorization



3

File Permissions and Ownership Commands

~~~~~

~~~~~

~~~~~

~~~~~

~~~~~

~~~~~

~~~~~

~~~~~

~~~~~

Linux File

~~

NPTEL

# Linux Files Authorization



3

## File Permissions and Ownership Commands

File permissions are defined for **three categories of users**:

- **Owner (user)**: The person who owns the file.
- **Group**: A group of users who share access to the file.
- **Others**: Everyone else.

Linux File  
~~~  
~~~

NPTEL

# Linux Files Authorization



3

## File Permissions and Ownership Commands

**Permissions** are divided into three types:

- **Read (r)**: Permission to view or read the file's contents.
- **Write (w)**: Permission to modify the file or directory.
- **Execute (x)**: Permission to execute the file (for scripts and programs) or traverse a directory.

Linux File  
~~~  
~~~

NPTEL

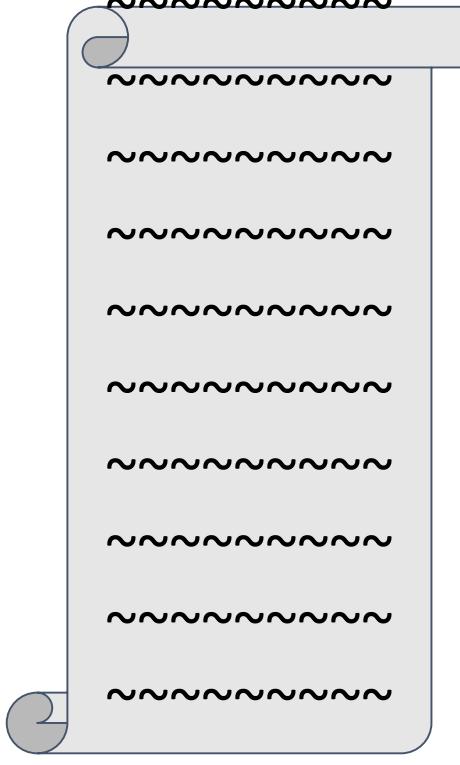
# Linux Files Authorization



3

## File Permissions and Ownership Commands

**File Permission Structure:** The permission structure is usually displayed in a **10-character** format



Linux File

~~

NPTEL

# Linux Files Authorization

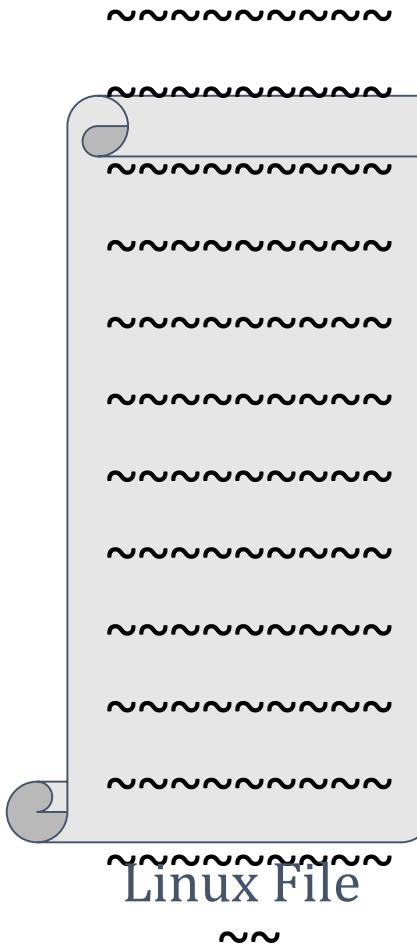


3

## File Permissions and Ownership Commands

**File Permission Structure:** The permission structure is usually displayed in a **10-character** format

- rwx r-x r--



NPTEL

# Linux Files Authorization

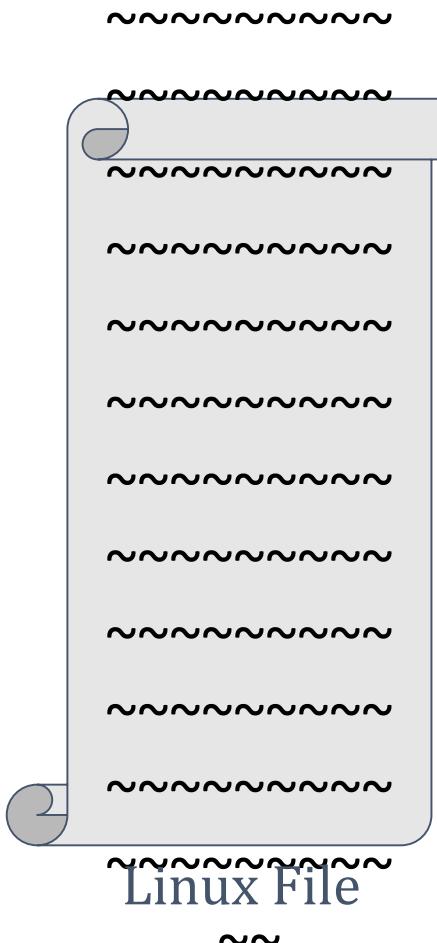


3

## File Permissions and Ownership Commands

**File Permission Structure:** The permission structure is usually displayed in a **10-character** format

|   |       |       |       |
|---|-------|-------|-------|
| - | r w x | r - x | r - - |
|---|-------|-------|-------|



NPTEL

# Linux Files Authorization



3

## File Permissions and Ownership Commands

**File Permission Structure:** The permission structure is usually displayed in a **10-character** format



The first character shows the **type**

- : for a regular file

**d** : for a directory

Linux File

~~

# Linux Files Authorization



3

## File Permissions and Ownership Commands

~~~~~

~~~~~

~~~~~

~~~~~

~~~~~

~~~~~

~~~~~

Linux File

~~

File Permission Structure: The permission structure is usually displayed in a **10-character** format



The next three characters (**rwx**) are the permissions for the **owner**

Linux Files Authorization



3

File Permissions and Ownership Commands

File Permission Structure: The permission structure is usually displayed in a **10-character** format



The next three characters (r-x) are the permissions for the **group**

Linux File

~~

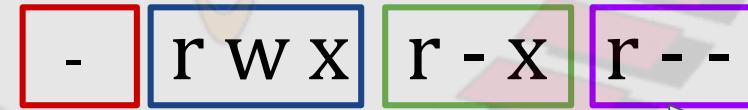
Linux Files Authorization



3

File Permissions and Ownership Commands

File Permission Structure: The permission structure is usually displayed in a **10-character** format



The next three characters (r - -) are the permissions for the **others**

Linux File

~~

Linux Files Authorization



3

File Permissions and Ownership Commands

~~~~~

~~~~~

~~~~~

~~~~~

~~~~~

~~~~~

~~~~~

~~~~~

~~~~~

~~~~~

~~~~~

~~~~~

~~~~~

~~~~~

~~~~~

~~~~~

~~~~~

~~~~~

~~~~~

~~~~~

~~~~~

~~~~~

~~~~~

~~~~~

~~~~~

~~~~~

File Permission Structure: The permission structure is usually displayed in a **10-character** format



```
[master@localhost TestDir]$ ls -la
total 12
drwxrwxr-x.  3 master master   45 Sep 26 07:28 .
drwx-----. 23 master master 4096 Sep 26 06:25 ..
drwxrwxr-x.  2 master master   20 Sep 26 06:25 dir1
-rwxrwxr-x.  1 master master   25 Sep 26 06:25 exe.sh
-rw-rw-r--.  1 master master   35 Sep 26 06:24 file1
[master@localhost TestDir]$ █
```

Linux File

~~

Linux Files Authorization



3

File Permissions and Ownership Commands

How to change the
permission of a file ?



NPTEL

Linux Files Authorization



3

File Permissions and Ownership Commands

\$ chmod

How to change the
permission of a file ?



NPTEL

Linux Files Authorization



3

File Permissions and Ownership Commands



\$ chmod

symbolic

Permissions can be set using **symbolic** or **numeric (octal)** notation.

Using Symbolic Notation:

- r = read, w = write, x = execute
- u = user (owner), g = group, o = others, a = all

- chmod u+x file.txt # Adds execute permission for the **owner/user**
- chmod g-w file.txt # Removes write permission from the **group**
- chmod a+r file.txt # Gives read permission to **all**

Linux Files Authorization



3

File Permissions and Ownership Commands

\$ chmod

Permissions can be set using **symbolic** or **numeric (octal)** notation.

Numeric

Using Numeric (Octal) Notation:

- 4 = read, 2 = write, 1 = execute
- Combine the values for each category of users (owner, group, others).

- `chmod 755 file.txt # rwxr-xr-x` (**owner**: read, write, execute; **group**: read, execute; **others**: read, execute)
- `chmod 644 file.txt # rw-r--r--` (**owner**: read, write; **group**: read; **others**: read)

Linux Files Authorization



3

File Permissions and Ownership Commands



\$ chmod

```
[master@localhost Desktop]$ ls -l
total 4
-rw-rw-r--. 1 master master    0 Sep 25 07:35 file1
-rw-rw-r--. 1 master master   33 Sep 25 09:49 file2
drwxr-xr-x. 5 root   root   115 Sep 27 2023 simpleproject
[master@localhost Desktop]$ chmod +x file2
[master@localhost Desktop]$ ls -l
total 4
-rw-rw-r--. 1 master master    0 Sep 25 07:35 file1
-rwxrwxr-x. 1 master master   33 Sep 25 09:49 file2
drwxr-xr-x. 5 root   root   115 Sep 27 2023 simpleproject
[master@localhost Desktop]$ █
```

Linux Files Authorization



3

File Permissions and Ownership Commands

\$ chmod

```
[master@localhost Desktop]$ ls -l
total 4
-rw-rw-r--. 1 master master    0 Sep 25 07:35 file1
-rw-rw-r--. 1 master master  33 Sep 25 09:49 file2
drwxr-xr-x. 5 root   root  115 Sep 27 2023 simpleproject
[master@localhost Desktop]$ chmod +x file2
[master@localhost Desktop]$ ls -l
total 4
-rw-rw-r--. 1 master master    0 Sep 25 07:35 file1
-rwxrwxr-x. 1 master master  33 Sep 25 09:49 file2
drwxr-xr-x. 5 root   root  115 Sep 27 2023 simpleproject
[master@localhost Desktop]$
```

Linux Files Authorization



3

File Permissions and Ownership Commands



\$ chmod

```
[master@localhost Desktop]$ ls -l
total 4
-rw-rw-r--. 1 master master    0 Sep 25 07:35 file1
-rwxrwxr-x. 1 master master   33 Sep 25 09:49 file2
drwxr-xr-x. 5 root   root   115 Sep 27 2023 simpleproject
[master@localhost Desktop]$ chmod 777 file1
[master@localhost Desktop]$ ls -l
total 4
-rwxrwxrwx. 1 master master    0 Sep 25 07:35 file1
-rwxrwxr-x. 1 master master   33 Sep 25 09:49 file2
drwxr-xr-x. 5 root   root   115 Sep 27 2023 simpleproject
[master@localhost Desktop]$
```

Linux Files Authorization



3

File Permissions and Ownership Commands

How to change the owner of
a file ?



NPTEL

Linux Files Authorization



3

File Permissions and Ownership Commands

\$ chown

How to change the owner of
a file ?



NPTEL

Linux Files Authorization



3

File Permissions and Ownership Commands

\$ chown

```
[master@localhost Desktop]$ ls -l
total 4
-rwxrwxrwx. 1 master master  0 Sep 25 07:35 file1
-rwxrwxr-x. 1 master master 33 Sep 25 09:49 file2
drwxr-xr-x. 5 root   root 115 Sep 27 2023 simpleproject
[master@localhost Desktop]$ touch file3
[master@localhost Desktop]$ ls -l
total 4
-rwxrwxrwx. 1 master master  0 Sep 25 07:35 file1
-rwxrwxr-x. 1 master master 33 Sep 25 09:49 file2
-rw-rw-r--. 1 master master  0 Oct  1 06:08 file3
drwxr-xr-x. 5 root   root 115 Sep 27 2023 simpleproject
[master@localhost Desktop]$
```

Linux Files Authorization



3

File Permissions and Ownership Commands

\$ chown

```
[master@localhost Desktop]$ ls -l
total 4
-rwxrwxrwx. 1 master master 0 Sep 25 07:35 file1
-rwxrwxr-x. 1 master master 33 Sep 25 09:49 file2
drwxr-xr-x. 5 root   root  115 Sep 27 2023 simpleproject
[master@localhost Desktop]$ touch file3
[master@localhost Desktop]$ ls -l
total 4
-rwxrwxrwx. 1 master master 0 Sep 25 07:35 file1
-rwxrwxr-x. 1 master master 33 Sep 25 09:49 file2
-rw-rw-r--. 1 master master 0 Oct  1 06:08 file3
drwxr-xr-x. 5 root   root  115 Sep 27 2023 simpleproject
[master@localhost Desktop]$
```

The user who creates file, is the default owner of the file

Linux Files Authorization



3

File Permissions and Ownership Commands

\$ chown

Syntax

chown <owner>:<group> <file>

```
[master@localhost Desktop]$ ls -l
total 4
-rwxrwxrwx. 1 master master    0 Sep 25 07:35 file1
-rwxrwxr-x. 1 master master   33 Sep 25 09:49 file2
-rw-rw-r--. 1 master master    0 Oct  1 06:08 file3
drwxr-xr-x. 5 root   root  115 Sep 27 2023 simpleproject
[master@localhost Desktop]$
```

Linux Files Authorization



3

File Permissions and Ownership Commands



\$ chown

Syntax

chown <owner>:<group> <file>

```
[master@localhost Desktop]$ ls -l
total 4
-rwxrwxrwx. 1 master master    0 S
-rwxrwxr-x. 1 master master   33 S
-rw-rw-r--. 1 master master    0 O
drwxr-xr-x. 5 root   root  115 S
[master@localhost Desktop]$
```

Linux Files Authorization



3

File Permissions and Ownership Commands

\$ chown

```
File Edit View Search Terminal Help
[root@localhost Desktop]# ls -l
total 4
-rwxrwxrwx. 1 master master  0 Sep 25 07:35 file1
-rwxrwxr-x. 1 master master 33 Sep 25 09:49 file2
-rw-rw-r--. 1 master master  0 Oct  1 06:08 file3
drwxr-xr-x. 5 root   root  115 Sep 27 2023 simpleproject
[root@localhost Desktop]# chown minion1:shadow file3
[root@localhost Desktop]# ls -l
total 4
-rwxrwxrwx. 1 master master  0 Sep 25 07:35 file1
-rwxrwxr-x. 1 master master 33 Sep 25 09:49 file2
-rw-rw-r--. 1 minion1 shadow  0 Oct  1 06:08 file3
drwxr-xr-x. 5 root   root  115 Sep 27 2023 simpleproject
[root@localhost Desktop]#
```