FILE PERMISSIONS IN LINUX

Project Description

The research team at my organization needed to update the permissions for certain files and directories in the project's directory. The current permissions didn't match the level of access required, so I checked and updated them to improve system security. Here's what I did:

Check existing permissions

I used the ls -la command to list all files and directories in the projects folder, including hidden files. The output showed a directory named drafts, a hidden file .project_x.txt, and five other project files. The first column in the output is a 10-character string that shows the file type and permissions.

```
researcher2@5d738f0f927b:~/projects$ ls -la
total 32
drwxr-xr-x 3 researcher2 research_team 4096 Dec  2 15:27 .
drwxr-xr-x 3 researcher2 research_team 4096 Dec  2 15:27 ..
-rw--w---- 1 researcher2 research_team   46 Dec  2 15:27 .project_x.txt
drwx--x--- 2 researcher2 research_team 4096 Dec  2 15:27 drafts
-rw-rw-rw- 1 researcher2 research_team   46 Dec  2 15:27 project_k.txt
-rw-r----- 1 researcher2 research_team   46 Dec  2 15:27 project_m.txt
-rw-rw-r-- 1 researcher2 research_team   46 Dec  2 15:27 project_r.txt
-rw-rw-r-- 1 researcher2 research_team   46 Dec  2 15:27 project_t.txt
researcher2@5d738f0f927b:~/projects$
```

Understanding the permissions string

The string works like this:

- **1st character**: d means directory, - means file.
- **2nd–4th characters**: Permissions for the user (read, write, execute).
- **5th–7th characters**: Permissions for the group.
- **8th–10th characters**: Permissions for others.

For example, -rw-rw-r-- for project_t.txt means:

- It's a file (not a directory).
- User and group can read and write.
- Others can only read.
- No one has execute permissions.

Changing file permissions

The team wanted to remove write access for others on all files. I used "chmod" to do this. For example, project_k.txt had write permissions removed for others. I then used ls -la to confirm the changes.

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```
researcher2@5d738f0f927b:~/projects$ chmod o-w project_k.txt
researcher2@5d738f0f927b:~/projects$ ls -la
total 32
drwxr-xr-x 3 researcher2 research_team 4096 Dec  2 15:27 .
drwxr-xr-x 3 researcher2 research_team 4096 Dec  2 15:27 ..
-rw--w---- 1 researcher2 research_team   46 Dec  2 15:27 .project_x.txt
drwx--x--- 2 researcher2 research_team 4096 Dec  2 15:27 drafts
-rw-rw-r-- 1 researcher2 research_team   46 Dec  2 15:27 project_k.txt
-rw-r----- 1 researcher2 research_team   46 Dec  2 15:27 project_m.txt
-rw-rw-r-- 1 researcher2 research_team   46 Dec  2 15:27 project_r.txt
-rw-rw-r-- 1 researcher2 research_team   46 Dec  2 15:27 project_t.txt
researcher2@5d738f0f927b:~/projects$
```

Updating hidden files

For the hidden file .project_x.txt, the team wanted only the user and group to have read access, and no one to have write access. I removed write permissions for the user and group (u-w, g-w) and ensured the group had read access (g+r).

```
researcher2@3213bbc1d047:~/projects$ chmod u-w,g-w,g+r .project_x.txt
researcher2@3213bbc1d047:~/projects$ ls -la
total 32
drwxr-xr-x 3 researcher2 research_team 4096 Dec 20 15:36 .
drwxr-xr-x 3 researcher2 research_team 4096 Dec 20 15:36 ..
-r--r----- 1 researcher2 research_team   46 Dec 20 15:36 .project_x.txt
drwx--x--- 2 researcher2 research_team 4096 Dec 20 15:36 drafts
-rw-rw-rw- 1 researcher2 research_team   46 Dec 20 15:36 project_k.txt
-rw-r----- 1 researcher2 research_team   46 Dec 20 15:36 project_m.txt
-rw-rw-r-- 1 researcher2 research_team   46 Dec 20 15:36 project_r.txt
-rw-rw-r-- 1 researcher2 research_team   46 Dec 20 15:36 project_t.txt
researcher2@3213bbc1d047:~/projects$
```

Changing directory permissions

The drafts directory needed to be accessible only by the researcher2 user. I removed execute permissions from the group and others while keeping them for researcher2.

```
researcher2@5d738f0f927b:~/projects$ chmod g-x drafts
researcher2@5d738f0f927b:~/projects$ ls -la
total 32
drwxr-xr-x 3 researcher2 research_team 4096 Dec  2 15:27 .
drwxr-xr-x 3 researcher2 research_team 4096 Dec  2 15:27 ..
-r--r----- 1 researcher2 research_team   46 Dec  2 15:27 .project_x.txt
drwx------ 2 researcher2 research_team 4096 Dec  2 15:27 drafts
-rw-rw-r-- 1 researcher2 research_team   46 Dec  2 15:27 project_k.txt
-rw-r----- 1 researcher2 research_team   46 Dec  2 15:27 project_m.txt
-rw-rw-r-- 1 researcher2 research_team   46 Dec  2 15:27 project_r.txt
-rw-rw-r-- 1 researcher2 research_team   46 Dec  2 15:27 project_t.txt
researcher2@5d738f0f927b:~/projects$
```

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Summary
I used ls -la to check permissions and "chmod" to update them. These changes ensured that files and directories in the projects folder had the correct level of access according to the organization's requirements.