Experiment 2: Linux File System Permissions and Essential Commands

Aim

The aim of this experiment is to study Linux file system permissions and to practice some essential Linux commands. By doing this, we learn how to manage files, directories, and their access rights using command line.

Requirements

- 1. A system with Linux operating system installed (Ubuntu, Fedora, etc.).
- 2. Access to a terminal (command line interface).
- 3. Basic knowledge of Linux directory structure.

COMMANDS WITH THEIR EXPLANATION

Command	Purpose	Example
pwd	Show current directory	pwd
ls	List files	ls -la
cd	Change directory	cd /home
mkdir	Create directory	mkdir newfolder
rmdir	Remove empty directory	rmdir oldfolder
touch	Create empty file	touch newfile.txt

Command	Purpose	Example
ср	Copy files	cp file1.txt file2.txt
mv	Move/rename files	mv old.txt new.txt
rm	Delete files	rm -i file.txt
cat	Display file content	cat file.txt
less	View file with pagination	less largefile.txt
head	Show file beginning	head -n 5 file.txt
tail	Show file end	tail -n 5 file.txt
nano	Simple text editor	nano file.txt
chmod	Change permissions	chmod 755 script.sh
chown	Change ownership	sudo chown user:group
whoami	Current user	whoami
sudo	Run as administrator	sudo command
history	Command history	h

Procedure

- 1. Open the terminal in Linux.
- 2. Use pwd to check the present working directory.
- 3. Use Is to list files and directories.
- 4. Create a directory using mkdir testdir.
- 5. Change directory with cd testdir.
- 6. Create an empty file using touch file1.txt.
- 7. Use ls -l to check file permissions (read, write, execute).
- 8. Modify permissions with chmod (for example, chmod 755 file1.txt).
- 9. Change file ownership with chown if needed.
- 10. Display file content with cat file1.txt.
- 11. Finally, remove file using rm file1.txt.

LAB EXERCISE

EXERCISE 1: FILE SYSTEM NAVIGATION

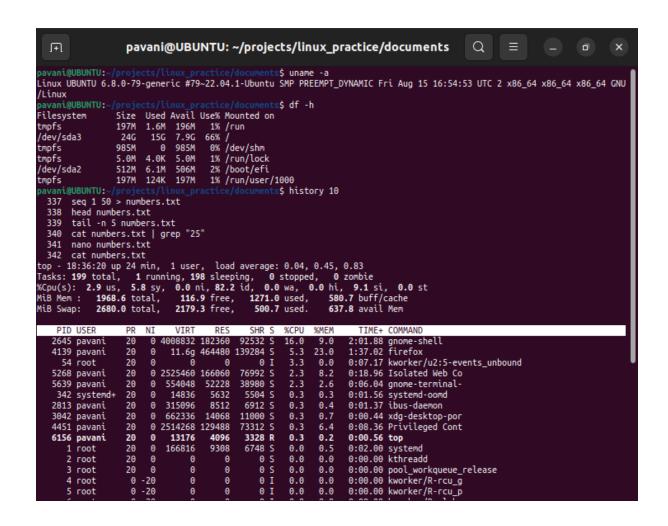
EXERCISE 2:FILE OPERATIONS AND PERMISSIONS

EXERCISE 3: TEXT EDITING AND VIEWING

COMMANDS AND OUTPUT

```
Q
                                                                      pavani@UBUNTU: ~/projects/linux_practice/documents
   pavani@UBUNTU:~$ cd
pavani@UBUNTU:~$ pwd
  /home/pavani
  pavani@UBUNTU:-$ mkdir -p projects/linux_practice/{scripts,documents,backup}
pavani@UBUNTU:-$ cd projects/linux_practice/scripts
   pavani@UBUNTU:~/projects/linux_practice/scripts$ touch setup.sh cleanup.sh readme.txt
pavani@UBUNTU:-/projects/linux_practice/scripts$ ls -la
 total 8
drwxrwxr-x 2 pavani pavani 4096 Sep 23 14:50 drwxrwxr-x 6 pavani pavani 4096 Sep 24 18:20 drw.rw-r-- 1 pavani pavani 0 Sep 24 18:21 cleanup.sh drw-rw-r-- 1 pavani pavani 0 Sep 24 18:21 readme.txt drw-rw-r-- 1 pavani pavani 0 Sep 24 18:21 setup.sh
                                                                                                                                                                               ts$ cd ...
   pavani@UBUNTU:~/projects/linux_practice$ ls -la
 total 24
drwxrwxr-x 6 pavani pavani 4096 Sep 24 18:20 .
drwxrwxr-x 3 pavani pavani 4096 Sep 23 14:46 ..
drwxrwxr-x 2 pavani pavani 4096 Sep 23 14:46 backup
drwxrwxr-x 2 pavani pavani 4096 Sep 23 14:46 documents
drwxrwxr-x 2 pavani pavani 4096 Sep 23 14:50 scripts
   pavani@UBUNTU:~/projects/linux_practice$ cd ~/projects/linux_practice/documents
                                                                                                                                                                                  nts$ echo "This is a practice document" > practice.txt
   pavani@UBUNTU:~/projects/linux
   rw-rw-r-- 1 pavani pavani 28 Sep 24 18:22 practice.txt
  -rw-rw-r-- I pavant pavant 28 Sep 24 18:22 practice.txt
pavani@UBUNTU:-/projects/linux_practice/documents$ cp practice.txt ../backup/
pavani@UBUNTU:-/projects/linux_practice/documents$ cp practice.txt ../backup/
pavani@UBUNTU:-/projects/linux_practice/documents$ cp practice.txt ../backup/practice_backup_$(date +%Y%m%d).txt
pavani@UBUNTU:-/projects/linux_practice/documents$ ls -la ../backup/
  total 16
drwxrwxr-x 2 pavani pavani 4096 Sep 24 18:23 .
drwxrwxr-x 6 pavani pavani 4096 Sep 24 18:20 ..
-rw-r--r- 1 pavani pavani 28 Sep 24 18:23 practice_backup_20250924.txt
-rw-r--r- 1 pavani pavani 28 Sep 24 18:22 practice.txt
pavani@UBUNTU:~/projects/linux_practice/documents
can 1.50 a publication to the contraction of t
   seq 1 50 > numbers.txt
   pavani@UBUNTU:~/projects/linux_practice/documents$ head numbers.txt
```

EXPERIMENT 4: SYSTEM EXPLORATION



```
pavani@UBUNTU: ~/projects/linux_practice
      pavani@UBUNTU: ~/projects/linux_pra...
                                                                                                                       pavani@UBUNTU: ~/projects/linux_pra...
pavant@UBUNTU:~/projects/linux_practice/documents$ cd ~/projects/linux_practice
rm: remove regular file 'documents/numbers.txt'? rmdir backup
pavani@UBUNTU:~/projects/linux_practice$ rm -r backup
pavani@UBUNTU:~/projects/linux_practice$ ls -la
total 20
frwxrwxr-x 5 pavani pavani
drwxrwxr-x 5 pavani pavani 4096 Sep 24 18:38 .
drwxrwxr-x 3 pavani pavani 4096 Sep 23 14:46 .
drwxrwxr-x 2 pavani pavani 4096 Sep 24 18:26 docume
drwxrwxr-x 2 pavani pavani 4096 Sep 23 14:46 doucum
drwxrwxr-x 2 pavani pavani 4096 Sep 23 14:50 script
  avani@UBUNTU:~/projects/linux_practice$ history | tail -20
306 echo "Total files: $(find . -type f | wc -l)" > summa
                                                                                                        > summary.txt && echo "Total directories: $(find . -type d | wc -l
   >> summary.txt
307 cat summary.txt
308 clear
           cd ..
cp docs/readme.txt data/project_info.txt
mv docs/todo.txt scripts/
ls data
    309
            ls scripts/
            ps
cat ps
   316
317
318
319
           ps aux
ps aux | grep bash
kill -l
kill 11210
kill 2560
            cd ~/projects/linux_practice
rm -i documents/numbers.txt
            rm -r backup
ls -la
   325 history | tail -20
avani@UBUNTU:~/projects/linux_practice$ [
```

LAB TASKS

TASK 1- DIRECTORY NAVIGATION

Create a directory called test_project in your home directory, then create subdirectories docs, scripts, and data inside it. Navigate to the scripts directory and display your current path.

EXPLANATION-Directory navigation means moving around between different folders and files in a computer system. Every file or folder has a specific location (called a *path*), and we use navigation commands to reach them.

Conclusion:

Directory navigation helps us organize and easily find files in the system. With simple commands, we can move from one folder to another without confusion.

TASK 2 – FILE CREATION AND CONTENT

Create three files in

the docs directory: readme.txt, notes.txt, and todo.txt. Add the text "Project documentation" to readme.txt and "Important notes" to notes.txt. Display the contents of both files.

- First, we navigated to the docs directory.
- Then, we created three files: readme.txt, notes.txt, and todo.txt using the touch command.
- We added the text "Project documentation" to readme.txt and "Important notes" to notes.txt using the echo command with redirection (>).

 Finally, we displayed the contents of both files using the cat command.

```
pavani@UBUNTU:-/test_project/docs
pavani@UBUNTU:-/test_project/docs
pavani@UBUNTU:-/test_project/docs$ touch readme.txt notes.txt todo.txt
pavani@UBUNTU:-/test_project/docs$ echo "Project documentation" > readme.txt
pavani@UBUNTU:-/test_project/docs$ echo "Important notes" > notes.txt
Important notes
pavani@UBUNTU:-/test_project/docs$ cat readme.txt
Project documentation
pavani@UBUNTU:-/test_project/docs$ echo "What" > todo.txt
pavani@UBUNTU:-/test_project/docs$ echo "todo" >> todo.txt
pavani@UBUNTU:-/test_project/docs$ cat todo.txt
What
todo
pavani@UBUNTU:-/test_project/docs$
```

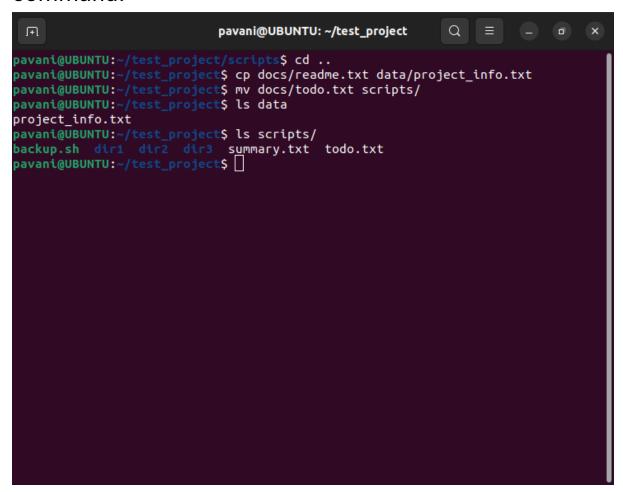
Conclusion:

We successfully created files, added content, and viewed their contents in the terminal.

TASK 3 – FILE OPERATIONS

Copy readme.txt to the data directory and rename the copy to project_info.txt. Then move todo.txt from docs to scripts directory.

- We copied the file readme.txt from the docs directory to the data directory and renamed it as project_info.txt using the cp command.
- Next, we moved the file todo.txt from the docs directory to the scripts directory using the mv command.



Conclusion:

We learned how to copy a file to another directory with a new name and how to move a file from one directory to another. Create a shell script file called backup.sh in the scripts directory. Add the content #!/bin/bash and echo "Backup complete" to it. Make the file executable only for the owner.

EXPLANATION

- We created a shell script file named backup.sh inside the scripts directory using the touch command.
- Added the content:
- #!/bin/bash
- echo "Backup complete"

using a text editor or redirection.

•

Then, we made the script executable **only for the owner** by setting permissions with the command

```
pavani@UBUNTU:-/test_project$ ls scripts
backup.sh dir1 dir2
pavani@UBUNTU:-/test_project$ echo '#!/bin/bash' > scripts/backup.sh
pavani@UBUNTU:-/test_project$ echo "backup complete" >> scripts/backup.sh
pavani@UBUNTU:-/test_project$ chmod u+x scripts/backup.sh
pavani@UBUNTU:-/test_project$ ls -l scripts/backup.sh
-rwxrw-r-- 1 pavani pavani 28 Sep 24 13:36 scripts/backup.sh
pavani@UBUNTU:-/test_project$
```

Conclusion:

We successfully created a shell script, added commands to it, and restricted execution rights to the owner only.

TASK 5 - FILE VIEWING

Create a file called numbers.txt with numbers 1 to 20 (each on a new line). Display only the first 5 lines, then

only the last 3 lines, then search for lines containing the number "1".

EXPLANATION

- A file named numbers.txt was created containing numbers from 1 to 20, each written on a new line.
- The first 5 lines of the file were displayed.
- The last 3 lines of the file were displayed.
- Then, all lines containing the number "1" were searched and shown.

```
pavani@UBUNTU:-/test_project$ touch numbers.txt
pavani@UBUNTU:-/test_project$ seq 1 20 > numbers.txt
pavani@UBUNTU:-/test_project$ head -n 5 numbers.txt
1
2
3
4
5
pavani@UBUNTU:-/test_project$ tail -n 3 numbers.txt
18
19
20
pavani@UBUNTU:-/test_project$ cat numbers.txt | grep "1"
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
pavani@UBUNTU:-/test_project$
```

Conclusion:

This task helped us understand how to create a file with

data, view only selected parts of it, and search for specific patterns inside a file.

TASK 6 - TEXT EDITING

Using nano, create a file called config.txt with the following content:

Database=localhost Port=5432 Username=admin Save the file and then display its contents.

- A file named config.txt was created using the nano text editor.
- The following content was written inside the file:
 - Database = localhost
 - o Port = 5432
 - 。 Username = admin

 The file was saved and then its contents were displayed.

```
pavani@UBUNTU: ~/test_project$ nano config.txt
pavani@UBUNTU: ~/test_project$ cat config.txt
cat: config..txt: No such file or directory
pavani@UBUNTU: ~/test_project$
pavani@UBUNTU: ~/test_project$ cat config.txt
Database=localhost Port=5432
Username=admin pre>
pavani@UBUNTU: ~/test_project$
```

Conclusion:

We learned how to create a text file using a text editor, add configuration details to it, save the file, and view its contents.

Task 7: System Information

Create a file called system_info.txt that contains: your username, current date, your current directory, and disk usage information in human-readable format.

EXPLANATION

A file named system_info.txt was created.

- The file contains the following information:
 - The current username.
 - The current date.
 - The present working directory.
 - o Disk usage details in a human-readable format.
- All this information was saved inside the file and then viewed.

```
pavani@UBUNTU: ~/test_project
                                                            Q
pavani@UBUNTU:~/test_project$ touch system_info.txt
pavani@UBUNTU:~/test_project$ echo "Username: "
bash: syntax error near unexpected token `newline'
pavani@UBUNTU:~/test_project$ echo "Username: " >> system_info.txt
pavani@UBUNTU:~/test_project$ whoami >> system_info.txt
pavani@UBUNTU:~/test_project$ echo "current Date: " >> system_info.txt
pavani@UBUNTU:~/test_project$ date >> system_info.txt
pavani@UBUNTU:~/test_project$ echo "Current Directory: " >> system_info.txt
pavani@UBUNTU:~/test_project$ pwd >> system_info.txt
pavani@UBUNTU:~/test_project$ echo "Disk usage: " >> system_info.txt
pavani@UBUNTU:~/test_project$ df -h >> system_info.txt
pavani@UBUNTU:~/test_project$ cat system_info.txt
Username:
pavani
Current Date:
Current Date:
Wednesday 24 September 2025 02:26:21 PM IST
Current Directory:
Disk Usage:
Username:
pavani
current Date:
Wednesday 24 September 2025 02:43:27 PM IST
Current Directory:
/home/pavani/test_project
Disk usage:
Filesystem
                Size Used Avail Use% Mounted on
tmpfs
                197M
                     1.6M
                           196M
                                   1% /run
/dev/sda3
                                  65%
                 24G
                       15G 8.1G
```

```
Ħ
                    pavani@UBUNTU: ~/test_project
                                                Q
                                                              pavani
Current Date:
Current Date:
Wednesday 24 September 2025 02:26:21 PM IST
Current Directory:
Disk Usage:
Username:
pavani
current Date:
Wednesday 24 September 2025 02:43:27 PM IST
Current Directory:
/home/pavani/test_project
Disk usage:
Filesystem
               Size Used Avail Use% Mounted on
tmpfs
               197M 1.6M 196M
                                 1% /run
/dev/sda3
               24G 15G 8.1G
                                65% /
tmpfs
               985M
                       0 985M
                                0% /dev/shm
tmpfs
               5.0M 4.0K 5.0M
                                1% /run/lock
               512M 6.1M 506M
                                  2% /boot/efi
/dev/sda2
               197M 128K
                           197M
                                1% /run/user/1000
tmpfs
pavani@UBUNTU:~/test_project
```

Conclusion:

We learned how to gather system-related details and store them in a text file for reference.

Task 8: File Organization

In your test_project directory, create a backup folder. Copy all .txt files from all subdirectories into this backup folder.

Then list all files in the backup folder with detailed information.

- In the test_project directory, a folder named backup was created.
- All text files (with the extension .txt) from every subdirectory were copied into the backup folder.
- After copying, the contents of the backup folder were listed with detailed information such as file size, permissions, and modification date.

```
pavani@UBUNTU: ~/test_project
                                                           Q I
pavani@UBUNTU:~$ cd test_project
pavani@UBUNTU:~/test_project$ mkdir backup
pavani@UBUNTU:~/test_project$ find . -type f -name "*.txt" -exec cp {} backup/
cp: './backup/system_info.txt' and 'backup/system_info.txt' are the same file
cp: './backup/config.txt' and 'backup/config.txt' are the same file
cp: './backup/numbers.txt' and 'backup/numbers.txt' are the same file
pavani@UBUNTU:~/test_project$ ls -la backup
total 32
drwxrwxr-x 2 pavani pavani 4096 Sep 24 14:57
drwxrwxr-x 6 pavani pavani 4096 Sep 24 14:53
-rw-rw-r-- 1 pavani pavani   57 Sep 24 14:57 config.txt
                           16 Sep 24 14:57 notes.txt
rw-rw-r-- 1 pavani pavani
                           51 Sep 24 14:57 numbers.txt
rw-rw-r-- 1 pavani pavani
 rw-rw-r-- 1 pavani pavani
                            22 Sep 24 14:57 readme.txt
rw-rw-r-- 1 pavani pavani 589 Sep 24 14:57 system_info.txt
                            10 Sep 24 14:57 todo.txt
rw-rw-r-- 1 pavani pavani
pavani@UBUNTU:~/test_project$
```

Conclusion:

We learned how to organize files by collecting them from different locations into a single folder and how to view detailed file information.

Task 9: Process and History

Display your command history and count how many commands you've executed. Then show the top 10 most recent commands.

- The full command history of the session was displayed.
- The total number of commands executed so far was counted.
- Finally, the most recent 10 commands were shown from the history.

```
Q =
 ſŦ
                                      pavani@UBUNTU: ~
pavani@UBUNTU:~$ history
    1 sudo apt update
    2 su -
    3 sudo apt update
    4 su -
    5
       sudo apt update
    б
       sudo passwd -1 root
       su -
    8
       reboot
       sudo apt update
    9
   10 sudo apt upgrade
11 sudo apt install gedit =y
12 sudo apt install gedit -y
   13
       cd ~
       cd Desktop
   14
   15
       pwd
       cd ~/Desktop
gedit hello.c
   16
   17
   18
       ls
       gcc hello.c -o hello
   19
      gcc Hello.c -o hello
gcc hello.c -o hello
   20
   21
       gedit hello.c
   22
       gcc hello.c -o hello
   23
       ls
   24
      ./hello
cd cd file.txt
   25
   26
      cd file.txt
   27
   28 cd Desktop
```

```
Ħ
                                                              Q
                                  pavani@UBUNTU: ~
 266
      clear
 267 touch system_info.txt
 268 echo "Username:
 269 echo "Username: " >> system_info.txt
 270 whoami >> system_info.txt
 271 echo "current Date: " >> system_info.txt
 272 date >> system_info.txt
 273 echo "Current Directory: " >> system info.txt
 274 pwd >> system_info.txt
 275 echo "Disk usage: " >> system_info.txt
 276 df -h >> system_info.txt
 277 cat system_info.txt
 278 cd test_project
 279 history
pavani@UBUNTU:~$ history | wc -l
pavani@UBUNTU:~$ history 10
 272 date >> system_info.txt
273 echo "Current Directory: " >> system_info.txt
 274 pwd >> system_info.txt
275 echo "Disk usage: " >> system_info.txt
 276 df -h >> system_info.txt
      cat system_info.txt
 278 cd test_project
 279 history
 280 history | wc -l
 281 history 10
pavani@UBUNTU:~$ wc -
```

Conclusion:

This task helped us understand how to view the command history, count executed commands, and check the latest commands used in the terminal.

Task 10: Comprehensive Cleanup

Set the permissions of your backup.sh script to be readable, writable, and executable by owner, readable and executable by group, and readable by others. Then create a summary file that lists the total number of files and directories in your entire test_project.

EXPLANATION

- The script backup.sh was updated so that the owner has read, write, and execute permissions, the group has read and execute permissions, and others have read permission.
- A summary file was created that lists the total number of files and directories in the entire test_project directory.

```
pavani@UBUNTU: ~/test_project/scripts
pavani@UBUNTU:~$ cd test_project
pavani@UBUNTU:~/test_project$ cd scripts
pavani@UBUNTU:~/test_project/scripts$ chmod 754 backup.sh
pavani@UBUNTU:~/test_project/scripts$ ls -l backup.sh
rwxr-xr-- 1 pavani pavani 28 Sep 24 13:36 backup.sh
pavani@UBUNTU:~/test_project/scripts$ touch summary.txt
pavani@UBUNTU:~/test_project/scripts$ echo "Total files: $(find test_project -t
ype f | wc -l)" > summary.txt && echo "Total directories: $(find test_project -
type d | wc -l)" >> summary.txt
find: 'test_project': No such file or directory
find: 'test_project': No such file or directory
pavani@UBUNTU:~/test_project/scripts$ echo "Total files: $(find . -type f | wc
-l)" > summary.txt && echo "Total directories: $(find . -type d | wc -l)" >> su
mmary.txt
pavani@UBUNTU:~/test_project/scripts$ cat summary.txt
Total files: 3
Total directories: 4
pavani@UBUNTU:~/test_project/scripts$
```

Conclusion:

This task demonstrated how to manage file permissions for different users and how to create a summary report of a project directory's structure.

Quick Verification Commands

After each task, verify your work:

Check current location

pwd

List files with details

ls -la

Check file contents

cat filename.txt

Check permissions

ls -l filename

Check directory structure

ls -R

Check command history

history 5

Common Commands You Should Know After This

Task	Key Commands Used
1	mkdir, cd, pwd
2	touch, echo >, cat
3	cp, mv
4	chmod, ls -l
5	head, tail, grep
6	nano
7	whoami, date, df -h
8	find, wildcard *
9	history, wc -l
10	chmod with numbers, find with type

Observation

Every file and directory in Linux has three types of permissions: read (r), write (w), and execute (x).

These permissions are assigned to user (owner), group, and others. Commands like chmod and chown help in modifying permissions and ownership The terminal shows permissions in a 10-character string (e.g., -rwxr-xr--).

Conclusion

From this experiment, we conclude that Linux provides a powerful permission system to control access to files and directories. By using essential commands like ls, pwd, mkdir, touch, chmod, and chown, we can create, manage, and secure files. Understanding file system permissions is important for system security and effective usage of Linux.