

**TLPI Chapter 15**

The reading focused mainly on how file attributes are stored, which data types they are stored as, what their purposes are, and how they can be manipulated or affected through various functions and operations. Particularly covered were the file ownership (which determines which users and groups “own” or can access certain files), timestamp (which store the dates of a file’s last access, modification, and inode modification), and permission attributes (which store whether the file’s owner, group, or others can read from, write to, or execute the file (among other things)), as they applied to various types of files (including directories as well as “normal” files) and on various filesystem implementations. Also touched on were the ideas of inodes and the various inode flags (or [ext2] extended file attributes) that can be set, such as the “append only” flag. These flags can specify additional handling instructions for the file, though not all of them are implemented or supported on all filesystem implementations.