

File permissions in Linux

Project Description

This project aims **set and manage access permissions** between the different roles of a work team, in order to **maintain the confidentiality, integrity and security of data** contained in various files and directories.

Verification of Permissions on Files and Directories

The command was used `ls -l` to list the current file permissions. The status of the permits is detailed below:

```
researcher2@2255d014d046:~/projects$ ls -l
total 20
drwx--x--- 2 researcher2 research_team 4096 May 14 16:30 drafts
-rw-rw-rw- 1 researcher2 research_team  46 May 14 16:30 project_k.txt
-rw-r----- 1 researcher2 research_team  46 May 14 16:30 project_m.txt
-rw-rw-r-- 1 researcher2 research_team  46 May 14 16:30 project_r.txt
-rw-rw-r-- 1 researcher2 research_team  46 May 14 16:30 project_t.txt
researcher2@2255d014d046:~/projects$
```

Initial Permits

Archive	User	Group	Others
project_k.txt	read, write	read, write	read, write
project_m.txt	read, write	read	none
project_r.txt	read, write	read, write	read
project_t.txt	read, write	read, write	read
.project_x.txt	read, write	write	none

Permission Chain Explanation

- **r** → Read permission: allows you to view the content of the file.
- **W** → Write permission: allows you to modify the content of the file.
- **x** → Execute permission: allows you to execute the file (in the case of scripts or binaries).
- **-** → Indicates absence of that permission.

Changes Made to Permissions

1. Remove permissions from other users

To protect sensitive files and limit access to only authorized roles, the following commands were executed:

```
chmod o-rw project_k.txt
```

```
chmod o-r project_r.txt
```

```
researcher2@2255d014d046:~/projects$ chmod o-rw project_k.txt
researcher2@2255d014d046:~/projects$
researcher2@2255d014d046:~/projects$ chmod o-r project_r.txt
researcher2@2255d014d046:~/projects$
researcher2@2255d014d046:~/projects$ ls -l
total 20
drwx--x--- 2 researcher2 research_team 4096 May 14 16:30 drafts
-rw-rw---- 1 researcher2 research_team  46 May 14 16:30 project_k.txt
-rw-r----- 1 researcher2 research_team  46 May 14 16:30 project_m.txt
-rw-rw---- 1 researcher2 research_team  46 May 14 16:30 project_r.txt
-rw-rw-r-- 1 researcher2 research_team  46 May 14 16:30 project_t.txt
researcher2@2255d014d046:~/projects$
```

- In **project_k.txt**, read and write permissions for "other" users were removed.
- In **project_r.txt**, only read permission for "others" was revoked.

2. Hidden file management

The command was used `ls -her` to also list hidden files. It was identified that the file `.project_x.txt` it had write permissions for the user and group, which was unwanted due to its sensitive nature.

```
researcher2@2255d014d046:~/projects$ ls -la
total 32
drwxr-xr-x 3 researcher2 research_team 4096 May 14 16:30 .
drwxr-xr-x 3 researcher2 research_team 4096 May 14 16:53 ..
-rw--w---- 1 researcher2 research_team  46 May 14 16:30 .project_x.txt
drwx--x--- 2 researcher2 research_team 4096 May 14 16:30 drafts
-rw-rw---- 1 researcher2 research_team  46 May 14 16:30 project_k.txt
-rw-r----- 1 researcher2 research_team  46 May 14 16:30 project_m.txt
-rw-rw---- 1 researcher2 research_team  46 May 14 16:30 project_r.txt
-rw-rw-r-- 1 researcher2 research_team  46 May 14 16:30 project_t.txt
```

To correct it, we executed:

```
chmod u-w,g-w .project_x.txt
```

```
researcher2@2255d014d046:~/projects$ chmod u-w,g-w .project_x.txt
researcher2@2255d014d046:~/projects$ ls -la
total 32
drwxr-xr-x 3 researcher2 research_team 4096 May 14 16:30 .
drwxr-xr-x 3 researcher2 research_team 4096 May 14 16:53 ..
-r----- 1 researcher2 research_team  46 May 14 16:30 .project_x.txt
drwx--x--- 2 researcher2 research_team 4096 May 14 16:30 drafts
-rw-rw---- 1 researcher2 research_team  46 May 14 16:30 project_k.txt
-rw-r----- 1 researcher2 research_team  46 May 14 16:30 project_m.txt
-rw-rw---- 1 researcher2 research_team  46 May 14 16:30 project_r.txt
-rw-rw-r-- 1 researcher2 research_team  46 May 14 16:30 project_t.txt
```

With this, the write permission for both the owner and the group was removed.

3. Changing permissions on a directory

To restrict execution of a directory named `drafts`, it was executed:

```
chmod u-x,g-x drafts
```

```
researcher2@2255d014d046:~/projects$ chmod u-x,g-x drafts
researcher2@2255d014d046:~/projects$ ls -la
total 32
drwxr-xr-x 3 researcher2 research_team 4096 May 14 16:30 .
drwxr-xr-x 3 researcher2 research_team 4096 May 14 16:53 ..
-r----- 1 researcher2 research_team  46 May 14 16:30 .project_x.txt
drw----- 2 researcher2 research_team 4096 May 14 16:30 drafts
-rw-rw---- 1 researcher2 research_team  46 May 14 16:30 project_k.txt
-rw-r----- 1 researcher2 research_team  46 May 14 16:30 project_m.txt
-rw-rw---- 1 researcher2 research_team  46 May 14 16:30 project_r.txt
-rw-rw-r-- 1 researcher2 research_team  46 May 14 16:30 project_t.txt
researcher2@2255d014d046:~/projects$
```

This prevents both the user and group members from being able to access the contents of the directory by browsing (`cd`), thus reinforcing security in collaborative work environments.



Summary

In this exercise, basic principles of **file security on Unix/Linux systems**, focused on managing permissions using the command `chmod`. Privacy and role-based access control were strengthened, which is essential in professional environments where collaborative work involves sensitive data.