chmod –R 640 /home/bertrandr/data/\*

Take a moment to understand why this command works the way it does. The **chmod** command has an **-R** option that affects the object named and all its child objects. The user bertrandr doesn’t want to change the permission of the data directory itself, but just the contents, which is why the slash and asterisk characters are on the end of the target. This command acts on the entire contents of the **/home/bertandr/data** directory but doesn’t modify the directory’s permissions. However, if there were any directories within the **/home/bertandr/data** directory, all those directories would have the permissions changed (as well as all files and directories beneath them)!

The **chmod** command has a few useful options:

**-c**—Reports only which files were changed

**-v**—Reports all files

**-h**—Changes symbolic links, not the original file

**-f**—Suppresses error messages

**-R**—Operates recursively through directories