



Linux Introduction

EECS 2031

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 - Uyen Trang (UT) Nguyen, Pooja Vashisth, Hui Wang, Manos Papagelis

Unix File

- Files: store information
 - a sequence of **0 or more bytes** containing arbitrary information
- What's in a filename?
 - Case matters; the limitation is 255 bytes
 - Special characters such as -, and spaces are allowed, but you shouldn't use them in a filename
 - Can you think of the reasons ?
- Dot files are hidden, i.e., normally not listed by command ***ls***
 - To display all files, including hidden files, use ***ls -a***

What's in a file?

- So far, we learnt that files are organized in a hierarchical directory structure
 - Each file has a name, resides under a directory, is associated with some admin info (**permission, owner**)
- Contents of file:
 - Text (ASCII) file (such as your C/C++ source code)
 - Executable file (commands)
 - A link to other files, ...
 - Virtual file:
 - /proc: a pseudo-filesystem, contains user-accessible objects on runtime state of kernel and executing processes
- To check the type of file: “*file <filename>*”

```
indigo 312 % ls
1          countChar
1.t        countChar.c
2
```

```
indigo 313 % file countChar.c
countChar.c: C source, ASCII text
```

```
indigo 314 % file countChar
countChar: ELF 64-bit LSB executable, x86-64, version 1 (SYSV), dynamically link
ed, interpreter /lib64/ld-linux-x86-64.so.2, for GNU/Linux 3.2.0, BuildID[sha1]=
a0a304a94e2c8846f2de5b7050c64c642b766abf, not stripped
```

File Viewing Commands

- **cat**: concatenate files and display on standard output (i.e., the terminal window)

- *cat [option] ... [file] ...*

- *cat proj1.c*

- *cat proj1.c proj2.c*

- *cat -n proj1.c // display the file with line #*

*[] means the argument is optional
... means there can be multiple arguments of this type*

- **more**: file perusal filter (i.e., displaying file one screen at a time)

- *more proj1.cpp*

- **head, tail**: display the beginning or ending lines of a file

- *tail -f output // display the file, append more lines as the file grows*

NAME

cat - concatenate files and print on the standard output

SYNOPSIS

cat [OPTION...]... [FILE]...

DESCRIPTION

Concatenate FILE(s) to standard output.

With no FILE, or when FILE is -, read standard input.

-A, --show-all

equivalent to -vET

-b, --number-nonblank

number nonempty output lines, overrides -n

-e

equivalent to -vE

-E, --show-ends

display \$ at end of each line

-n, --number

number all output lines

-s, --squeeze-blank

suppress repeated empty output lines

-t

equivalent to -vT

-T, --show-tabs

display TAB characters as ^I

-u

(ignored)

-v, --show-nonprinting

use ^ and M- notation, except for LFD and TAB

--help display this help and exit

--version

```
indigo 316 % cat countChar.c
#include<stdio.h>

int main(){
    int c;
    int count = 0;

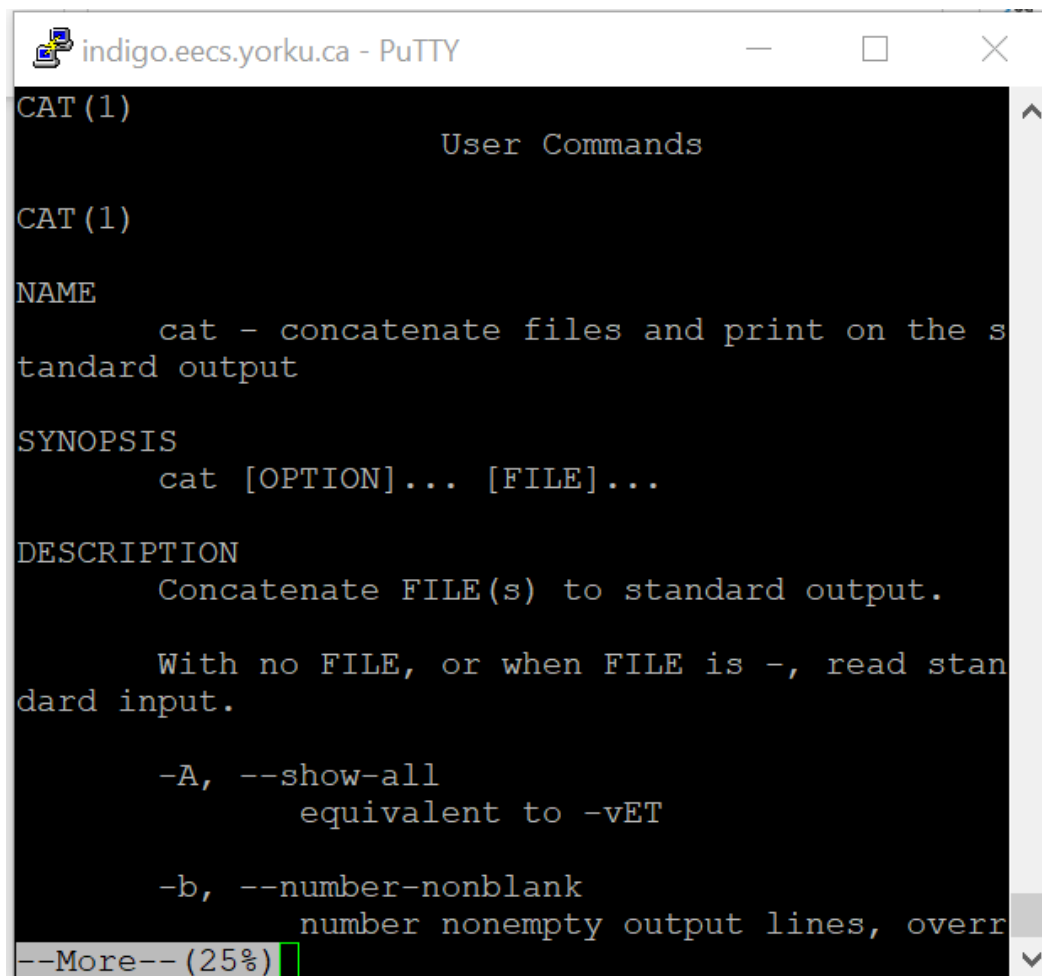
    c= getchar();
    while(c !=EOF){
        count++;
        c =getchar();
    }
    printf("# of chars: %d\n", count);
}
```

```
indigo 318 % cat -n countChar.c
 1  #include<stdio.h>
 2
 3  int main(){
 4      int c;
 5      int count = 0;
 6
 7      c= getchar();
 8      while(c !=EOF){
 9          count++;
10          c =getchar();
11      }
12      printf("# of chars: %d\n", count);
13  }
14
```



```
indigo 323 % man cat > cat.man
```

```
indigo 325 % more cat.man
```



The screenshot shows a PuTTY terminal window titled "indigo.eecs.yorku.ca - PuTTY". The terminal displays the output of the command "man cat". The output is a man page for the "cat" command, showing sections for NAME, SYNOPSIS, and DESCRIPTION. The terminal is in a "more" viewer, showing the first 25% of the page. The cursor is at the end of the line "--More-- (25%)".

```
indigo.eecs.yorku.ca - PuTTY
CAT (1)
User Commands
CAT (1)
NAME
    cat - concatenate files and print on the standard output
SYNOPSIS
    cat [OPTION]... [FILE]...
DESCRIPTION
    Concatenate FILE(s) to standard output.

    With no FILE, or when FILE is -, read standard input.

    -A, --show-all
        equivalent to -vET
    -b, --number-nonblank
        number nonempty output lines, overrides other options
--More-- (25%)
```

```
indigo 326 % head cat.man
```

```
CAT(1)
```

User Commands

```
CAT(1)
```

NAME

cat - concatenate files and print on the
standard output

SYNOPSIS

cat [OPTION]... [FILE]...

DESCRIPTION

Concatenate FILE(s) to standard output.

```
indigo 327 % █
```

- First n (on default 10) line

```
indigo 330 % head -2 cat.man
```

```
CAT(1)
```

User Commands

```
indigo 331 % █
```

```
indigo 328 % tail cat.man
Copyright © 2018 Free Software Foundation, Inc. Licen
This is free software: you are free to change and redi

SEE ALSO
    tac(1)

Full documentation at: <https://www.gnu.org/software/c
or available locally via: info '(coreutils) cat invoca

GNU coreutils 8.30
indigo 328 %
```

- Last n (on default 10) line

```
indigo 329 % tail -2 cat.man
```

```
GNU coreutils 8.30
```

July 2018

File manipulation commands

- **rm**: remove one or multiple files or directories
 - *rm [option] ... FILE ...*
 - *rm temp*
 - *rm temp1 temp2*
- **Wildcards (metacharacter)** can be used in the command line
 - Letter * matches with any string
 - *rm *.o*: remove all .o files **(be careful !!!)**
 - ?: match any one character
 - [abc]: match with letter a or b or c
- *rm -r*: remove directories and their sub-dirs recursively
- *rm -i* : confirm with user before removing files

File manipulation commands (2)

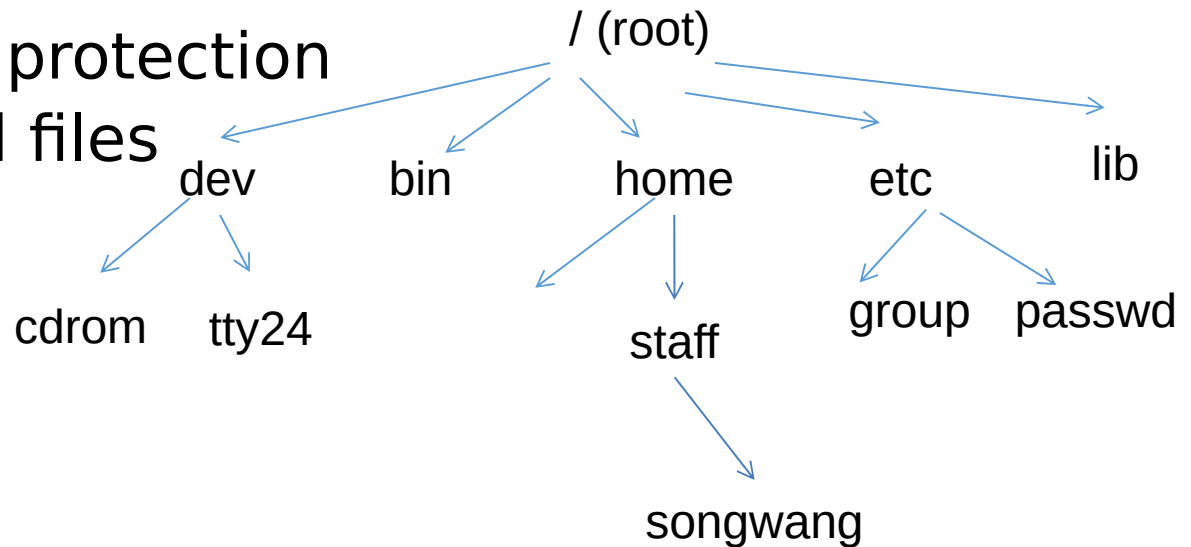
- **cp**: copy file or directory
 - *cp [OPTION] SOURCE DESTINATION*
- To make a backup copy of your program before dramatic change
 - *cp proj1.c proj1.c.bak*
- To make a backup copy of a whole directory
 - *cp -r lab1_dir lab1_dir_backup*
 - *-R, -r, --recursive*: copy directories recursively

File manipulation commands (3)

- **mv**: move (rename) files/directories
 - *mv [OPTION] SOURCE DEST*
 - **Rename** SOURCE to DEST
 - *mv proj1.c lab1.c*
 - *mv [OPTION]... SOURCE... DIRECTORY*
 - Move SOURCE to DIRECTORY
 - *mv lab1.c lab2.c EECS2031*

Hierarchical file system

- Directory: a file that can hold other files
- Advantages of hierarchical file system:
 - Files can have same names, as long as they are under different directories
 - Easier for protection
 - Organized files



/bin

- Essential ready-to-run programs (binaries), include the most basic commands such as *ls* and *cp*.

```
indigo 309 % cd /bin/
indigo 310 % ls c
c++*
c89*
c99*
cairo-sphinx*
cal*
ca-legacy*
calibrate_ppa*
callgrind_annotate*
callgrind_control*
cameratopam*
canberra-boot*
canberra-gtk-play*
cancel@
cancel.cups*
capinfos*
captaininfo@
captype*
cat*
catchsegv*
catman*
cc@
ccmake*
ccmake3@
ccmakedep*
ccomps*
cd*
cd-convert*
cd-create-profile*
cdda2ogg*
cdda2wav@
cdda-player*
cddb_query*
cd-drive*
cd-fix-profile*
cd-iccdump*
cd-info*
cd-it8*
cd-paranoia*
cdparanoia*
cdrdao*
cd-read*
cdrecord@
celtdec051*
celtenc051*
centrino-decode*
certtool*
certutil*
c++filt*
cg_annotate*
cg_diff*
cg_merge*
chacl*
chage*
chardetect*
chattr*
chcat*
chcon*
checkbandwidth*
check-binary-files*
checkisomd5*
checkmodule*
checkpolicy*
check-regex*
checksctp*
cheese*
chfn*
chgrp*
chmem*
chmod*
chmorph*
chown*
chrome-gnome-shell*
chronyc*
chrpath*
chrt*
chsh*
chvt*
cifscreds*
cifsiostat*
cimcli*
cimmof*
cimmofl*
cimprovider*
cimsub*
ciptool*
circo@
cistopbm*
cksum*
clean-binary-files*
cleanlinks*
clear*
clevis*
clevis-decrypt*
clevis-decrypt-null*
clevis-decrypt-sss*
clevis-decrypt-tang*
clevis-decrypt-tpm2*
clevis-encrypt-null*
clevis-encrypt-sss*
clevis-encrypt-tang*
clevis-encrypt-tpm2*
clevis-luks-bind*
```


/lib

- Contains kernel modules and those shared library images (the C programming code library) needed to boot the system and run the commands in the root filesystem, ie. the binaries in /bin and /sbin.

```
indigo 311 % cd /lib
indigo 312 % ls
alsa                libexpat.so        libnss_compat.so.2  libvorbis.so.0
alsa-lib            libexpat.so.1     libnssdbm3.chk     libvorbis.so.0.4.8
audit               libexpat.so.1.6.7 libnssdbm3.so      libwayland-client.so.0
binfmt.d            libffi.so.6       libnss_dns-2.28.so libwayland-client.so.0.21.0
cpp                 libffi.so.6.0.2   libnss_dns.so.2    libwayland-cursor.so.0
crt1.o              libFLAC++.so.6    libnss_files-2.28.so libwayland-cursor.so.0.21.0
crti.o              libFLAC++.so.6.3.0 libnss_files.so.2  libwayland-egl.so.1
crtn.o              libFLAC.so.8      libnss_myhostname.so.2 libwayland-egl.so.1.21.0
cups                libFLAC.so.8.3.0  libnss_resolve.so.2 libX11.so
debug               libfontconfig.so.1 libnss_systemd.so.2 libX11.so.6
dracut              libfontconfig.so.1.12.0 libnssutil3.so     libX11.so.6.3.0
eclipse             libfreebl3.chk    libogg.so.0        libX11-xcb.so
engines-1.1         libfreebl3.so     libogg.so.0.8.2   libX11-xcb.so.1
environment.d       libfreeblpriv3.chk libp11-kit.so.0   libX11-xcb.so.1.0.0
fipscheck           libfreeblpriv3.so libp11-kit.so.0.3.0 libXau.so.6
firewalld           libfreetype.so.6  libp11.so.3       libXau.so.6.0.0
firmware            libfreetype.so.6.16.1 libp11.so.3.4.2   libxcb-composite.so.0
fontconfig          libfribidi.so.0   libpamc.so        libxcb-composite.so.0.0.0
games               libfribidi.so.0.4.0 libpamc.so.0      libxcb-damage.so.0
gcc                 libg.a            libpamc.so.0.82.1 libxcb-damage.so.0.0.0
```

/etc

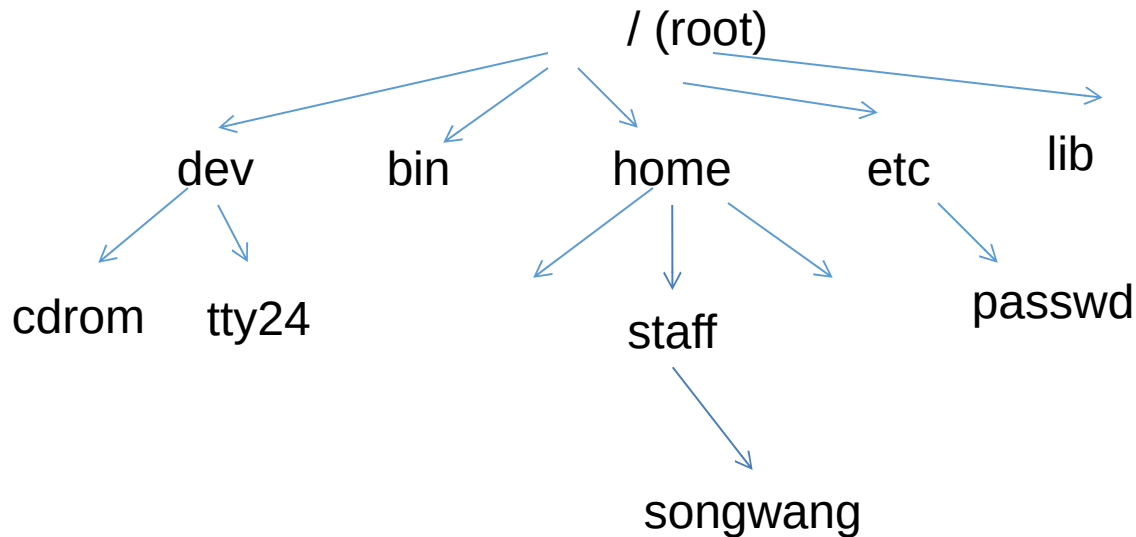
- It stores storage system configuration files, executables required to boot the system, and some log files.

```
indigo 313 % cd /etc/
indigo 314 % ls
abrt                               DIR_COLORS.256color             hosts.bak                         memtest86+.conf                 pmix                             speech-dispatcher
accountsservice                   DIR_COLORS.lightbgcolor         hosts.equiv                       mercurial                       pnm2ppa.conf                   ssh
adjtime                           dleyna-server-service.conf     hp                                microcode_ctl                  polkit-1                        ssl
aliases                           dnf                              idmapd.conf                      mime.types                      popt.d                          sssd
alsa                              dnsmasq.conf                   infiniband-diags                 minicom.caps                   postfix                          stap-server
alternatives                      dnsmasq.d                      init.d                            minicom.users                  printcap                        stunnel
anaconda                          dracut.conf                    initial-setup                    minirc.dfl                     profile                          subgid
anacrontab                        dracut.conf.d                  inittab                          mke2fs.conf                    profile.d                       subuid
ansible                           dumpdates                      inputrc                          modulefiles                     protocols                       sudo.conf
ant.conf                          egl                             iproute2                         modules-load.d                 pulse                            sudoers
ant.d                              enscrip.cfg                    ipsec.conf                       modules-load.d                 qemu-ga                         sudoers.d
appgate.conf                     environment                     ipsec.d                          motd                             qemu-kvm                        sudo-ldap.conf
asciidoc                          environment-modules             ipsec.secrets                    motd.d                          ras                              swtpm-localca.conf
asound.conf                      ethertypes                     irssi.conf                       mtab                            rc0.d                           swtpm-localca.options
at.deny                           exports                         iscsi                             mtools.conf                   rc1.d                           swtpm_setup.conf
audit                             exports.d                      issue                             multipath                       rc2.d                           sysconfig
authselect                        extlinux.conf                  issue.d                           Muttrc                          rc3.d                           sysctl.conf
auto.direct                       fail2ban                       issue.net                         Muttrc.local                   rc4.d                           sysctl.d
autofs.conf                       favicon.png                    java                              my.cnf                          rc5.d                           systemd
```

/home

- Personal directories for users, holds your documents, files, settings, etc.

Absolute pathname, path



- **Pathname** of a file/directory: location of file/directory in the file system
 - How do you tell other where your prog. is located ?
- **Absolute pathname**: path name specified relative to root, i.e., starting with the root (/)
 - e.g., /home/staff/songwang
 - What's the absolute pathname for the "passwd" file?

Home directory

- Every user has a **home directory** created for him/her
 - When you log in, you are in your home directory
 - In **home** directory, a user usually has permission to create files/directories, remove files ..
 - **~** to refer to current user's home directory
 - **~username** to refer to username's home directory

Current directory & Relative Pathname

- Tiring to specify **absolute pathname** each time
- To make life easier: **working directory**
 - User can move around the file system, shell remembers where the user is (i.e., current directory)
- To check your current directory, use

```
indigo 332 % pwd
/eecs/home/wangsong/eecs2031
indigo 333 % █
```

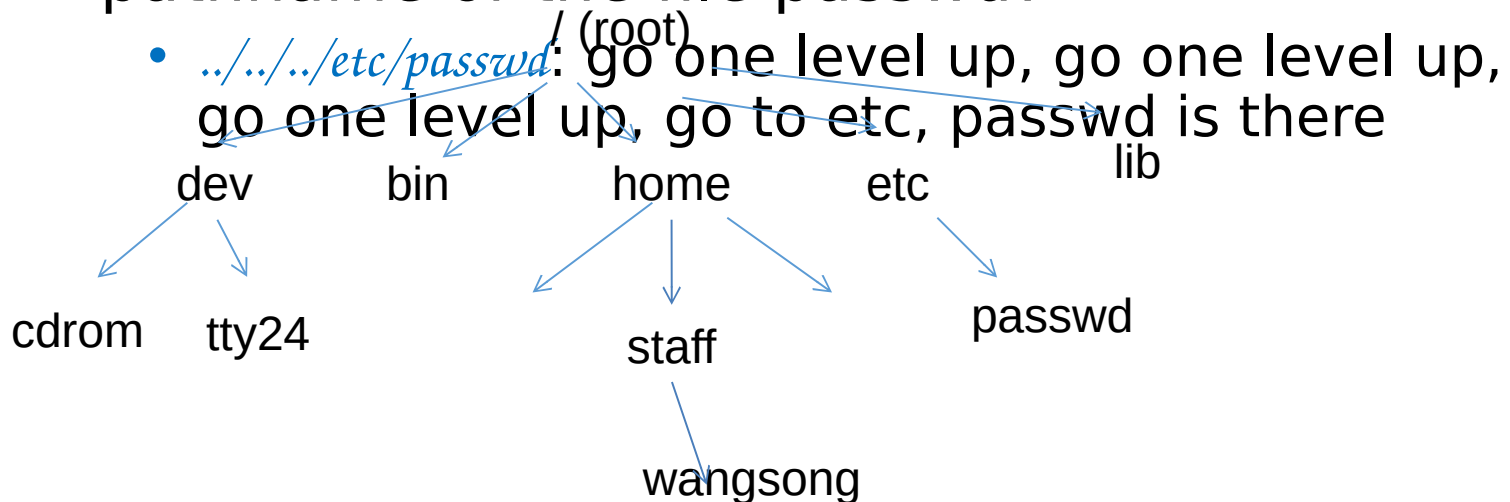
Getting around in the file system

- To create a subdirectory:
 - *mkdir [option]... directory...*
 - cd
 - mkdir labtest2
 - cd labtest2
 - mkdir question

- To remove a directory:
 - *rmdir [option]... directory...*
 - Report failure if directory is not empty
 - Can use `rm -rf` to remove non-empty directory

Relative pathname

- **Absolute pathname:** specified relative to root
- **Relative pathname:** specified relative to current directory
 - `.` (current directory), `..` (parent directory, one level up)
 - If current directory is at */home/staff/wangsong*, what is the relative pathname of the file `passwd`?



- Path1: `/eecs/home/wangsong/eecs2031`
- Path2: `/eecs/home/wangsong/eecs3311`

- Assume your “pwd” is
 - `/eecs/home/wangsong/eecs2031/lab1/feedback`

- How to navigate to?
 - `/eecs/home/wangsong/eecs3311/lab2`

Users

Unix/Linux is a multi-user operating system.

- Every program/process is run by a user.
- Every file is owned by a user.
- Every user has a unique integer ID number (UID).
- Different users have different access permissions, allowing users to:
 - read or write a given file
 - browse the contents of a directory
 - execute a particular program
 - install new software on the system
 - change global system settings
 - ...

Groups

command	description
<code>groups</code>	list the groups to which a user belongs
<code>chgrp</code>	change the group associated with a file

```
indigo 304 % groups
faculty submit guac_res guac_edu guac_ea guac_rl labtest vboxusers hc_nslab hc_s
enior hc_ispm hc_prism hc_research hc_dslab hc_eslab hc_selab hc_mmlab hc_public
```

Groups

command	description
groups	list the groups to which a user belongs
chgrp	change the group associated with a file

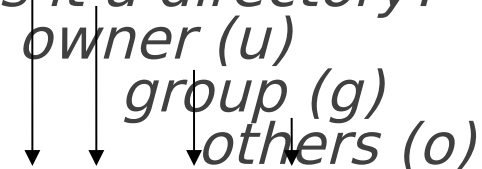
- **group**: A collection of users, used as a target of permissions.
 - a group can be given access to a file or resource
 - a user can belong to many groups
 - see who's in a group using `grep <groupname> /etc/group`
- Every file has an associated group.
 - the owner of a file can grant permissions to the group
- Every group has a unique integer ID number (GID).
- *Exercise*: create a file, see its default group, and change it

File permissions

command	description
chmod	change permissions for a file
umask	set default permissions for new files

- **types:** read (**r**), write (**w**), execute (**x**)
- **people:** owner (**u**), group (**g**), others (**o**)
 - on Windows, .exe files are executable programs; on Linux, any file with x permission can be executed
 - permissions are shown when you type `ls -l`

is it a directory?
owner (u)
group (g)
others (o)



`drwxrwxrwx`

People & Permissions

- **People:** each user fits into only **one** of three permission sets:
 - **owner (u)** - if you create the file you are the owner, the owner can also be changed (using `chown`)
 - **group (g)** - by default a group (e.g. student, faculty) is associated with each file
 - **others (o)** - everyone other than the owner and people who are in the particular group associated with the file

You are in the most restrictive set that applies to you - e.g. if you are the owner, those permissions apply to you.

- **Permissions:** For regular files, permissions work as follows:
 - **read (r)** - allows file to be open and read
 - **write (w)** - allows contents of file to be modified or truncated
 - **execute (x)** - allows the file to be executed (use for executables or scripts)

* Directories also have permissions (covered later). Permission to delete or rename a file is controlled by the permission of its parent directory.

File permissions Examples

Permissions are shown when you type `ls -l`:

```
-rw-r--r-- 1 wangsong faculty 319 Sep 6 16:43  
myfile.txt  
-rw--w--- 1 wangsong faculty 203 Oct 3 13:06  
grades.dat
```

`myfile.txt`:

- **owner** of the file (`wangsong`) has read & write permission
- **group** (`faculty`) members have read permission
- **others** have read permission

`grades.dat`:

- **owner** of the file (`wangsong`) has read & write permission
- **group** (`faculty`) members have write permission (but no read permission – can add things to the file but cannot cat it)
- **others** have no permissions (cannot read or write)

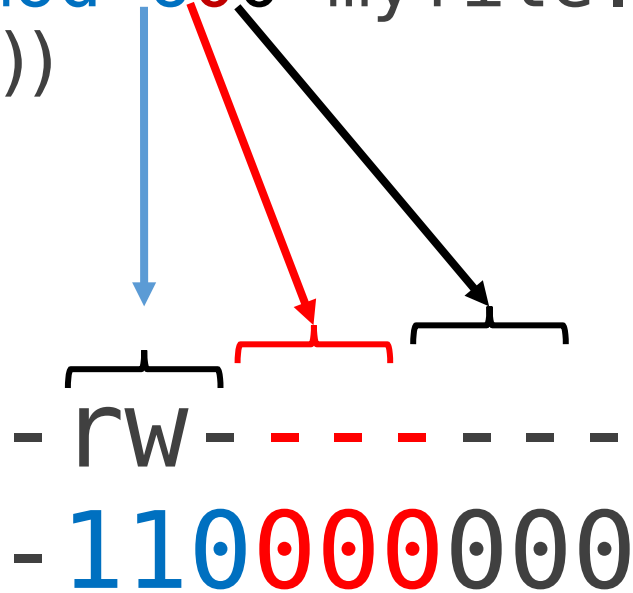
Changing permissions

- letter codes: `chmod who(+-)what filename`
 - `chmod u+rw myfile.txt` (allow owner to read/write)
 - `chmod +x banner` (allow everyone to execute)
 - `chmod ug+rw,o-rwx grades.dat` (owner/group can read and write; others nothing)

Note, no space after the comma!

- octal (base-8) codes: `chmod NNN filename`
 - three numbers between 0-7, for owner (u), group (g), and others (o)
 - each gets +4 to allow read, +2 for write, and +1 for execute
- `chmod 600 myfile.txt` (owner can read/write (rw))
`chmod 664 grades.dat` (owner rw; group rw; other r)
`chmod 751 banner` (owner rwx; group rx; other x)

- `chmod 600 myfile.txt` (owner can read/write)



chmod

`chmod u+rw myfile.txt` (allow owner to read/write)

Note: leaves “group” and “other” permissions as they were.

`chmod 664 grades.dat` (owner rw; group rw; other r)

Note: sets permissions for “owner”, “group” and “other” all at once.

Umask (user file-creation mode)

- When creating a new file or directory, Linux applies the default set of permissions. The `umask` command lets you change these default permissions.

```
indigo1 301 % umask
77
indigo1 302 % vim a.txt
indigo1 303 % ls -ls a.txt
0 -rw----- 1 wangsong faculty 0 Nov 16 22:17 a.txt
indigo1 304 % █
```

`umask [-p] [-S] [mask]`

- `[mask]`: The new permissions mask you are applying. By default, the mask is presented as a numeric (octal) value.
- `[-S]`: Displays the current mask as a symbolic value.
- `[-p]`: Displays the current mask along with the `umask` command, allowing it to be copied and pasted as a future input.

Umask (user file-creation mode)

A mask can have the following numeric, and the corresponding symbolic, values:

- **Octal value** : Permission
- **0** : read, write and execute
- **1** : read and write
- **2** : read and execute
- **3** : read only
- **4** : write and execute
- **5** : write only
- **6** : execute only
- **7** : no permissions

How to Calculate Umask Values

- The system default permission values are **777** (`rw-rw-rw-`) for folders and **666** (`rw-rw-rw-`) for files.
- **The default mask for a non-root user is 002**, changing the folder permissions to 775 (`rw-rw-r--`), and file permissions to 664 (`rw-rw-r--`).
- **The default mask for a root user is 022**, changing the folder permissions to 755 (`rw-r-xr-x`), and file permissions to 644 (`rw-r--r--`).

final permission value is the result of subtracting the umask value from the default permission value (e.g., 777 or 666)

```
indigo1 301 % umask
77
indigo1 302 % vim a.txt
indigo1 303 % ls -ls a.txt
0 -rw----- 1 wangsong faculty 0 Nov 16 22:17 a.txt
indigo1 304 % █
```

```
red1 326 % mkdir dir
red1 327 % ls -la
total 8
drwx----- 3 wangsong faculty 17 Nov 16 23:17 .
drwx--x--x 36 wangsong faculty 4096 Nov 16 23:15 ..
drwx----- 2 wangsong faculty 6 Nov 16 23:17 dir
red1 328 % █
```

```
indigo1 301 % umask  
77  
indigo1 302 % vim a.txt  
indigo1 303 % ls -ls a.txt  
0 -rw----- 1 wangsong faculty 0 Nov 16 22:17 a.txt  
indigo1 304 % █
```

```
indigo1 311 % umask 022  
indigo1 312 % vim a1.txt  
indigo1 313 % ls -la a1.txt  
-rw-r--r-- 1 wangsong faculty 0 Nov 16 22:51 a1.txt  
indigo1 314 % umask  
22
```

```
indigo1 315 % umask 222  
indigo1 316 % vim a2.txt  
indigo1 317 % ls -la a2.txt  
-r--r--r-- 1 wangsong faculty 0 Nov 16 22:55 a2.txt  
indigo1 318 % █
```

Exercises

- Change the permissions on `myfile.txt` so that:
 - Others cannot read it.
 - Group members can execute it.
 - Others cannot read or write it.
 - Group members & Others can read and write it.
 - Everyone has full access.

Exercises (Solutions)

- Change the permissions on `myfile.txt` so that:
 - Others cannot read it. `chmod o-r myfile.txt`
 - Group members can execute it. `chmod g+x myfile.txt`
 - Others cannot read or write it. `chmod o-rw myfile.txt`
 - Group members & Others can read and write it. `chmod go+rw myfile.txt`
 - Everyone has full access. `chmod ugo+rwx myfile.txt`
- Now try this:
 - Deny all access from everyone. `chmod ugo-rwx myfile.txt`

Directory Permissions

- Read, write, execute a directory?
 - **Read** - permitted to read the contents of directory (view files and sub-directories in that directory, run ls on the directory)
 - **Write** - permitted to write in to the directory (add, delete, or rename & create files and sub-directories in that directory)
 - **Execute** - permitted to enter into that directory (cd into that directory)
- It is possible to have any combination of these permissions:

Try these:

- Have **read** permission for a directory, but NOT **execute** permission
 - ????
- Have **execute** permission for a directory, but NOT **read** permission
 - ???

***Note:** permissions assigned to a directory **are not inherited** by the files within that directory

Directory Permissions

- Read, write, execute a directory?
 - **Read** - permitted to read the contents of directory (view files and sub-directories in that directory, run ls on the directory)
 - **Write** - permitted to write in to the directory (add, delete, or rename & create files and sub-directories in that directory)
 - **Execute** - permitted to enter into that directory (cd into that directory)
- It is possible to have any combination of these permissions:
 - Have **read** permission for a directory, but NOT **execute** permission
 - Can do an ls from outside of the directory but cannot cd into it, cannot access files in the directory
 - Have **execute** permission for a directory, but NOT **read** permission
 - Can cd into the directory, can access files in that directory if you already know their name, but cannot do an ls of the directory

***Note:** permissions assigned to a directory **are not inherited** by the files within that directory

Permissions don't travel

- Note in the previous examples that permissions are separate from the file
 - If I disable read access to a file, I can still look at its permissions
 - If I upload a file to a directory, its permissions will be the same as if I created a new file locally
- Takeaway: permissions, users, and groups reside on the particular machine you're working on. If you email a file or throw it on a thumb drive, no permissions information is attached.
 - Why? Is this a gaping security hole?

Careful with -R

- Say I have a directory structure, with lots of .txt files scattered
 - I want to remove all permissions for Others on all of the text files
 - First attempt:
 - `chmod -R o-rwx *.txt`
 - What happened?

This command will:

- change permissions on all the files that end with .txt in the current directory, AND
- it will **recursively change the permissions on all files in directories whose name end in .txt**
(you probably do not have any directories whose names end that way!)
- This is not really recursive in the way you meant it to be! (see next slide...)

Careful with -R (fix)

- Say I have a directory structure, with lots of .txt files scattered
 - I want to remove all permissions for Others on all of the text files
 - First attempt:
 - `chmod -R o-rwx *.txt`
 - What happened?
- Try and fix this using find and xargs!
 - `find -name "*.txt"`
 - `find -name "*.txt" | xargs chmod o-rwx`

Super-user (root)

command	description
<code>sudo</code>	run a single command with root privileges (prompts for password)
<code>su</code>	start a shell with root privileges (so multiple commands can be run)

- **super-user**: An account used for system administration.
 - has full privileges on the system
 - usually represented as a user named root
- Most users have more limited permissions than root
 - protects system from viruses, rogue users, etc.
 - if on your own box, why ever run as a non-root user?

Playing around with power...

- Create a file, remove all permissions
 - Now, login as root and change the owner and group to root
 - Bwahaha, is it a brick in a user's directory?

- Different distributions have different approaches
 - Compare Fedora to Ubuntu in regards to sudo and su...

- Power can have dangerous consequences
 - `rm *` might be just what you want to get rid of everything in a local directory
 - but what if you happened to be in `/bin...` and you were running as root...

tar files

	description
tar	create or extract .tar archives (combines multiple files into one .tar file)

- Originally used to create “tape archive” files
- Combines multiple files into a single .tar file
- You probably always want to use -f option and **IT SHOULD COME LAST**

- To **create** a single file from multiple files:
\$ tar -cf *filename*.tar stuff_to_archive
 - -c **creates** an archive
 - -f read to/from a file
 - stuff_to_archive - can be a list of filenames or a directory
- To **extract** files from an archive:
\$ tar -xf *filename*.tar

Compressed files

command	description
<code>zip, unzip</code>	create or extract .zip compressed archives
<code>gzip, gunzip</code>	GNU free compression programs (single-file)
<code>bzip2, bunzip2</code>	slower, optimized compression program (single-file)

- To **compress** a file:
\$ `gzip filename` produces: *filename.gz*
- To **uncompress** a file:
\$ `gunzip filename.gz` produces: *filename*

Similar for zip, bzip2. See man pages for more details.

.tar .gz archives

- Many Linux programs are distributed as .tar.gz archives (sometimes called .tgz)

- You could unpack this in two steps:

1. `gzip foo.tar.gz` produces: `foo.tar`
2. `tar -xf foo.tar` extracts individual files

- You can also use the tar command to create/extract compressed archive files **all in one step**:

```
$ tar -xzf filename.tar.gz
```

- `-x` **extracts** files from an archive

- `-z` **filter the archive through gzip**

(Handy tip: You can use the "file" command to see what type a file is, just changing the file extension on a file does **not** change its type.)

- `-f` **read to/from a file**

tar examples

You can combine options (-v, -z, etc.) various ways:

Create a single .tar archive file from multiple files (without compression):

```
$ tar -cvf filename.tar stuff_to_archive
```

- -c **creates** an archive file called *filename*.tar
- -v verbosely list the files processed
- -f read to/from a file (as opposed to a tape archive)
- stuff_to_archive - can be filenames or a directory

Add -z option and use *filename*.tar.gz to use compression:

```
$ tar -cvzf filename.tar.gz stuff_to_archive
```