Permissions and chmod

Who may read, write and run a file

Reading ls -l

-rwxr-xr-- means: the owner may read, write and execute; the group may read and execute; others may only read.

The letters

r = read (4), w = write (2), x = execute (1). Add them up: rwx = 7, r-x = 5, r-- = 4.

Make a script run

chmod +x script.sh gives the file permission to run. Then start it with ./script.sh.

Numbers

chmod 644 file = owner read and write, everyone else read. chmod 755 file = owner everything, others read and run.

Who owns it

ls -l shows the owner and group. Only the owner (or an administrator using sudo) can change permissions.

Careful

Do not run chmod -R 777 on a folder: it lets everyone change everything.

Tip: Permissions protect your files. Change them only when you know why.

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