# Changing File Permissions (chmod)

- **chmod** is the command used to change the permissions of a file or a directory using either the symbolic or the numeric notation.
- Only the root, or the file's owner, can change the file's permissions.

**chmod [who][OPERATION][permissions] filename**

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*who* signifies the user category whose permissions will be changed.

- u: the **user** that owns the file.
- g: the **group** that the file belongs to.
- o: the **o**ther users.

The OPERATION flags define whether the permissions are to be removed, added, or set:

- - : a hyphen means remove the specified permissions.
- + : the plus sign means Add the specified permissions.
- = : equals means change the current permissions to the specified permissions.

The permissions are specified using the letters r, w and x.