



Linux Ubuntu 26.04 Manual Pages on command 'gnuchown.1'

\$ man gnuchown.1

CHOWN(1)

User Commands

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NAME

chown - change file owner and group

SYNOPSIS

chown [OPTION]... [OWNER]][:[GROUP]] FILE...

chown [OPTION]... --reference=RFILE FILE...

DESCRIPTION

This manual page documents the GNU version of chown. chown changes the user and/or group ownership of each given file. If only an owner (a user name or numeric user ID) is given, that user is made the owner of each given file, and the files' group is not changed. If the owner is followed by a colon and a group name (or numeric group ID), with no spaces between them, the group ownership of the files is changed as well. If a colon but no group name follows the user name, that user is made the owner of the files and the group of the files is changed to that user's login group. If the colon and group are given, but the owner is omitted, only the group of the files is changed; in this case, chown performs the same function as chgrp. If only a colon is given, or if the entire operand is empty, neither the owner nor the group is changed.

OPTIONS

Change the owner and/or group of each FILE to OWNER and/or GROUP. With --reference, change the owner and group of each FILE to those of RFILE.

-c, --changes

like verbose but report only when a change is made

-f, --silent, --quiet

suppress most error messages

`-v, --verbose`

output a diagnostic for every file processed

`--dereference`

affect the referent of each symbolic link (this is the default), rather than the sym?

bolic link itself

`-h, --no-dereference`

affect symbolic links instead of any referenced file (useful only on systems that can

change the ownership of a symlink)

`--from=CURRENT_OWNER:CURRENT_GROUP`

change the ownership of each file only if its current owner and/or group match those

specified here. Either may be omitted, in which case a match is not required for the

omitted attribute

`--no-preserve-root`

do not treat '/' specially (the default)

`--preserve-root`

fail to operate recursively on '/'

`--reference=RFILE`

use RFILE's ownership rather than specifying values. RFILE is always dereferenced if

a symbolic link.

`-R, --recursive`

operate on files and directories recursively

The following options modify how a hierarchy is traversed when the `-R` option is also speci?

fied. If more than one is specified, only the final one takes effect. `-P` is the default.

`-H` if a command line argument is a symbolic link to a directory, traverse it

`-L` traverse every symbolic link to a directory encountered

`-P` do not traverse any symbolic links

`--help` display this help and exit

`--version`

output version information and exit

Owner is unchanged if missing. Group is unchanged if missing, but changed to login group if

implied by a ':' following a symbolic OWNER. OWNER and GROUP may be numeric as well as sym?

bolic.

EXAMPLES

```
chown root /u
```

Change the owner of /u to "root".

```
chown root:staff /u
```

Likewise, but also change its group to "staff".

```
chown -hR root /u
```

Change the owner of /u and subfiles to "root".

AUTHOR

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REPORTING BUGS

GNU coreutils online help: <<https://www.gnu.org/software/coreutils/>>

Report any translation bugs to <<https://translationproject.org/team/>>

SEE ALSO

chown(2)

Full documentation <<https://www.gnu.org/software/coreutils/chown>>

or available locally via: info '(coreutils) chown invocation'

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