NAME

chown – change file ownership

SYNOPSIS

chown [–**fhR**] *owner*[:*group*] *file*...

AVAILABILITY

SUNWcsu

DESCRIPTION

The **chown** utility will set the user ID of the file named by each *file* to the user ID specified by *owner*, and, optionally, will set the group ID to that specified by *group*.

If **chown** is invoked by other than the super-user, the set-user-ID bit is cleared.

Only the owner of a file (or the super-user) may change the owner of that file.

The operating system has a configuration option {**_POSIX_CHOWN_RESTRICTED**}, to restrict ownership changes. When this option is in effect the owner of the file is prevented from changing the owner ID of the file. Only the super-user can arbitrarily change owner IDs whether or not this option is in effect.

OPTIONS

The following options are supported:

–**f** Do not report errors.

–**h** If the file is a symbolic link, change the owner of the symbolic link. Without this option, the owner of the file referenced by the symbolic link is changed.

–**R** Recursive. **chown** descends through the directory, and any subdirectories, setting the ownership ID as it proceeds. When a symbolic link is encountered, the owner of the target file is changed (unless the –**h** option is specified), but no recursion takes place.

OPERANDS

The following operands are supported:

owner[**:***group*] A user ID and optional group ID to be assigned to *file*. The *owner* portion of this operand must be a user name from the user database or a numeric user ID. Either specifies a user ID to be given to each file named by *file*. If a numeric *owner* exists in the user database as a user name, the user ID number associated with that user name will be used as the user ID. Similarly, if the *group* portion of this operand is present, it must be a group name from the group database or a numeric group ID. Either specifies a group ID to be given to each file. If a numeric group operand exists in the group database as a group name, the group ID number associated with that group name will be used as the group ID.

file A path name of a file whose user ID is to be modified.

ENVIRONMENT

See **environ**(5) for descriptions of the following environment variables that affect the execution of **chown**: **LC_CTYPE**, **LC_MESSAGES**, and **NLSPATH**.

EXIT STATUS

The following exit values are returned:

0 The utility executed successfully and all requested changes were made.

>0 An error occurred.

FILES **/etc/passwd** system password file

SEE ALSO **chgrp**(1), **chmod**(1), **chown**(2), **passwd**(4), **environ**(5)