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GID on NTFS File System



ashisa 16 Apr 2007 4:36 PM

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GID on NTFS File System

Can you set group on a file or folder on NTFS file system? - No, ugh... Yes.

This question puzzled me for a long time but since it never really made it to my top priorities, I didn't look up for information on this. I thought of exploring this area more while I was researching something about NFS server.

I started with looking for the utilities (obviously, Windows-based ones) which can set this information for me. My search ended quickly with the *chown.exe* and *chgrp.exe* which you can install with Interix/SUA Base Utilities.

Using [Process Monitor](#) (replacement of Filemon and Regmon utilities) revealed that group information gets stored on the file system with an *IRP_MJ_SET_SECURITY* request -

psxss.exe	480	IRP_MJ_QUERY_SECURITY	C:\testfile	SUCCESS	Information: Owner, Group, DACL
psxss.exe	480	IRP_MJ_SET_SECURITY	C:\testfile	SUCCESS	Information: Owner, Group, DACL
psxss.exe	480	IRP_MJ_SET_EA	C:\testfile	SUCCESS	

The other interesting fact is this request originating from the *POSIX subsystem (psxss.exe)* which makes sense because *chown.exe* and *chgrp.exe* utilities are POSIX subsystem utilities.

This [KB Article](#) says -


In the Windows NT and Windows 2000 NTFS file system, each file also has an owner and a primary group. The primary group of a file is not used by the Win32 subsystem, but is present for programs that make use of the POSIX subsystem. When a file is created, the user who created the file becomes its owner and that user's primary group becomes the file's primary group. Access Control Entries (ACEs) are then added to the DACLs to assign permissions.

That makes it clear that none of other utilities I tried to use, could set this information because they were basically Win32 binaries and Win32 subsystem does not, in anyway, uses this information.

So the best practice would be to set correct primary groups for your users and then use Interix/SUA *chown.exe* and *chgrp.exe* utilities to manage them the way you want them to be seen by your UNIX clients.

Additional Note: The *ls.exe* and *chmod.exe* are other utilities which can help you do things the UNIX way.

Comments

 [cisco_seitz](#) 22 Jun 2007 1:15 PM <#>
I believe you can also use the "/setprimarygroup" command in Microsoft's "subinacl.exe" Win32 utility.

See:

<http://www.microsoft.com/downloads/details.aspx?FamilyID=e8ba3e56-d8fe-4a91-93cf-ed6985e3927b&displaylang=en>



Helge Klein 14 Mar 2012 1:41 AM <#>

SetACL can be used to list and set the primary group: <http://helgeklein.com/setacl/>