

Programming Assignment #2

Due: 3/8

1. [100 points] Using what you know about permissions and the various system routines, write a program called **whocan** as described by the attached “**man**” page (q.v.). This is actually a useful program to find out things like “Who can read my home directory?”

Notes:

- Remember that *fsobj* may include leading relative or absolute directory information and note rules about searching directory trees.
- Your program should not require opening *fsobj*.
- Make use of the system `get[pw|gr]ent(3)` and similar routines rather than reading the `/etc/*` files directly.
- The program should follow symbolic links, so that if **alink** symlinks to **a**, “\$./whocan read alink” is identical to “\$./whocan read a”. Permissions on the link itself are irrelevant.
- Use the `errno` and `perror` facilities to return exit status and issue error messages. (The `SYSCALL_CHECK()` macro does this.)
- Don’t worry about deleting a non-empty directory: If *fsobj* is a directory to be deleted, assume it’s empty. **whocan**’s job is to evaluate permissions, not predict success.
- Watch out for the “sticky” bit. (See Stevens & Rago)
- Don’t include extraneous output text. Output should be a list of zero or more logins (to standard output), a single line “(everyone)” (see the **man** page), or an error message (to standard error). (This makes **whocan** couth and more useful in scripts.)
- Remember that **root** is *almost* omnipotent. The “almost” applies because there are things that are logically impossible, like executing a directory or `cd`’ing to a regular file.

NAME

whocan - print a list of what users can perform a particular action on a particular file, directory, or device

SYNOPSIS

whocan *action fsobj*

DESCRIPTION

whocan prints a list on standard output of all user login names (one name per line, each line unique, sorted in ascending ASCII/ISO order) who can perform action *action* on filesystem object (file, directory, or device) *fsobj*.

Possible values of *action* and their meanings for different types of objects are:

<i>action</i>	type of <i>fsobj</i>	List all users who can...
cd	directory	change their current directory to <i>fsobj</i> .
delete	all	delete <i>fsobj</i> .
execute	file	execute <i>fsobj</i> .
ls	directory	list the contents of the directory <i>fsobj</i> . (synonym for read)
ls	file, device	list the file or device <i>fsobj</i> .
read	all	open <i>fsobj</i> for reading.
search	directory	search <i>fsobj</i> .
write	directory	add or delete files in <i>fsobj</i> .
write	file, device	open <i>fsobj</i> for writing.

Notes:

- In the special case where everyone in the login database can perform *action* to *fsobj* (e.g., “**whocan cd /**”), **whocan** will output a single line “(everyone)”.
- “**ls**” above refers to the “/bin/ls” command, run without any additional flags such as “--color” or “-F”.

EXAMPLE

```
$ whocan read grades_360s22.ods
bobl
root
```

ERRORS

whocan notes errors by writing an appropriate message to standard error and then exiting with an error status.