

# File Protection

• How to give access to some users and not others?

### • Access types:

- read, write, execute, append, delete, list
- rename: often based on protection of directory
- copy: usually the same as read

### • Degree of control

- access lists
  - list for each user for each file the permitted operations

#### groups

- enumerate users in a list called a group
- provide same protection to all members of the group
- depending on system:
  - files may be in one or many groups
  - users may be in one or many groups
- per file passwords (tedious and a security problem)

## File Protection Example (UNIX)

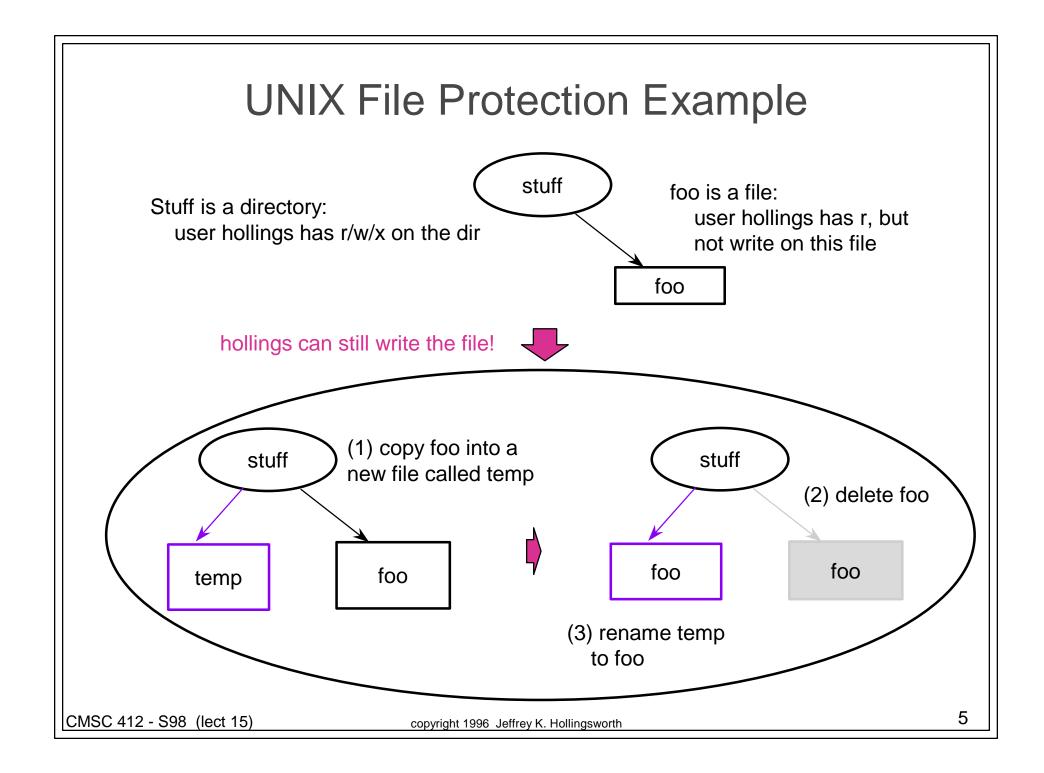
#### • each file has three classifications

- user: the user who owns the file
- group: a named group of other users
- world: all others
- each file has three access types:
  - read, write, execute
- directory protection
  - read: list the files in the sub dir
  - write: delete or create a file
  - execute: see the attributes of the files in the subdir
  - sticky bit: can only modify directory entries owned by yourself

## Unix File Protection (cont)

#### • Files have 12 bits of protection

- 9 bits are user, group, and world for:
  - read: list the files in the sub dir
  - write: delete or create a file
  - execute: see the attributes of the files in the subdir
- sticky bit: leave executable in memory after is done
- setuid: run the program with the uid of the file's owner
  - used to provide extra privilege to some processes
    - example: passwd command
- setgid: run the program with the group id of the file's owner



## File Protection Example (AFS)

### • Each Directory has an ACL

- protection information applies to all files in a directory
- file access types are:
  - read, write, lookup, delete, insert, lock (k), administer
- an ACL may be for a user or a group
- ACL may contain negative rights
  - everyone but Joe Smith may read this file

#### Groups

- are collections of users
- each user can create up to a fixed number of groups
  - users can administrate their own groups

#### Cells

- collections of computers (e.g. wam)

## File Consistency semantics

- How do multiple processes see updates to files
- UNIX
  - writes are visible immediately
  - have a mode to permit processes to share file pointers
- AFS
  - open/close semantics
    - "copy" the file on open
    - write-back on close
- Immutable files
  - once made visible to the world, the file never changes
    - usually done by attaching a version # to the filename
  - new versions of the file must be given a new name

## Filesystems

### • Raw Disks can be viewed as:

- a linear array of fixed sized units of allocation, called blocks
  - assume that blocks are error free (for now)
  - typical block size is 512 to 4096 bytes
- can update a block in place, but must write the entire block
- can access any block in any desired order
  - blocks must be read as a unit
  - for performance reasons may care about "near" vs. "far" blocks (but that is covered in a future lecture)

### • A Filesystem:

- provides a hierarchical namespace via directories
- permits files of variable size to be stored
- provides disk protection by restricting access to files based on permissions

CMSC 412 - S98 (lect 15)