

# How do the names in the file security dialog map to access control masks?

[devblogs.microsoft.com/oldnewthing/20070726-00](http://devblogs.microsoft.com/oldnewthing/20070726-00)

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When you call up the file security dialog, you'll see options like "Full Control" and "Read and Execute". That's really nice as friendly names go, but when you're digging into the security descriptor, you may need to know what those permissions really map to when it comes down to bits. First, the summary attributes:

Friendly name	Access mask	Inheritance
Full control	<code>FILE_ALL_ACCESS</code>	<code>CONTAINER_INHERIT_ACE + OBJECT_INHERIT_ACE</code>
Modify	<code>FILE_GENERIC_READ   FILE_GENERIC_WRITE   FILE_GENERIC_EXECUTE   DELETE</code>	<code>CONTAINER_INHERIT_ACE + OBJECT_INHERIT_ACE</code>
Read and execute	<code>FILE_GENERIC_READ   FILE_GENERIC_EXECUTE</code>	<code>CONTAINER_INHERIT_ACE + OBJECT_INHERIT_ACE</code>
List folder contents	<code>FILE_GENERIC_READ   FILE_GENERIC_EXECUTE</code>	<code>CONTAINER_INHERIT_ACE</code>
Read	<code>FILE_GENERIC_READ</code>	<code>CONTAINER_INHERIT_ACE + OBJECT_INHERIT_ACE</code>
Write	<code>FILE_GENERIC_WRITE &amp; ~READ_CONTROL</code>	<code>CONTAINER_INHERIT_ACE + OBJECT_INHERIT_ACE</code>

If you go to the Advanced view, then you get much more precise control:

Friendly name	Access mask
Traverse Folder / Execute File	<code>FILE_TRAVERSE == FILE_EXECUTE</code>

List Folder / Read Data	FILE_LIST_DIRECTORY == FILE_READ_DATA
Read Attributes	FILE_READ_ATTRIBUTES
Read Extended Attributes	FILE_READ_EA
Create Files / Write Data	FILE_ADD_FILE == FILE_WRITE_DATA
Create Folders / Append Data	FILE_ADD_SUBDIRECTORY == FILE_APPEND_DATA
Write Attributes	FILE_WRITE_ATTRIBUTES
Write Extended Attributes	FILE_WRITE_EA
Delete Subfolders and Files	FILE_DELETE_CHILD
Delete	FILE_DELETE
Read Permissions	READ_CONTROL
Change Permissions	WRITE_DAC
Take Ownership	WRITE_OWNER

(In the Advanced view, you control inheritance from the “Apply to” drop-down combo box.) Note that the “Delete Subfolders and Files” and “Delete” attributes together determine whether you can delete a file or subdirectory: You can delete an item either if you have `DELETE` permission on the item **or** if you have `DELETE_CHILD` permission on its parent. This “combo” allows you to set up a directory where everybody can create files and can delete files that they have created, while still retaining the ability as the directory’s owner to delete any file in it. You do this by granting yourself `DELETE_CHILD` permission on the directory and granting `DELETE` to `CREATOR_OWNER` as an inheritable attribute. Since you have `DELETE_CHILD` permission, you can delete anything in the directory. And since the creator/owner has `DELETE` permission, people can delete the files that they themselves created.

[Update 2pm: INHERIT\_ONLY\_ACE should be OBJECT\_INHERIT\_ACE.]

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