

# howto write permission

**Source:** <http://linux.derkeiler.com/Mailing-Lists/Debian/2005-01/4320.html>

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To: debian-user@lists.debian.org

I wanted to give my self write permission to /usr/local, so did 'adduser paul staff', which succeeded.

```
paul :~$ cat /etc/group |grep staff
staff:x:50:paul
```

Also, debian sets up /usr/local to be rwx for group staff:

```
paul :~$ ls -l /usr/
total 150
drwxr-xr-x 2 root root 58080 2005-01-29 23:04 bin
drwxr-xr-x 2 root root 504 2005-01-23 20:06 doc
drwxr-xr-x 2 root root 1392 2005-01-23 09:36 games
drwxr-xr-x 50 root root 6136 2005-01-26 20:08 include
lrwxrwxrwx 1 root root 10 2005-01-17 21:20 info -> share/info
drwxr-xr-x 136 root root 71648 2005-01-29 23:04 lib
drwxrwsr-x 12 root staff 336 2005-01-27 15:49 local
drwxr-xr-x 2 root root 6280 2005-01-29 23:04 sbin
drwxr-xr-x 238 root root 6608 2005-01-29 23:04 share
drwxrwsr-x 7 root src 280 2005-01-28 19:46 src
drwxr-xr-x 6 root root 144 2005-01-20 12:29 X11R6
```

showing that staff has rwx privelege for /usr/local. However, when I try to make a directory, I get:

```
paul :~$ cd /usr/local
paul :/usr/local$ mkdir testdir
mkdir: cannot create directory `testdir': Permission denied
```

What am I doing wrong?

paul

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