

stat (display file status)

This command is most commonly used to view a file's timestamps. Run it like this:

```
stat FILE
```

Here is some shortened sample output:

```
File: `notes.txt'  
...  
Access: 2013-06-01 16:38:16.826633169 +0200  
Modify: 2013-05-17 20:10:50.610638063 +0200  
Change: 2013-06-08 11:46:32.773597389 +0200
```

We see that the file notes.txt was last accessed on 1 June 2013, etc. The differences between the three kinds of timestamps are:

- **Access time:** The time when a file was last read.
- **Modification time:** The time when a file was last written to.
- **Change time:** The time when a file's status (e.g. its ownership) was last changed.

The information given by *stat* is highly dependent on the file system and →[mount](#) options used. If a file system was mounted with the *noatime* option, for example, no access times will be recorded.