

## touch (change file timestamps)

This command is used to update the timestamps of a file. Call it like this:

```
touch FILE
```

I once wanted to send someone a photo, but I didn't want them to know when the picture was taken, so I ran:

```
touch photo.jpg
```

This updated the access time, modification time and change time of photo.jpg. See the →[stat](#) command for an explanation of the three kinds of timestamps. You can update timestamps selectively by using the options *-a* (change access time only) and *-m* (change modification time only).

*touch* has a little peculiarity that is useful in its own right: if FILE does not exist, it is created, so *touch* is often used to create empty files.