

Issue

Unknown flag: chown error when building from Dockerfile using COPY --chown flag.

```
# cat Dockerfile
FROM httpd:2.4
COPY --chown=www-data:www-data ./public-html/ /usr/local/apache2/htdocs/

# docker build -t my-apache2 .
Sending build context to Docker daemon 2.56kB
Step 1/2 : FROM httpd:2.4
2.4: Pulling from library/httpd
f17d81b4b692: Already exists
06fe09255c64: Pull complete
0baf8127507d: Pull complete
07b9730387a3: Pull complete
6dbdee9d6fa5: Pull complete
Digest: sha256:90b34f4370518872de4ac1af696a90d982fe99b0f30c9be994964f49a6e2f421
Status: Downloaded newer image for httpd:2.4
---> 55a118e2a010
Step 2/2 : COPY --chown=www-data:www-data ./public-html/ /usr/local/apache2/htdocs/
Unknown flag: chown
```

Root Cause

COPY --chown flag implemented in Docker 17.09 and above with the exception of Docker EE 2.0. For additional information please see the [Moby issue \(https://github.com/moby/moby/pull/9934#issuecomment-338922732\)](https://github.com/moby/moby/pull/9934#issuecomment-338922732)

Resolution

1. Remove --chown from the COPY line in the Dockerfile and use it under RUN flag as below:

```
# cat Dockerfile
FROM httpd:2.4
COPY ./public-html/ /usr/local/apache2/htdocs/
RUN chown -R www-data:www-data /usr/local/apache2/
```

2. Build the image:

```

# docker build -t my-apache2 .
Sending build context to Docker daemon  2.56kB
Step 1/3 : FROM httpd:2.4
2.4: Pulling from library/httpd
f17d81b4b692: Already exists
06fe09255c64: Pull complete
0baf8127507d: Pull complete
07b9730387a3: Pull complete
6dbdee9d6fa5: Pull complete
Digest: sha256:90b34f4370518872de4ac1af696a90d982fe99b0f30c9be994964f49a6e2f421
Status: Downloaded newer image for httpd:2.4
---> 55a118e2a010
Step 2/3 : COPY ./public-html/ /usr/local/apache2/htdocs/
---> 74c3102638c4
Removing intermediate container 747563f654ec
Step 3/3 : RUN chown -R www-data:www-data /usr/local/apache2/
---> Running in ca87f421ef37
---> 982e5cf4263e
Removing intermediate container ca87f421ef37
Successfully built 982e5cf4263e
Successfully tagged my-apache2:latest

```

3. Run the docker image and verify the permission:

```

# docker run -dit --name my-apache -p 8080:80 my-apache2
2e506ea97d48eb5b1c13b450d4a132395943f11d4ce19e694d4534c55502431a

# docker exec -it 2e506ea97d48 bash
root@2e506ea97d48:/usr/local/apache2# ls -ltrh /usr/local/ |grep apache
drwxr-sr-x 1 www-data www-data 4.0K Oct 24 22:21 apache2

```