NAME

null, zero − data sink

DESCRIPTION

Data written to the */dev/null* and */dev/zero* special files is discarded.

Reads from */dev/null* always return end of file (i.e., **read**(2) returns 0), whereas reads from */dev/zero* always return bytes containing zero ('\0' characters).

These devices are typically created by:

```
mknod −m 666 /dev/null c 1 3
mknod −m 666 /dev/zero c 1 5
chown root:root /dev/null /dev/zero
```

FILES

/dev/null
/dev/zero

NOTES

If these devices are not writable and readable for all users, many programs will act strangely.

Since Linux 2.6.31, reads from */dev/zero* are interruptible by signals. (This change was made to help with bad latencies for large reads from */dev/zero*.)

SEE ALSO

chown(1), **mknod**(1), **full**(4)

COLOPHON

This page is part of release 5.05 of the Linux *man-pages* project. A description of the project, information about reporting bugs, and the latest version of this page, can be found at https://www.kernel.org/doc/man−pages/.