

NAME

null, zero - data sink

DESCRIPTION

Data written to a **null** or **zero** special file is discarded.

Reads from the **null** special file always return end of file (i.e., [read\(2\)](#) returns 0), whereas reads from **zero** always return bytes containing zero (0 characters).

null and **zero** 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.

SEE ALSO

[chown\(1\)](#), [mknod\(1\)](#), [full\(4\)](#)

COLOPHON

This page is part of release 3.74 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 <http://www.kernel.org/doc/man-pages/>.