

NAME

mkfs - build a Linux filesystem

SYNOPSIS

mkfs [*options*] [-t *type*] [*fs-options*] *device* [*size*]

DESCRIPTION

This **mkfs** frontend is deprecated in favour of filesystem specific **mkfs.<type> utils**.

mkfs is used to build a Linux filesystem on a device, usually a hard disk partition. The *device* argument is either the device name (e.g. */dev/hda1*, */dev/sdb2*), or a regular file that shall contain the filesystem. The *size* argument is the number of blocks to be used for the filesystem.

The exit code returned by **mkfs** is 0 on success and 1 on failure.

In actuality, **mkfs** is simply a front-end for the various filesystem builders (**mkfs.fstype**) available under Linux. The filesystem-specific builder is searched for in a number of directories, like perhaps */sbin*, */sbin/fs*, */sbin/fs.d*, */etc/fs*, */etc* (the precise list is defined at compile time but at least contains */sbin* and */sbin/fs*), and finally in the directories listed in the *PATH* environment variable. Please see the filesystem-specific builder manual pages for further details.

OPTIONS

-t, --type *type*

Specify the *type* of filesystem to be built. If not specified, the default filesystem type (currently ext2) is used.

fs-options

Filesystem-specific options to be passed to the real filesystem builder.

-V, --verbose

Produce verbose output, including all filesystem-specific commands that are executed. Specifying this option more than once inhibits execution of any filesystem-specific commands. This is really only useful for testing.

-V, --version

Display version information and exit. (Option **-V** will display version information only when it is the only parameter, otherwise it will work as **--verbose**.)

-h, --help

Display help text and exit.

BUGS

All generic options must precede and not be combined with filesystem-specific options. Some filesystem-specific programs do not automatically detect the device size and require the *size* parameter to be specified.

AUTHORS

David Engel (david@ods.com)

Fred N. van Kempen (waltje@uwalt.nl.mugnet.org)

Ron Sommeling (sommel@sci.kun.nl)

The manual page was shamelessly adapted from Remy Card's version for the ext2 filesystem.

SEE ALSO

[fs\(5\)](#), [badblocks\(8\)](#), [fsck\(8\)](#), [mkdosfs\(8\)](#), [mke2fs\(8\)](#), [mkfs.bfs\(8\)](#), [mkfs.ext2\(8\)](#), [mkfs.ext3\(8\)](#), [mkfs.ext4\(8\)](#), [mkfs.minix\(8\)](#), [mkfs.msdos\(8\)](#), [mkfs.vfat\(8\)](#), [mkfs.xfs\(8\)](#)

AVAILABILITY

The **mkfs** command is part of the *util-linux* package and is available from <ftp://ftp.kernel.org/pub/linux/utils/util-linux/>.