

**NAME**

mkfs.cramfs - make compressed ROM file system

**SYNOPSIS**

**mkfs.cramfs** [options] *directory file*

**DESCRIPTION**

Files on cramfs file systems are zlib-compressed one page at a time to allow random read access. The metadata is not compressed, but is expressed in a terse representation that is more space-efficient than conventional file systems.

The file system is intentionally read-only to simplify its design; random write access for compressed files is difficult to implement. cramfs ships with a utility (mkcramfs) to pack files into new cramfs images.

File sizes are limited to less than 16 MB.

Maximum file system size is a little under 272 MB. (The last file on the file system must begin before the 256 MB block, but can extend past it.)

**ARGUMENTS**

The *directory* is simply the root of the directory tree that we want to generate a compressed filesystem out of.

The *file* will contain the cram file system, which later can be mounted.

**OPTIONS**

- v** Enable verbose messaging.
- E** Treat all warnings as errors, which are reflected as command return value.
- b** *blocksize*  
Use defined block size, which has to be divisible by page size.
- e** *edition*  
Use defined file system edition number in superblock.
- N** *big, little, host*  
Use defined endianness. Value defaults to *host*.
- i** *file* Insert a *file* to cramfs file system.
- n** *name*  
Set name of the cramfs file system.
- p** Pad by 512 bytes for boot code.
- s** This option is ignored. Originally the -s turned on directory entry sorting.
- z** Make explicit holes. Use of this option will require 2.3.39 kernel, or newer.
- V** Display version information and exit.
- h** Display help and exit.

**EXIT STATUS**

- |          |                                                    |
|----------|----------------------------------------------------|
| <b>0</b> | success                                            |
| <b>8</b> | operation error, such as unable to allocate memory |

**SEE ALSO**

[mount\(8\)](#), [fsck.cramfs\(8\)](#)

**AVAILABILITY**

The example command is part of the util-linux package and is available from [Linux Kernel Archive](#).