NAME

mem, kmem, port − system memory, kernel memory and system ports

DESCRIPTION

mem is a character device file that is an image of the main memory of the computer. It may be used, for example, to examine (and even patch) the system.

Byte addresses in **mem** are interpreted as physical memory addresses. References to nonexistent locations cause errors to be returned.

Examining and patching is likely to lead to unexpected results when read-only or write-only bits are present.

It is typically created by:

```
mknod −m 660 /dev/mem c 1 1
chown root:kmem /dev/mem
```

The file **kmem** is the same as **mem**, except that the kernel virtual memory rather than physical memory is accessed.

It is typically created by:

```
mknod −m 640 /dev/kmem c 1 2
chown root:kmem /dev/kmem
```

port is similar to **mem**, but the I/O ports are accessed.

It is typically created by:

```
mknod −m 660 /dev/port c 1 4
chown root:mem /dev/port
```

FILES

/dev/mem
/dev/kmem
/dev/port

SEE ALSO

chown(1), **mknod**(1), **ioperm**(2)

COLOPHON

This page is part of release 3.22 of the Linux *man-pages* project. A description of the project, and information about reporting bugs, can be found at http://www.kernel.org/doc/man-pages/.