

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 3.22 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/>.