

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 via your PATH environment setting only. 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.

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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 <https://www.kernel.org/pub/linux/utils/util-linux/>.