

**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(8)**) 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 exit status.

**–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.

**–h, --help**

Display help text and exit.

**-V, --version**

Print version and exit.

## EXIT STATUS

**0**

success

**8**

operation error, such as unable to allocate memory

## SEE ALSO

**fsck.cramfs(8), mount(8)**

## REPORTING BUGS

For bug reports, use the issue tracker at <https://github.com/util-linux/util-linux/issues>.

## AVAILABILITY

The **mkfs.cramfs** command is part of the util-linux package which can be downloaded from [Linux Kernel Archive](https://www.kernel.org/pub/linux/utils/util-linux/) <<https://www.kernel.org/pub/linux/utils/util-linux/>>.