

System Programming Lab

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Report 8

The commands *pipe()* and *mkfifo()* are elements of the IPC, which is short for Inter-process Communication. These commands help with communication between processes. The following report is a summary of the *man* command's manual regarding these two commands.

pipe(): *pipe()* creates an anonymous pipe, a unidirectional data channel that can be used for interprocess communication. A file descriptor array is used to return two file descriptors referring to the ends of the pipe. Index 0 ([0]) of this array refers to the reading end of the pipe while index 1([1]) refers to the writing end of the pipe. This command is useful for data redirection.

mkfifo(): *mkfifo()* creates named pipes called FIFOs with a given name, which is one of the input parameters for the function. This command can be used to pass data between two shell pipelines without creating any intermediate temporary files during the process.

As such, the two commands in this report are quite useful in redirecting and passing data between several files and streams. This simplifies the processes such as documentation and result checking.