

**NAME**

null, zero – data sink

**DESCRIPTION**

Data written to the */dev/null* and */dev/zero* special files is discarded.

Reads from */dev/null* always return end of file (i.e., [read\(2\)](#) returns 0), whereas reads from */dev/zero* always return bytes containing zero ('\0' characters).

These devices 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.

Since Linux 2.6.31, reads from */dev/zero* are interruptible by signals. (This change was made to help with bad latencies for large reads from */dev/zero*.)

**SEE ALSO**

[chown\(1\)](#), [mknod\(1\)](#), [full\(4\)](#)

**COLOPHON**

This page is part of release 4.16 of the Linux *man-pages* project. A description of the project, information about reporting bugs, and the latest version of this page, can be found at <https://www.kernel.org/doc/man-pages/>.