NAME

mkdir — create directory

SYNOPSIS

mkdir [**-pv**] [**-m** *mode*] [**-Z**|**--context**[=*MAC*]] *directory...*

DESCRIPTION

Creates the specified directories with mode a=rwx − *umask*.

With **-p**, creates all leading directories, too, with the permission bits of u=wx + ~*umask*. This ensures the final directory can be created, regardless of ill-advised *umask*s.

OPTIONS

-p, **--parents**   Create all parents of the specified directories as well, and ignore directories that already exist.

-v, **--verbose**   Write which directories were created to the standard output stream.

-m, **--mode**=*mode* chmod(1)-style mode to create final directories as.

-Z, **--context**   Create directories with the default SELinux contexts for their paths. Ignored without SELinux.

--context=*MAC*   Create directories with SELinux context set to *MAC*. Ignored (diagnostic issued) without SELinux.

EXIT STATUS

1 if a *directory* (or its parent with **-p**) couldn't be created, except for when it's because of EEXIST, the path is a directory, and **-p** was specified.

SEE ALSO

rmdir(1), mkdir(2)

STANDARDS

Conforms to IEEE Std 1003.1-2024 ("POSIX.1"). **--context** and **-v** are extensions, also present on the GNU system.

HISTORY

Appears in the first edition of the UNIX Programmer's Manual as mkdir(I):

```
NAME        mkdir  --  make a directory
SYNOPSIS    mkdir dirname
```

Which bypassed permissions due to being set-user-ID root and made root the owner of the directory.

Second and later editions fix the bugs, note the mode being 17 (read+write owner+non-owner), and expand the **SYNOPSIS** to

```
mkdir dirname ...
```

AT&T System V Release 3 UNIX adds **-m** *octal* and **-p** (with parents in the same mode as the destination). 4.3 BSD−Reno adds **-p** (with parents as 777 − *umask*).

IEEE Std 1003.2-1992 ("POSIX.2") specifies **-mp** in their current form, and such they appear in 4.4 BSD−Lite2.