

**NAME**

**mkfifo**, **mknod** — create named pipe or special file

**SYNOPSIS**

```
mkfifo [ -m mode ] [ -Z | --context[=MAC] ] fifo...
mknod [ -m mode ] [ -Z | --context[=MAC] ] device c[b major minor
mknod [ -m mode ] [ -Z | --context[=MAC] ] fifo p
```

**DESCRIPTION**

Creates the specified named pipes (FIFOs), or *major:minor* device nodes — character with **c**, block with **b**.

**OPTIONS**

**-m**, **--mode=mode** *chmod*(1)-style file permissions to create *fifos* (*device*) as, rather than the default *a=rw - umask*. Special bits are refused.

**-Z**, **--context** Create *fifos* (*device*) with the default SELinux contexts for their paths. Ignored without SELinux.

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

**EXIT STATUS**

**1** if a file couldn't be created,

**SEE ALSO**

*mkfifo*(2), *mknod*(2), *fifo*(7)

**STANDARDS**

Conforms to IEEE Std 1003.1-2024 (“POSIX.1”). **--context** and refusing special *mode* bits instead of ignoring them are extensions, originating from the GNU system. The BSD honours the special bits as an extension.

**mknod c**[**b**] is compatible with Version 4 AT&T UNIX; **mknod p** with AT&T System V UNIX. **u** is accepted as an alias for **c** for compatibility with the GNU system; avoid it.

**HISTORY**

**mknod** appeared, fully formed, in Version 4 AT&T UNIX as *mknod*(VIII):

*/etc/mknod* name [ **c** ] [ **b** ] major minor

Alongside the corresponding *mknod*(II) syscall.

It gained the **p** usage in AT&T System V UNIX, alongside the inclusion of named pipes.

**mkfifo** was invented in IEEE Std 1003.2-1992 (“POSIX.2”) to provide a way to create named pipes from interactive sessions (**mknod** is not part of the standard), including **-m** for symmetry with *mkdir*(1); it appears in 4.3BSD–Reno and AT&T System V Release 4 UNIX.