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*Rocky Enterprise Linux 9.2 Manual Pages on command 'iconv.1'*

**\$ man iconv.1**

ICONV(1)

Linux User Manual

ICONV(1)

NAME

**iconv** - convert text from one character encoding to another

## SYNOPSIS

**iconv [options] [-f from-encoding] [-t to-encoding] [inputfile]...**

## DESCRIPTION

The `iconv` program reads in text in one encoding and outputs the text in another encoding.

If no input files are given, or if it is given as a dash (-), iconv reads from standard

input. If no output file is given, iconv writes to standard output.

If no from-encoding is given, the default is derived from the current locale's character encoding. If no to-encoding is given, the default is derived from the current locale's character encoding.

## OPTIONS

`-f from-encoding, --from-code=from-encoding`

Use from-encoding for input characters.

`-t to-encoding, --to-code=to-encoding`

Use to-encoding for output characters.

If the string `//IGNORE` is appended to to-encoding, characters that cannot be converted are discarded and an error is printed after conversion.

If the string //TRANSLIT is appended to to-encoding, characters being converted are transliterated when needed and possible. This means that when a character cannot be represented in the target character set, it can be approximated through one or several similar looking characters. Characters that are outside of the target

character set and cannot be transliterated are replaced with a question mark (?) in the output.

**-l, --list**

List all known character set encodings.

**-c** Silently discard characters that cannot be converted instead of terminating when encountering such characters.

**-o outfile, --output=outputfile**

Use outfile for output.

**-s, --silent**

This option is ignored; it is provided only for compatibility.

**--verbose**

Print progress information on standard error when processing multiple files.

**-?, --help**

Print a usage summary and exit.

**--usage**

Print a short usage summary and exit.

**-V, --version**

Print the version number, license, and disclaimer of warranty for iconv.

## EXIT STATUS

Zero on success, nonzero on errors.

## ENVIRONMENT

Internally, the iconv program uses the iconv(3) function which in turn uses gconv modules (dynamically loaded shared libraries) to convert to and from a character set. Before calling iconv(3), the iconv program must first allocate a conversion descriptor using iconv\_open(3). The operation of the latter function is influenced by the setting of the GCONV\_PATH environment variable:

\* If GCONV\_PATH is not set, iconv\_open(3) loads the system gconv module configuration cache file created by iconvconfig(8) and then, based on the configuration, loads the gconv modules needed to perform the conversion. If the system gconv module configuration cache file is not available then the system gconv module configuration file is used.

\* If GCONV\_PATH is defined (as a colon-separated list of pathnames), the system gconv module configuration cache is not used. Instead, iconv\_open(3) first tries to load the

configuration files by searching the directories in `GCONV_PATH` in order, followed by the system default `gconv` module configuration file. If a directory does not contain a `gconv` module configuration file, any `gconv` modules that it may contain are ignored. If a directory contains a `gconv` module configuration file and it is determined that a module needed for this conversion is available in the directory, then the needed module is loaded from that directory, the order being such that the first suitable module found in `GCONV_PATH` is used. This allows users to use custom modules and even replace system-provided modules by providing such modules in `GCONV_PATH` directories.

## FILES

`/usr/lib/gconv`

Usual default `gconv` module path.

`/usr/lib/gconv/gconv-modules`

Usual system default `gconv` module configuration file.

`/usr/lib/gconv/gconv-modules.cache`

Usual system `gconv` module configuration cache.

## CONFORMING TO

POSIX.1-2001.

## EXAMPLES

Convert text from the ISO 8859-15 character encoding to UTF-8:

```
$ iconv -f ISO-8859-15 -t UTF-8 < input.txt > output.txt
```

The next example converts from UTF-8 to ASCII, transliterating when possible:

```
$ echo abc ? ? ? ??? | iconv -f UTF-8 -t ASCII//TRANSLIT
```

```
abc ss ? EUR abc
```

## SEE ALSO

`locale(1)`, `uconv(1)`, `iconv(3)`, `nl_langinfo(3)`, `charsets(7)`, `iconvconfig(8)`

## COLOPHON

This page is part of release 5.10 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/>.