



## ***Rocky Enterprise Linux 9.2 Manual Pages on command 'wcstombs.3'***

**C:\>man wcstombs.3**

WCSTOMBS(3)                      Linux Programmer's Manual                      WCSTOMBS(3)

### NAME

wcstombs - convert a wide-character string to a multibyte string

### SYNOPSIS

```
#include <stdlib.h>
```

```
size_t wcstombs(char *dest, const wchar_t *src, size_t n);
```

### DESCRIPTION

If `dest` is not `NULL`, the `wcstombs()` function converts the wide-character string `src` to a multibyte string starting at `dest`. At most `n` bytes are written to `dest`. The sequence of characters placed in `dest` begins in the initial shift state. The conversion can stop for three reasons:

1. A wide character has been encountered that can not be represented as a multibyte sequence (according to the current locale). In this case,  $(\text{size\_t}) - 1$  is returned.
2. The length limit forces a stop. In this case, the number of bytes written to `dest` is returned, but the shift state at this point is lost.
3. The wide-character string has been completely converted, including the terminating null wide character (`L'\0'`). In this case, the conversion ends in the initial shift state. The number of bytes written to `dest`, excluding the terminating null byte (`\0`), is returned.

The programmer must ensure that there is room for at least `n` bytes at `dest`.

If `dest` is `NULL`, `n` is ignored, and the conversion proceeds as above, except that

the converted bytes are not written out to memory, and no length limit exists.

In order to avoid the case 2 above, the programmer should make sure n is greater than or equal to wcstombs(NULL,src,0)+1.

#### RETURN VALUE

The wcstombs() function returns the number of bytes that make up the converted part of a multibyte sequence, not including the terminating null byte. If a wide character was encountered which could not be converted, (size\_t) -1 is returned.

#### ATTRIBUTES

For an explanation of the terms used in this section, see attributes(7).

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?Interface ? Attribute ? Value ?

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?wcstombs() ? Thread safety ? MT-Safe ?

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#### CONFORMING TO

POSIX.1-2001, POSIX.1-2008, C99.

#### NOTES

The behavior of wcstombs() depends on the LC\_CTYPE category of the current locale.

The function wcsrtombs(3) provides a better interface to the same functionality.

#### SEE ALSO

mblen(3), mbstowcs(3), mbtowc(3), wcsrtombs(3) wctomb(3)

#### COLOPHON

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