Red Hat Enterprise Linux Release 9.2 Manual Pages on 'iconv.1' command

$ 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 sev‐ eral similar looking characters. Characters that are outside of the target character set and cannot be transliterated are re‐ placed 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 outputfile, --output=outputfile

Use outputfile 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 mod‐

ule configuration cache file created by iconvconfig(8) and then, based on the configuration, loads the gconv modules needed to per‐ form 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 search‐ ing 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 mod‐ ule 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), iconvcon?

       fig(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/.

GNU   2020-06-09   ICONV(1)