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

***\$ man iconv.1p***

ICONV(1P)                    POSIX Programmer's Manual                    ICONV(1P)

### PROLOG

This manual page is part of the POSIX Programmer's Manual. The Linux implementation of this interface may differ (consult the corresponding Linux manual page for details of Linux behavior), or the interface may not be implemented on Linux.

### NAME

iconv ? codeset conversion

### SYNOPSIS

iconv [-cs] -f frommap -t tomap [file...]

iconv -f fromcode [-cs] [-t tocode] [file...]

iconv -t tocode [-cs] [-f fromcode] [file...]

iconv -l

### DESCRIPTION

The iconv utility shall convert the encoding of characters in file from one codeset to another and write the results to standard output.

When the options indicate that charmap files are used to specify the codesets (see OPTIONS), the codeset conversion shall be accomplished by performing a logical join on the symbolic character names in the two charmaps. The implementation need not support the use of charmap files for codeset conversion unless the POSIX2\_LOCALEDEF symbol is defined on the system.

### OPTIONS

The iconv utility shall conform to the Base Definitions volume of POSIX.1?2017, Section 12.2, Utility Syntax Guidelines.

The following options shall be supported:

**-c** Omit any characters that are invalid in the codeset of the input file from the output. When **-c** is not used, the results of encountering invalid characters in the input stream (either those that are not characters in the codeset of the input file or that have no corresponding character in the codeset of the output file) shall be specified in the system documentation. The presence or absence of **-c** shall not affect the exit status of iconv.

**-f fromcodeset**

Identify the codeset of the input file. The implementation shall recognize the following two forms of the **fromcodeset** option-argument:

**fromcode** The **fromcode** option-argument must not contain a `<slash>` character. It shall be interpreted as the name of one of the codeset descriptions provided by the implementation in an unspecified format. Valid values of **fromcode** are implementation-defined.

**frommap** The **frommap** option-argument must contain a `<slash>` character. It shall be interpreted as the pathname of a charmap file as defined in the Base Definitions volume of POSIX.1?2017, Section 6.4, Character Set Description File. If the pathname does not represent a valid, readable charmap file, the results are undefined.

If this option is omitted, the codeset of the current locale shall be used.

**-l** Write all supported **fromcode** and **to**code values to standard output in an unspecified format.

**-s** Suppress any messages written to standard error concerning invalid characters. When **-s** is not used, the results of en?

countering invalid characters in the input stream (either those that are not valid characters in the codeset of the input file or that have no corresponding character in the codeset of the output file) shall be specified in the system documentation. The presence or absence of `-s` shall not affect the exit status of `iconv`.

#### `-t tocodeset`

Identify the codeset to be used for the output file. The implementation shall recognize the following two forms of the `tocodeset` option-argument:

`tocode` The semantics shall be equivalent to the `-f fromcode` option.

`tomap` The semantics shall be equivalent to the `-f frommap` option.

If this option is omitted, the codeset of the current locale shall be used.

If either `-f` or `-t` represents a charmap file, but the other does not (or is omitted), or both `-f` and `-t` are omitted, the results are undefined.

## OPERANDS

The following operand shall be supported:

`file` A pathname of an input file. If no file operands are specified, or if a file operand is `'-'`, the standard input shall be used.

## STDIN

The standard input shall be used only if no file operands are specified, or if a file operand is `'-'`.

## INPUT FILES

The input file shall be a text file.

## ENVIRONMENT VARIABLES

The following environment variables shall affect the execution of `iconv`:

`LANG` Provide a default value for the internationalization vari?

ables that are unset or null. (See the Base Definitions volume of POSIX.1?2017, Section 8.2, Internationalization Variables for the precedence of internationalization variables used to determine the values of locale categories.)

**LC\_ALL** If set to a non-empty string value, override the values of all the other internationalization variables.

**LC\_CTYPE** Determine the locale for the interpretation of sequences of bytes of text data as characters (for example, single-byte as opposed to multi-byte characters in arguments). During translation of the file, this variable is superseded by the use of the `fromcode` option-argument.

#### **LC\_MESSAGES**

Determine the locale that should be used to affect the format and contents of diagnostic messages written to standard error.

**NLSPATH** Determine the location of message catalogs for the processing of **LC\_MESSAGES**.

#### **ASYNCHRONOUS EVENTS**

Default.

#### **STDOUT**

When the `-l` option is used, the standard output shall contain all supported `fromcode` and `tocode` values, written in an unspecified format. When the `-l` option is not used, the standard output shall contain the sequence of characters read from the input files, translated to the specified codeset. Nothing else shall be written to the standard output.

#### **STDERR**

The standard error shall be used only for diagnostic messages.

#### **OUTPUT FILES**

None.

#### **EXTENDED DESCRIPTION**

None.

#### **EXIT STATUS**

The following exit values shall be returned:

0 Successful completion.

>0 An error occurred.

## CONSEQUENCES OF ERRORS

Default.

The following sections are informative.

## APPLICATION USAGE

The user must ensure that both charmap files use the same symbolic names for characters the two codesets have in common.

## EXAMPLES

The following example converts the contents of file mail.x400 from the ISO/IEC 6937:2001 standard codeset to the ISO/IEC 8859-1:1998 standard codeset, and stores the results in file mail.local:

```
iconv -f IS6937 -t IS8859 mail.x400 > mail.local
```

## RATIONALE

The iconv utility can be used portably only when the user provides two charmap files as option-arguments. This is because a single charmap provided by the user cannot reliably be joined with the names in a system-provided character set description. The valid values for fromcode and tocode are implementation-defined and do not have to have any relation to the charmap mechanisms. As an aid to interactive users, the -l option was adopted from the Plan 9 operating system. It writes information concerning these implementation-defined values. The format is unspecified because there are many possible useful formats that could be chosen, such as a matrix of valid combinations of fromcode and tocode. The -l option is not intended for shell script usage; conforming applications will have to use charmaps.

The iconv utility may support the conversion between ASCII and EBCDIC-based encodings, but is not required to do so. In an XSI-compliant implementation, the dd utility is the only method guaranteed to support conversion between these two character sets.

## FUTURE DIRECTIONS

None.

## SEE ALSO

dd, gencat

The Base Definitions volume of POSIX.1-2017, Section 6.4, Character Set Description File, Chapter 8, Environment Variables, Section 12.2, Utility Syntax Guidelines

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