



Red Hat Enterprise Linux Release 9.2 Manual Pages on 'wcstombs.3' command

\$ 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, `(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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