



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

\$ 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

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

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