



Linux Ubuntu 26.04 Manual Pages on command 'mbrtowc.3'

\$ man mbrtowc.3

mbrtowc(3) Library Functions Manual mbrtowc(3)

NAME

mbrtowc - convert a multibyte sequence to a wide character

LIBRARY

Standard C library (libc, -lc)

SYNOPSIS

```
#include <wchar.h>

size_t mbrtowc(size_t n;
               wchar_t *restrict pwc, const char s[restrict n],
               size_t n, mbstate_t *restrict ps);
```

DESCRIPTION

The main case for this function is when `s` is not `NULL` and `pwc` is not `NULL`. In this case, the `mbrtowc()` function inspects at most `n` bytes of the multibyte string starting at `s`, extracts the next complete multibyte character, converts it to a wide character and stores it at `*pwc`. It updates the shift state `*ps`. If the converted wide character is not `L'\0'` (the null wide character), it returns the number of bytes that were consumed from `s`. If the converted wide character is `L'\0'`, it resets the shift state `*ps` to the initial state and returns 0.

If the `n` bytes starting at `s` do not contain a complete multibyte character, `mbrtowc()` returns `(size_t) -2`. This can happen even if `n >= MB_CUR_MAX`, if the multibyte string contains redundant shift sequences.

If the multibyte string starting at `s` contains an invalid multibyte sequence before the next complete character, `mbrtowc()` returns `(size_t) -1` and sets `errno` to `EILSEQ`. In this case,

the effects on *ps are undefined.

A different case is when s is not NULL but pwc is NULL. In this case, the mbrtowc() function behaves as above, except that it does not store the converted wide character in memory.

A third case is when s is NULL. In this case, pwc and n are ignored. If the conversion state represented by *ps denotes an incomplete multibyte character conversion, the mbrtowc() function returns (size_t) -1, sets errno to EILSEQ, and leaves *ps in an undefined state.

Otherwise, the mbrtowc() function puts *ps in the initial state and returns 0.

In all of the above cases, if ps is NULL, a static anonymous state known only to the mbrtowc() function is used instead. Otherwise, *ps must be a valid mbstate_t object. An mbstate_t object can be initialized to the initial state by zeroing it, for example using

```
memset(&a, 0, sizeof(a));
```

RETURN VALUE

The mbrtowc() function returns the number of bytes parsed from the multibyte sequence starting at s, if a non-L'\0' wide character was recognized. It returns 0, if a L'\0' wide character was recognized. It returns (size_t) -1 and sets errno to EILSEQ, if an invalid multibyte sequence was encountered. It returns (size_t) -2 if the consumed n bytes form a valid partial character sequence; more subsequent data needs to be fed in.

ATTRIBUTES

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

Interface	Attribute	Value
mbrtowc()	Thread safety	MT-Unsafe race:mbrtowc/!ps

STANDARDS

C11, POSIX.1-2008.

HISTORY

POSIX.1-2001, C99.

NOTES

The behavior of mbrtowc() depends on the LC_CTYPE category of the current locale.

SEE ALSO

mbsinit(3), mbsrtowcs(3)