



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

\$ man wcstombs.3

wcstombs(3) Library Functions Manual wcstombs(3)

NAME

wcstombs - convert a wide-character string to a multibyte string

LIBRARY

Standard C library (libc, -lc)

SYNOPSIS

```
#include <stdlib.h>

size_t wcstombs(size_t dsize;
                char dest[restrict dsize], const wchar_t *restrict src,
                size_t dsize);
```

DESCRIPTION

If `dest` is not `NULL`, the `wcstombs()` function converts the wide-character string `src` to a multibyte string starting at `dest`. At most `dsize` 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:

- ? 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.
- ? 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.
- ? 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 `dsize` bytes at `dest`.

If `dest` is `NULL`, `dsz` 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 `dsize` 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)`.

[illegible]

? Interface ? Attribute ? Value ?

[illegible]

?	wcstombs()	?	Thread safety	?	MT-Safe	?
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[illegible]

VERSIONS

The function `wcsrtombs(3)` provides a better interface to the same functionality.

STANDARDS

C11, POSIX.1-2008.

HISTORY

POSIX.1-2001, C99.

NOTES

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

SEE ALSO

mblen(3), mbstowcs(3), mbtowc(3), wcsrtombs(3), wctomb(3)