NAME

iconv_open − allocate descriptor for character set conversion

SYNOPSIS

#include <iconv.h>

iconv_t iconv_open(const char **tocode***, const char *** *fromcode***);**

DESCRIPTION

The **iconv_open**() function allocates a conversion descriptor suitable for converting byte sequences from character encoding *fromcode* to character encoding *tocode*.

The values permitted for *fromcode* and *tocode* and the supported combinations are system-dependent. For the GNU C library, the permitted values are listed by the *iconv −−list* command, and all combinations of the listed values are supported. Furthermore the GNU C library and the GNU libiconv library support the following two suffixes:

//TRANSLIT

When the string "//TRANSLIT" is appended to *tocode*, transliteration is activated. This means that when a character cannot be represented in the target character set, it can be approximated through one or several similarly looking characters.

//IGNORE

When the string "//IGNORE" is appended to *tocode*, characters that cannot be represented in the target character set will be silently discarded.

The resulting conversion descriptor can be used with **iconv**(3) any number of times. It remains valid until deallocated using **iconv_close**(3).

A conversion descriptor contains a conversion state. After creation using **iconv_open**(), the state is in the initial state. Using **iconv**(3) modifies the descriptor's conversion state. To bring the state back to the initial state, use **iconv**(3) with NULL as *inbuf* argument.

RETURN VALUE

The **iconv_open**() function returns a freshly allocated conversion descriptor. In case of error, it sets *errno* and returns *(iconv_t) −1*.

ERRORS

The following error can occur, among others:

EINVAL

The conversion from *fromcode* to *tocode* is not supported by the implementation.

VERSIONS

This function is available in glibc since version 2.1.

ATTRIBUTES

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

Interface	Attribute	Value
iconv_open()	Thread safety	MT-Safe locale

CONFORMING TO

POSIX.1-2001, POSIX.1-2008, SUSv2.

SEE ALSO

iconv(1), **iconv**(3), **iconv_close**(3)

COLOPHON

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