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).

Interface	Attribute	Value
wcstombs()	Thread safety	MT-Safe

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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