

NAME

charmap – character symbols to define character encodings

DESCRIPTION

A character set description (charmap) defines a character set of available characters and their encodings. All supported character sets should have the **portable character set** as a proper subset.

Syntax

The charmap file starts with a header, that may consist of the following keywords:

<codeset>

is followed by the name of the codeset.

<mb_cur_max>

is followed by the max number of bytes for a multibyte-character. Multibyte characters are currently not supported. The default value is 1.

<mb_cur_min>

is followed by the min number of bytes for a character. This value must be less or equal than **mb_cur_max**. If not specified, it defaults to **mb_cur_max**.

<escape_char>

is followed by a character that should be used as the escape-character for the rest of the file to mark characters that should be interpreted in a special way. It defaults to the backslash (\).

<comment_char>

is followed by a character that will be used as the comment-character for the rest of the file. It defaults to the number sign (#).

The charmap-definition itself starts with the keyword **CHARMAP** in column 1.

The following lines may have one of the two following forms to define the character-encodings:

<symbolic-name> <encoding> <comments>

This form defines exactly one character and its encoding.

<symbolic-name>...<symbolic-name> <encoding> <comments>

This form defines a couple of characters. This is only useful for multibyte-characters, which are currently not implemented.

The last line in a charmap-definition file must contain **END CHARMAP**.

Symbolic Names

A **symbolic name** for a character contains only characters of the **portable character set**. The name itself is enclosed between angle brackets. Characters following an *<escape_char>* are interpreted as itself; for example, the sequence *<\\>* represents the symbolic name \> enclosed in angle brackets.

Character Encoding

The encoding may be in each of the following three forms:

<escape_char>d<number>

with a decimal number

<escape_char>x<number>

with a hexadecimal number

<escape_char><number>

with an octal number.

FILES

/usr/share/i18n/charmaps/*

CONFORMING TO

POSIX.2.

SEE ALSO

locale(1), localedef(1), localeconv(3), setlocale(3), locale(5)

COLOPHON

This page is part of release 3.22 of the Linux *man-pages* project. A description of the project, and information about reporting bugs, can be found at <http://www.kernel.org/doc/man-pages/>.