

NAME

wcwidth – determine columns needed for a wide character

SYNOPSIS

```
#define _XOPEN_SOURCE    /* See feature_test_macros(7) */
#include <wchar.h>
```

```
int wcwidth(wchar_t c);
```

DESCRIPTION

The **wcwidth()** function returns the number of columns needed to represent the wide character *c*. If *c* is a printable wide character, the value is at least 0. If *c* is null wide character (L'\0'), the value is 0. Otherwise, -1 is returned.

RETURN VALUE

The **wcwidth()** function returns the number of column positions for *c*.

ATTRIBUTES

Multithreading (see pthreads(7))

The **wcwidth()** function is thread-safe with exceptions. It can be safely used in multithreaded applications, as long as **setlocale(3)** is not called to change the locale during its execution.

CONFORMING TO

POSIX.1-2001.

Note that glibc before 2.2.5 used the prototype

```
int wcwidth(wint_t c);
```

NOTES

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

SEE ALSO

iswprint(3), **wcswidth(3)**

COLOPHON

This page is part of release 3.74 of the Linux *man-pages* project. A description of the project, information about reporting bugs, and the latest version of this page, can be found at <http://www.kernel.org/doc/man-pages/>.