

NAME

strcmp, strncmp – compare two strings

SYNOPSIS

```
#include <string.h>
```

```
int strcmp(const char *s1, const char *s2);
```

```
int strncmp(const char *s1, const char *s2, size_t n);
```

DESCRIPTION

The **strcmp()** function compares the two strings *s1* and *s2*. It returns an integer less than, equal to, or greater than zero if *s1* is found, respectively, to be less than, to match, or be greater than *s2*.

The **strncmp()** function is similar, except it compares only the first (at most) *n* bytes of *s1* and *s2*.

RETURN VALUE

The **strcmp()** and **strncmp()** functions return an integer less than, equal to, or greater than zero if *s1* (or the first *n* bytes thereof) is found, respectively, to be less than, to match, or be greater than *s2*.

ATTRIBUTES

For an explanation of the terms used in this section, see [attributes\(7\)](#).

| Interface | Attribute | Value |
|---------------------|---------------|---------|
| strcmp(), strncmp() | Thread safety | MT-Safe |

CONFORMING TO

POSIX.1-2001, POSIX.1-2008, C89, C99, SVr4, 4.3BSD.

SEE ALSO

[bcmp\(3\)](#), [memcmp\(3\)](#), [strcasecmp\(3\)](#), [strcoll\(3\)](#), [string\(3\)](#), [strncasecmp\(3\)](#), [strverscmp\(3\)](#), [wcscmp\(3\)](#), [wcsncmp\(3\)](#)

COLOPHON

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