

NAME

swab – swap adjacent bytes

SYNOPSIS

```
#define _XOPEN_SOURCE    /* See feature\_test\_macros\(7\)
*/
#include <unistd.h>

void swab(const void *from, void *to, ssize_t n);
```

DESCRIPTION

The `swab()` function copies n bytes from the array pointed to by *from* to the array pointed to by *to*, exchanging adjacent even and odd bytes. This function is used to exchange data between machines that have different low/high byte ordering.

This function does nothing when n is negative. When n is positive and odd, it handles $n-1$ bytes as above, and does something unspecified with the last byte. (In other words, n should be even.)

RETURN VALUE

The `swab()` function returns no value.

ATTRIBUTES

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

Interface	Attribute	Value
<code>swab()</code>	Thread safety	MT-Safe

CONFORMING TO

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

SEE ALSO

[bstring\(3\)](#)

COLOPHON

This page is part of release 4.16 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 <https://www.kernel.org/doc/man-pages/>.