

NAME

wcsrtombs – convert a wide-character string to a multibyte string

SYNOPSIS

```
#include <wchar.h>
```

```
size_t wcsrtombs(char *dest, const wchar_t **src,
                 size_t len, mbstate_t *ps);
```

DESCRIPTION

If *dest* is not NULL, the **wcsrtombs()** function converts the wide-character string **src* to a multibyte string starting at *dest*. At most *len* bytes are written to *dest*. The shift state **ps* is updated. The conversion is effectively performed by repeatedly calling *wcrtomb(dest, *src, ps)*, as long as this call succeeds, and then incrementing *dest* by the number of bytes written and **src* by one. 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, **src* is left pointing to the invalid wide character, *(size_t) - 1* is returned, and *errno* is set to **EILSEQ**.
2. The length limit forces a stop. In this case, **src* is left pointing to the next wide character to be converted, and the number of bytes written to *dest* is returned.
3. The wide-character string has been completely converted, including the terminating null wide character (L'\0'), which has the side effect of bringing back **ps* to the initial state. In this case, **src* is set to NULL, and the number of bytes written to *dest*, excluding the terminating null byte ('\0'), is returned.

If *dest* is NULL, *len* is ignored, and the conversion proceeds as above, except that the converted bytes are not written out to memory, and that no length limit exists.

In both of the above cases, if *ps* is NULL, a static anonymous state known only to the **wcsrtombs()** function is used instead.

The programmer must ensure that there is room for at least *len* bytes at *dest*.

RETURN VALUE

The **wcsrtombs()** function returns the number of bytes that make up the converted part of multibyte sequence, not including the terminating null byte. If a wide character was encountered which could not be converted, *(size_t) - 1* is returned, and *errno* set to **EILSEQ**.

ATTRIBUTES

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

| Interface | Attribute | Value |
|--------------------|---------------|------------------------------|
| wcsrtombs() | Thread safety | MT-Unsafe race:wcsrtombs!/ps |

CONFORMING TO

POSIX.1-2001, POSIX.1-2008, C99.

NOTES

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

Passing NULL as *ps* is not multithread safe.

SEE ALSO

[iconv\(3\)](#), [mbsinit\(3\)](#), [wcrtomb\(3\)](#), [wcsnrtombs\(3\)](#), [wcostombs\(3\)](#)

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/>.