

**NAME**

**mbstowcs** - convert a character string to a wide-character string

**LIBRARY**

Standard C Library (libc, -lc)

**SYNOPSIS**

```
#include <stdlib.h>
```

*size\_t*

```
mbstowcs(wchar_t * restrict wcstring, const char * restrict mbstring, size_t nwchars);
```

**DESCRIPTION**

The **mbstowcs()** function converts a multibyte character string *mbstring* beginning in the initial conversion state into a wide character string *wcstring*. No more than *nwchars* wide characters are stored. A terminating null wide character is appended if there is room.

**RETURN VALUES**

The **mbstowcs()** function returns the number of wide characters converted, not counting any terminating null wide character, or -1 if an invalid multibyte character was encountered.

**ERRORS**

The **mbstowcs()** function will fail if:

[EILSEQ]           An invalid multibyte sequence was detected.

[EINVAL]           The conversion state is invalid.

**SEE ALSO**

**mbsrtowcs(3)**, **mbtowc(3)**, **multibyte(3)**

**STANDARDS**

The **mbstowcs()** function conforms to ISO/IEC 9899:1999 ("ISO C99").