NAME
    strings - print the strings of printable characters in files

SYNOPSIS
    strings [**-a** | **--all**] [**-e** *encoding* | **--encoding**=*encoding*] [**-f** | **--print-file-name**] [**-h** | **--help**]
            [**-n** *number* | **--bytes**=*number* | **-***number*] [**-o**] [**-t** *radix* | **--radix**=*radix*] [**-v** | **--version**] [*file ...*]

DESCRIPTION
    For each *file* specified, the **strings** utility prints contiguous sequences of printable characters that are at
    least *n* characters long and are followed by an unprintable character. The default value of *n* is 4. By
    default, the **strings** utility only scans the initialized and loaded sections of ELF objects; for other file
    types, the entire file is scanned. The **strings** utility is mainly used for determining the contents of non-
    text files.

    If no file name is specified as an argument, standard input is read.

    The following options are available:

    -a | **--all**
            For ELF objects, scan the entire file for printable strings.

    -e *encoding* | **--encoding**=*encoding*
            Select the character encoding to be used while searching for strings. Valid values for argument
            encoding are:
            s   for single 7-bit-byte characters (ASCII, ISO 8859).
            S   for single 8-bit-byte characters.
            l   for 16-bit little-endian.
            b   for 16-bit big-endian.
            L   for 32-bit little-endian.
            B   for 32-bit big-endian.
            The default is to assume that characters are encoded using a single 7-bit byte.

    -f | **--print-file-name**
            Print the name of the file before each string.

    -h | **--help**
            Print a usage summary and exit.

    -n *number* | **--bytes**=*number* | **-***number*
            Print the contiguous character sequence of at least *number* characters long, instead of the default

of 4 characters. Argument *number* should specify a positive decimal integer.

-o   Equivalent to specifying **-t** *o*.

-t *radix* | **--radix=***radix*
         Print the offset from the start of the file before each string using the specified radix. Valid values
         for argument *radix* are:
         d   for decimal
         o   for octal
         x   for hexadecimal

-v | **--version**
         Display a version identifier and exit.

EXIT STATUS
The **strings** utility exits 0 on success, and >0 if an error occurs.

EXAMPLES
To display strings in */bin/ls* use:
     $ strings /bin/ls

To display strings in all sections of */bin/ln* use:
     $ strings -a /bin/ln

To display strings in all sections of */bin/cat* prefixed with the filename and the offset within the file use:
     $ strings -a -f -t x /bin/cat

# SEE ALSO
ar(1), nm(1), objdump(1), ranlib, readelf(1), size(1)

HISTORY
The first FreeBSD **strings** utility appeared in FreeBSD v3. It was later discontinued in FreeBSD v5,
when i386-only a.out format was dropped in favor of ELF.

AUTHORS
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