

**NAME**

**strcmp**, **strncmp** - compare strings

**LIBRARY**

Standard C Library (libc, -lc)

**SYNOPSIS**

**#include <string.h>**

*int*

**strcmp**(*const char \*s1, const char \*s2*);

*int*

**strncmp**(*const char \*s1, const char \*s2, size\_t len*);

**DESCRIPTION**

The **strcmp**() and **strncmp**() functions lexicographically compare the null-terminated strings *s1* and *s2*.

The **strncmp**() function compares not more than *len* characters. Because **strncmp**() is designed for comparing strings rather than binary data, characters that appear after a ‘\0’ character are not compared.

**RETURN VALUES**

The **strcmp**() and **strncmp**() functions return an integer greater than, equal to, or less than 0, according as the string *s1* is greater than, equal to, or less than the string *s2*. The comparison is done using unsigned characters, so that ‘\200’ is greater than ‘\0’.

**SEE ALSO**

bcmp(3), memcmp(3), strcasecmp(3), strcoll(3), strxfrm(3), wcscmp(3)

**STANDARDS**

The **strcmp**() and **strncmp**() functions conform to ISO/IEC 9899:1990 ("ISO C90").

**HISTORY**

The **strcmp**() function first appeared in the Programmer's Workbench (PWB/UNIX) and was ported to Version 7 AT&T UNIX; **strncmp**() first appeared in Version 7 AT&T UNIX.