

**NAME**

xcb\_intern\_atom - Get atom identifier by name

**SYNOPSIS**

```
#include <xcb/xproto.h>
```

**Request function**

```
xcb_intern_atom_cookie_t xcb_intern_atom(xcb_connection_t *conn, uint8_t only_if_exists,  
uint16_t name_len, const char *name);
```

**Reply datastructure**

```
typedef struct xcb_intern_atom_reply_t {  
    uint8_t response_type;  
    uint8_t pad0;  
    uint16_t sequence;  
    uint32_t length;  
    xcb_atom_t atom;  
} xcb_intern_atom_reply_t;
```

**Reply function**

```
xcb_intern_atom_reply_t *xcb_intern_atom_reply(xcb_connection_t *conn,  
xcb_intern_atom_cookie_t cookie, xcb_generic_error_t **e);
```

**REQUEST ARGUMENTS**

*conn*           The XCB connection to X11.

*only\_if\_exists*   Return a valid atom id only if the atom already exists.

*name\_len*        The length of the following *name*.

*name*            The name of the atom.

**REPLY FIELDS**

*response\_type*   The type of this reply, in this case *XCB\_INTERN\_ATOM*. This field is also present in the *xcb\_generic\_reply\_t* and can be used to tell replies apart from each other.

*sequence*        The sequence number of the last request processed by the X11 server.

*length*          The length of the reply, in words (a word is 4 bytes).

*atom*            TODO: NOT YET DOCUMENTED.

## DESCRIPTION

Retrieves the identifier (`xcb_atom_t` TODO) for the atom with the specified name. Atoms are used in protocols like EWMH, for example to store window titles (`_NET_WM_NAME` atom) as property of a window.

If *only\_if\_exists* is 0, the atom will be created if it does not already exist. If *only\_if\_exists* is 1, `XCB_ATOM_NONE` will be returned if the atom does not yet exist.

## RETURN VALUE

Returns an `xcb_intern_atom_cookie_t`. Errors have to be handled when calling the reply function `xcb_intern_atom_reply`.

If you want to handle errors in the event loop instead, use `xcb_intern_atom_unchecked`. See **xcb-requests(3)** for details.

## ERRORS

`xcb_alloc_error_t`

TODO: reasons?

`xcb_value_error_t`

A value other than 0 or 1 was specified for *only\_if\_exists*.

## EXAMPLE

```
/*
 * Resolves the _NET_WM_NAME atom.
 */
void my_example(xcb_connection_t *c) {
    xcb_intern_atom_cookie_t cookie;
    xcb_intern_atom_reply_t *reply;

    cookie = xcb_intern_atom(c, 0, strlen("_NET_WM_NAME"), "_NET_WM_NAME");
    /* ... do other work here if possible ... */
    if ((reply = xcb_intern_atom_reply(c, cookie, NULL))) {
        printf("The _NET_WM_NAME atom has ID %u0, reply->atom);
        free(reply);
    }
}
```

```
}
```

**SEE ALSO**

**xcb-requests(3)**, **xcb-examples(3)**, **xcb\_get\_atom\_name(3)**, **xlsatoms(1)**

**AUTHOR**

Generated from xproto.xml. Contact [xcb@lists.freedesktop.org](mailto:xcb@lists.freedesktop.org) for corrections and improvements.