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Red Hat Enterprise Linux Release 9.2 Manual Pages on 'mbrlen.3' command

\$ man mbrlen.3

MBRLEN(3) Linux Programmer's Manual MBRLEN(3)

NAME

mbrlen - determine number of bytes in next multibyte character

SYNOPSIS

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

```
size_t mbrlen(const char *s, size_t n, mbstate_t *ps);
```

DESCRIPTION

The `mbrlen()` function inspects at most `n` bytes of the multibyte string starting at `s` and extracts the next complete multibyte character. It updates the shift state `*ps`. If the multibyte character is not the null wide character, it returns the number of bytes that were consumed from `s`. If the multibyte character is the null wide character, it resets the shift state `*ps` to the initial state and returns 0.

If the `n` bytes starting at `s` do not contain a complete multibyte character, `mbrlen()` returns `(size_t) -2`. This can happen even if `n >= MB_CUR_MAX`, if the multibyte string contains redundant shift sequences.

If the multibyte string starting at `s` contains an invalid multibyte sequence before the next complete character, `mbrlen()` returns `(size_t) -1` and sets `errno` to `EILSEQ`. In this case, the effects on `*ps` are undefined.

If `ps` is `NULL`, a static anonymous state known only to the `mbrlen()` function is used instead.

RETURN VALUE

The `mbrlen()` function returns the number of bytes parsed from the multibyte sequence starting at `s`, if a non-null wide character was recognized. It returns 0, if a null wide character was recognized. It returns `(size_t) -1` and sets `errno` to `EILSEQ`, if an invalid multibyte sequence was encountered. It returns `(size_t) -2` if it couldn't parse a complete multibyte character, meaning that `n` should be increased.

ATTRIBUTES

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

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?Interface ? Attribute ? Value ?

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?`mbrlen()` ? Thread safety ? MT-Unsafe race:`mbrlen/lps` ?

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CONFORMING TO

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

NOTES

The behavior of `mbrlen()` depends on the `LC_CTYPE` category of the current locale.

SEE ALSO

[mbrtowc\(3\)](#)

COLOPHON

This page is part of release 5.10 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/>.

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