

**NAME**

`bind_textdomain_codeset` – set encoding of message translations

**SYNOPSIS**

```
#include <libintl.h>
```

```
char * bind_textdomain_codeset (const char * domainname,  
                               const char * codeset);
```

**DESCRIPTION**

The `bind_textdomain_codeset` function sets the output codeset for message catalogs for domain *domainname*.

A message domain is a set of translatable *msgid* messages. Usually, every software package has its own message domain.

By default, the `gettext` family of functions returns translated messages in the locale's character encoding, which can be retrieved as `nl_langinfo(CODESET)`. The need for calling `bind_textdomain_codeset` arises for programs which store strings in a locale independent way (e.g. UTF-8) and want to avoid an extra character set conversion on the returned translated messages.

*domainname* must be a non-empty string.

If *codeset* is not NULL, it must be a valid encoding name which can be used for the `iconv_open` function. The `bind_textdomain_codeset` function sets the output codeset for message catalogs belonging to domain *domainname* to *codeset*. The function makes copies of the argument strings as needed.

If *codeset* is NULL, the function returns the previously set codeset for domain *domainname*. The default is NULL, denoting the locale's character encoding.

**RETURN VALUE**

If successful, the `bind_textdomain_codeset` function returns the current codeset for domain *domainname*, after possibly changing it. The resulting string is valid until the next `bind_textdomain_codeset` call for the same *domainname* and must not be modified or freed. If a memory allocation failure occurs, it sets `errno` to `ENOMEM` and returns NULL. If no codeset has been set for domain *domainname*, it returns NULL.

**ERRORS**

The following error can occur, among others:

**ENOMEM**

Not enough memory available.

**BUGS**

The return type ought to be `const char *`, but is `char *` to avoid warnings in C code predating ANSI C.

**SEE ALSO**

`gettext(3)`, `dgettext(3)`, `dcgettext(3)`, `ngettext(3)`, `dngettext(3)`, `dcngettext(3)`, `textdomain(3)`, `nl_langinfo(3)`, `iconv_open(3)`