

**NAME**

stpncpy – copy a fixed-size string, returning a pointer to its end

**SYNOPSIS**

```
#include <string.h>
```

```
char *stpncpy(char *dest, const char *src, size_t n);
```

Feature Test Macro Requirements for glibc (see [feature\\_test\\_macros\(7\)](#)):

**stpncpy()**:

Since glibc 2.10:

```
_POSIX_C_SOURCE >= 200809L
```

Before glibc 2.10:

```
_GNU_SOURCE
```

**DESCRIPTION**

The **stpncpy()** function copies at most *n* characters from the string pointed to by *src*, including the terminating null byte ('\0'), to the array pointed to by *dest*. Exactly *n* characters are written at *dest*. If the length *strlen(src)* is smaller than *n*, the remaining characters in the array pointed to by *dest* are filled with null bytes ('\0'). If the length *strlen(src)* is greater than or equal to *n*, the string pointed to by *dest* will not be null-terminated.

The strings may not overlap.

The programmer must ensure that there is room for at least *n* characters at *dest*.

**RETURN VALUE**

**stpncpy()** returns a pointer to the terminating null byte in *dest*, or, if *dest* is not null-terminated, *dest+n*.

**ATTRIBUTES**

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

Interface	Attribute	Value
<b>stpncpy()</b>	Thread safety	MT-Safe

**CONFORMING TO**

This function was added to POSIX.1-2008. Before that, it was a GNU extension. It first appeared in version 1.07 of the GNU C library in 1993.

**SEE ALSO**

[strncpy\(3\)](#), [wcpncpy\(3\)](#)

**COLOPHON**

This page is part of release 5.05 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/>.