

**NAME**

confstr - get configuration dependent string variables

**SYNOPSIS**

```
#include <unistd.h>
```

```
size_t confstr(int name, char *buf, size_t len);
```

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

```
confstr(): _POSIX_C_SOURCE >= 2 || _XOPEN_SOURCE
```

**DESCRIPTION**

**confstr()** gets the value of configuration-dependent string variables.

The *name* argument is the system variable to be queried. The following variables are supported:

**\_CS\_GNU\_LIBC\_VERSION** (GNU C library only; since glibc 2.3.2)

A string which identifies the GNU C library version on this system (e.g, "glibc 2.3.4").

**\_CS\_GNU\_LIBPTHREAD\_VERSION** (GNU C library only; since glibc 2.3.2)

A string which identifies the POSIX implementation supplied by this C library (e.g, "NPTL 2.3.4" or "linuxthreads-0.10").

**\_CS\_PATH**

A value for the **PATH** variable which indicates where all the POSIX.2 standard utilities can be found.

If *buf* is not NULL and *len* is not zero, **confstr()** copies the value of the string to *buf* truncated to *len - 1* bytes if necessary, with a null byte ('\0') as terminator. This can be detected by comparing the return value of **confstr()** against *len*.

If *len* is zero and *buf* is NULL, **confstr()** just returns the value as defined below.

**RETURN VALUE**

If *name* is a valid configuration variable, **confstr()** returns the number of bytes (including the terminating null byte) that would be required to hold the entire value of that variable. This value may be greater than *len*, which means that the value in *buf* is truncated.

If *name* is a valid configuration variable, but that variable does not have a value, then **confstr()** returns 0. If *name* does not correspond to a valid configuration variable, **confstr()** returns 0, and *errno* is set to **EINVAL**.

**ERRORS****EINVAL**

The value of *name* is invalid.

**CONFORMING TO**

POSIX.1-2001.

**EXAMPLE**

The following code fragment determines the path where to find the POSIX.2 system utilities:

```
char *pathbuf;
size_t n;

n = confstr(_CS_PATH, NULL, (size_t) 0);
pathbuf = malloc(n)
if (pathbuf == NULL)
abort();
confstr(_CS_PATH, pathbuf, n);
```

**SEE ALSO**

[getconf\(1\)](#), [sh\(1\)](#), [exec\(3\)](#), [fpathconf\(3\)](#) [sysconf\(3\)](#) [pathconf\(3\)](#) [system\(3\)](#)

**COLOPHON**

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