

NAME

wcwidth - determine columns needed for a wide character

SYNOPSIS

```
#define _XOPEN_SOURCE /* See feature\_test\_macros\(7\)
*/
#include <wchar.h>

int wcwidth(wchar_t c);
```

DESCRIPTION

The `wcwidth()` function returns the number of columns needed to represent the wide character *c*. If *c* is a printable wide character, the value is at least 0. If *c* is null wide character (L'\0'), the value is 0. Otherwise, -1 is returned.

RETURN VALUE

The `wcwidth()` function returns the number of column positions for *c*.

ATTRIBUTES

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

Interface	Attribute	Value
<code>wcwidth()</code>	Thread safety	MT-Safe locale

CONFORMING TO

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

Note that glibc before 2.2.5 used the prototype

```
int wcwidth(wint_t c);
```

NOTES

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

SEE ALSO

[iswprint\(3\)](#), [wcswidth\(3\)](#)

COLOPHON

This page is part of release 4.10 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/>.