

NAME

curl_easy_escape – URL encode a string

SYNOPSIS

```
#include <curl/curl.h>
```

```
char *curl_easy_escape(CURL *curl, const char *string, int length);
```

DESCRIPTION

This function converts the given input *string* to a URL encoded string and returns that as a new allocated string. All input characters that are not a–z, A–Z, 0–9, '-', '.', '_' or '~' are converted to their "URL escaped" version (%NN where NN is a two-digit hexadecimal number). Although not constrained by its type, the returned string may not be altered.

If *length* is set to 0 (zero), *curl_easy_escape(3)* uses *strlen()* on the input *string* to find out the size.

You must *curl_free(3)* the returned string when you are done with it.

ENCODING

libcurl is typically not aware of, nor does it care about, character encodings. *curl_easy_escape(3)* encodes the data byte-by-byte into the URL encoded version without knowledge or care for what particular character encoding the application or the receiving server may assume that the data uses.

The caller of *curl_easy_escape(3)* must make sure that the data passed in to the function is encoded correctly.

URLs

URLs are by definition *URL encoded*. To create a proper URL from a set of components that may not be URL encoded already, you cannot URL encode the entire URL string with *curl_easy_escape(3)*, because it then also converts colons, slashes and other symbols that you probably want untouched.

To create a proper URL from strings that are not already URL encoded, we recommend using libcurl's URL API: set the pieces with *curl_url_set(3)* and get the final correct URL with *curl_url_get(3)*.

PROTOCOLS

This functionality affects all supported protocols

EXAMPLE

```
int main(void)
{
    CURL *curl = curl_easy_init();
    if(curl) {
        char *output = curl_easy_escape(curl, "data to convert", 15);
        if(output) {
            printf("Encoded: %s\n", output);
            curl_free(output);
        }
        curl_easy_cleanup(curl);
    }
}
```

HISTORY

Since 7.82.0, the **curl** parameter is ignored. Prior to that there was per-handle character conversion support for some old operating systems such as TPF, but it was otherwise ignored.

AVAILABILITY

Added in curl 7.15.4

RETURN VALUE

A pointer to a null-terminated string or NULL if it failed.

SEE ALSO

curl_easy_unescape(3), curl_url_get(3), curl_url_set(3)