

Fontconfig Developers Reference, Version 2.12.5

Keith Packard
HP Cambridge Research Lab

1. DESCRIPTION

Fontconfig is a library designed to provide system-wide font configuration, customization and application access.

2. FUNCTIONAL OVERVIEW

Fontconfig contains two essential modules, the configuration module which builds an internal configuration from XML files and the matching module which accepts font patterns and returns the nearest matching font.

2.1. FONT CONFIGURATION

The configuration module consists of the FcConfig datatype, libexpat and FcConfigParse which walks over an XML tree and amends a configuration with data found within. From an external perspective, configuration of the library consists of generating a valid XML tree and feeding that to FcConfigParse. The only other mechanism provided to applications for changing the running configuration is to add fonts and directories to the list of application-provided font files.

The intent is to make font configurations relatively static, and shared by as many applications as possible. It is hoped that this will lead to more stable font selection when passing names from one application to another. XML was chosen as a configuration file format because it provides a format which is easy for external agents to edit while retaining the correct structure and syntax.

Font configuration is separate from font matching; applications needing to do their own matching can access the available fonts from the library and perform private matching. The intent is to permit applications to pick and choose appropriate functionality from the library instead of forcing them to choose between this library and a private configuration mechanism. The hope is that this will ensure that configuration of fonts for all applications can be centralized in one place. Centralizing font configuration will simplify and regularize font installation and customization.

2.2. FONT PROPERTIES

While font patterns may contain essentially any properties, there are some well known properties with associated types. Fontconfig uses some of these properties for font matching and font completion. Others are provided as a convenience for the application's rendering mechanism.

Property Definitions

Property	C Preprocessor Symbol	Type	Description
family	FC_FAMILY	String	Font family names
familylang	FC_FAMILYLANG	String	Language corresponding to each family name
style	FC_STYLE	String	Font style. Overrides weight and slant
stylelang	FC_STYLELANG	String	Language corresponding to each style name
fullname	FC_FULLNAME	String	Font face full name where different from family and family + style
fullnamelang	FC_FULLNAMELANG	String	Language corresponding to each fullname
slant	FC_SLANT	Int	Italic, oblique or roman
weight	FC_WEIGHT	Int	Light, medium, demibold, bold or black
size	FC_SIZE	Double	Point size
width	FC_WIDTH	Int	Condensed, normal or expanded
aspect	FC_ASPECT	Double	Stretches glyphs horizontally before hinting
pixelsize	FC_PIXEL_SIZE	Double	Pixel size
spacing	FC_SPACING	Int	Proportional, dual-width, monospace or charcell
foundry	FC_FOUNDRY	String	Font foundry name
antialias	FC_ANTIALIAS	Bool	Whether glyphs can be antialiased
hinting	FC_HINTING	Bool	Whether the rasterizer should use hinting
hintstyle	FC_HINT_STYLE	Int	Automatic hinting style
verticallayout	FC_VERTICAL_LAYOUT	Bool	Use vertical layout
autohint	FC_AUTOHINT	Bool	Use autohinter instead of normal hinter
globaladvance	FC_GLOBAL_ADVANCE	Bool	Use font global advance data (deprecated)
file	FC_FILE	String	The filename holding the font
index	FC_INDEX	Int	The index of the font within the file
ftface	FC_FT_FACE	FT_Face	Use the specified FreeType face object
rasterizer	FC_RASTERIZER	String	Which rasterizer is in use (deprecated)
outline	FC_OUTLINE	Bool	Whether the glyphs are outlines
scalable	FC_SCALABLE	Bool	Whether glyphs can be scaled
scale	FC_SCALE	Double	Scale factor for point->pixel conversions (deprecated)

symbol	FC_SYMBOL	Bool	Whether font uses MS symbol-font encoding
color	FC_COLOR	Bool	Whether any glyphs have color
dpi	FC_DPI	Double	Target dots per inch
rgba	FC_RGBA	Int	unknown, rgb, bgr, vrgb, vbgr, none - subpixel geometry
lcdfilter	FC_LCD_FILTER	Int	Type of LCD filter
minspace	FC_MINSPACE	Bool	Eliminate leading from line spacing
charset	FC_CHARSET	CharSet	Unicode chars encoded by the font
lang	FC_LANG	LangSet	Set of RFC-3066-style languages this font supports
fontversion	FC_FONTVERSION	Int	Version number of the font
capability	FC_CAPABILITY	String	List of layout capabilities in the font
fontformat	FC_FONTFORMAT	String	String name of the font format
embolden	FC_EMBOLDEN	Bool	Rasterizer should synthetically embolden the font
embeddedbitmap	FC_EMBEDDED_BITMAP	Bool	Use the embedded bitmap instead of the outline
decorative	FC_DECORATIVE	Bool	Whether the style is a decorative variant
fontfeatures	FC_FONT_FEATURES	String	List of extra feature tags in OpenType to be enabled
namelang	FC_NAMELANG	String	Language name to be used for the default value of familylang, stylelang and fullnamelang
prgname	FC_PRGNAME	String	Name of the running program
hash	FC_HASH	String	SHA256 hash value of the font data with "sha256:" prefix (deprecated)
postscriptname	FC_POSTSCRIPT_NAME	String	Font name in PostScript

3. Datatypes

Fontconfig uses abstract data types to hide internal implementation details for most data structures. A few structures are exposed where appropriate.

3.1. FcChar8, FcChar16, FcChar32, FcBool

These are primitive data types; the FcChar* types hold precisely the number of bits stated (if supported by the C implementation). FcBool holds one of two C preprocessor symbols: FcFalse or FcTrue.

3.2. FcMatrix

An FcMatrix holds an affine transformation, usually used to reshape glyphs. A small set of matrix operations are provided to manipulate these.

```
typedef struct _FcMatrix {  
    double xx, xy, yx, yy;  
} FcMatrix;
```

3.3. FcCharSet

An FcCharSet is an abstract type that holds the set of encoded Unicode chars in a font. Operations to build and compare these sets are provided.

3.4. FcLangSet

An FcLangSet is an abstract type that holds the set of languages supported by a font. Operations to build and compare these sets are provided. These are computed for a font based on orthographic information built into the fontconfig library. Fontconfig has orthographies for all of the ISO 639-1 languages except for MS, NA, PA, PS, QU, RN, RW, SD, SG, SN, SU and ZA. If you have orthographic information for any of these languages, please submit them.

3.5. FcLangResult

An FcLangResult is an enumeration used to return the results of comparing two language strings or FcLangSet objects. FcLangEqual means the objects match language and territory. FcLangDifferentTerritory means the objects match in language but differ in territory. FcLangDifferentLang means the objects differ in language.

3.6. FcType

Tags the kind of data stored in an FcValue.

3.7. FcValue

An FcValue object holds a single value with one of a number of different types. The 'type' tag indicates which member is valid.

```
typedef struct _FcValue {
    FcType type;
    union {
        const FcChar8 *s;
        int i;
        FcBool b;
        double d;
        const FcMatrix *m;
        const FcCharSet *c;
    } u;
} FcValue;
```

FcValue Members

Type	Union member	Datatype
-----	-----	-----
FcTypeVoid	(none)	(none)
FcTypeInteger	i	int
FcTypeDouble	d	double
FcTypeString	s	FcChar8 *
FcTypeBool	b	b
FcTypeMatrix	m	FcMatrix *
FcTypeCharSet	c	FcCharSet *
FcTypeFTFace f	void * (FT_Face)	
FcTypeLangSet l	FcLangSet *	

3.8. FcPattern

holds a set of names with associated value lists; each name refers to a property of a font. FcPatterns are used as inputs to the matching code as well as holding information about specific fonts. Each property can hold one or more values; conventionally all of the same type, although the interface doesn't demand that.

3.9. FcFontSet

```
typedef struct _FcFontSet {
```

```

        int nfont;
        int sfont;
        FcPattern **fonts;
    } FcFontSet;

```

An FcFontSet contains a list of FcPatterns. Internally fontconfig uses this data structure to hold sets of fonts. Externally, fontconfig returns the results of listing fonts in this format. 'nfont' holds the number of patterns in the 'fonts' array; 'sfont' is used to indicate the size of that array.

3.10. FcStrSet, FcStrList

FcStrSet holds a list of strings that can be appended to and enumerated. Its unique characteristic is that the enumeration works even while strings are appended during enumeration. FcStrList is used during enumeration to safely and correctly walk the list of strings even while that list is edited in the middle of enumeration.

3.11. FcObjectSet

```

typedef struct _FcObjectSet {
    int nobject;
    int sobject;
    const char **objects;
} FcObjectSet;

```

holds a set of names and is used to specify which fields from fonts are placed in the the list of returned patterns when listing fonts.

3.12. FcObjectType

```

typedef struct _FcObjectType {
    const char *object;
    FcType type;
} FcObjectType;

```

marks the type of a pattern element generated when parsing font names. Applications can add new object types so that font names may contain the new elements.

3.13. FcConstant

```
typedef struct _FcConstant {  
    const FcChar8 *name;  
    const char *object;  
    int value;  
} FcConstant;
```

Provides for symbolic constants for new pattern elements. When 'name' is seen in a font name, an 'object' element is created with value 'value'.

3.14. FcBlanks

holds a list of Unicode chars which are expected to be blank; unexpectedly blank chars are assumed to be invalid and are elided from the charset associated with the font.

3.15. FcFileCache

holds the per-user cache information for use while loading the font database. This is built automatically for the current configuration when that is loaded. Applications must always pass '0' when one is requested.

3.16. FcConfig

holds a complete configuration of the library; there is one default configuration, other can be constructed from XML data structures. All public entry points that need global data can take an optional FcConfig* argument; passing 0 uses the default configuration. FcConfig objects hold two sets of fonts, the first contains those specified by the configuration, the second set holds those added by the application at run-time. Interfaces that need to reference a particular set use one of the FcSetName enumerated values.

3.17. FcSetName

Specifies one of the two sets of fonts available in a configuration; FcSetSystem for those fonts specified in the configuration and FcSetApplication which holds fonts provided by the application.

3.18. FcResult

Used as a return type for functions manipulating FcPattern objects.

FcResult Values	
Result Code	Meaning

FcResultMatch	Object exists with the specified ID
FcResultNoMatch	Object doesn't exist at all
FcResultTypeMismatch	Object exists, but the type doesn't match
FcResultNoId	Object exists, but has fewer values than specified
FcResultOutOfMemory	malloc failed

3.19. FcAtomic

Used for locking access to configuration files. Provides a safe way to update configuration files.

3.20. FcCache

Holds information about the fonts contained in a single directory. Normal applications need not worry about this as caches for font access are automatically managed by the library. Applications dealing with cache management may want to use some of these objects in their work, however the included 'fc-cache' program generally suffices for all of that.

4. FUNCTIONS

These are grouped by functionality, often using the main data type being manipulated.

4.1. Initialization

These functions provide some control over how the library is initialized.

FcInitLoadConfig

Name

FcInitLoadConfig — load configuration

Synopsis

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

```
FcConfig * FcInitLoadConfig(void);
```

Description

Loads the default configuration file and returns the resulting configuration. Does not load any font information.

FcInitLoadConfigAndFonts

Name

FcInitLoadConfigAndFonts — load configuration and font data

Synopsis

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

```
FcConfig * FcInitLoadConfigAndFonts(void);
```

Description

Loads the default configuration file and builds information about the available fonts. Returns the resulting configuration.

FcInit

Name

FcInit — initialize fontconfig library

Synopsis

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

```
FcBool FcInit(void);
```

Description

Loads the default configuration file and the fonts referenced therein and sets the default configuration to that result. Returns whether this process succeeded or not. If the default configuration has already been loaded, this routine does nothing and returns FcTrue.

FcFini

Name

FcFini — finalize fontconfig library

Synopsis

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

```
void FcFini(void);
```

Description

Frees all data structures allocated by previous calls to fontconfig functions. Fontconfig returns to an uninitialized state, requiring a new call to one of the FcInit functions before any other fontconfig function may be called.

FcGetVersion

Name

FcGetVersion — library version number

Synopsis

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

int FcGetVersion(void);
```

Description

Returns the version number of the library.

FcInitReinitialize

Name

FcInitReinitialize — re-initialize library

Synopsis

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

FcBool FcInitReinitialize(void);
```

Description

Forces the default configuration file to be reloaded and resets the default configuration. Returns `FcFalse` if the configuration cannot be reloaded (due to configuration file errors, allocation failures or other issues) and leaves the existing configuration unchanged. Otherwise returns `FcTrue`.

FcInitBringUptoDate

Name

`FcInitBringUptoDate` — reload configuration files if needed

Synopsis

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

```
FcBool FcInitBringUptoDate(void);
```

Description

Checks the rescan interval in the default configuration, checking the configuration if the interval has passed and reloading the configuration if when any changes are detected. Returns `FcFalse` if the configuration cannot be reloaded (see `FcInitReinitialize`). Otherwise returns `FcTrue`.

4.2. FcPattern

An `FcPattern` is an opaque type that holds both patterns to match against the available fonts, as well as the information about each font.

FcPatternCreate

Name

FcPatternCreate — Create a pattern

Synopsis

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

```
FcPattern * FcPatternCreate(void);
```

Description

Creates a pattern with no properties; used to build patterns from scratch.

FcPatternDuplicate

Name

FcPatternDuplicate — Copy a pattern

Synopsis

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

```
FcPattern * FcPatternDuplicate(const FcPattern *p);
```

Description

Copy a pattern, returning a new pattern that matches *p*. Each pattern may be modified without affecting the other.

FcPatternReference

Name

FcPatternReference — Increment pattern reference count

Synopsis

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

void FcPatternReference(FcPattern *p);
```

Description

Add another reference to *p*. Patterns are freed only when the reference count reaches zero.

FcPatternDestroy

Name

FcPatternDestroy — Destroy a pattern

Synopsis

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

void FcPatternDestroy(FcPattern *p);
```

Description

Decrement the pattern reference count. If all references are gone, destroys the pattern, in the process destroying all related values.

FcPatternEqual

Name

FcPatternEqual — Compare patterns

Synopsis

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

FcBool FcPatternEqual(const FcPattern *pa, const FcPattern *pb);
```

Description

Returns whether *pa* and *pb* are exactly alike.

FcPatternEqualSubset

Name

FcPatternEqualSubset — Compare portions of patterns

Synopsis

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

FcBool FcPatternEqualSubset(const FcPattern *pa, const FcPattern *pb, const
FcObjectSet *os);
```

Description

Returns whether *pa* and *pb* have exactly the same values for all of the objects in *os*.

FcPatternFilter

Name

FcPatternFilter — Filter the objects of pattern

Synopsis

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

FcPattern * FcPatternFilter(FcPattern *p, const FcObjectSet *);
```

Description

Returns a new pattern that only has those objects from *p* that are in *os*. If *os* is NULL, a duplicate of *p* is returned.

FcPatternHash

Name

FcPatternHash — Compute a pattern hash value

Synopsis

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

FcChar32 FcPatternHash(const FcPattern *p);
```

Description

Returns a 32-bit number which is the same for any two patterns which are equal.

FcPatternAdd

Name

FcPatternAdd — Add a value to a pattern

Synopsis

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

```
FcBool FcPatternAdd(FcPattern *p, const char *object, FcValue value, FcBool  
append);
```

Description

Adds a single value to the list of values associated with the property named ‘object’. If ‘append’ is FcTrue, the value is added at the end of any existing list, otherwise it is inserted at the beginning. ‘value’ is saved (with FcValueSave) when inserted into the pattern so that the library retains no reference to any application-supplied data structure.

FcPatternAddWeak

Name

FcPatternAddWeak — Add a value to a pattern with weak binding

Synopsis

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

```
FcBool FcPatternAddWeak(FcPattern *p, const char *object, FcValue value,  
FcBool append);
```

Description

FcPatternAddWeak is essentially the same as FcPatternAdd except that any values added to the list have binding *weak* instead of *strong*.

FcPatternAdd-Type

Name

FcPatternAddInteger, FcPatternAddDouble, FcPatternAddString, FcPatternAddMatrix, FcPatternAddCharSet, FcPatternAddBool, FcPatternAddFTFace, FcPatternAddLangSet, FcPatternAddRange — Add a typed value to a pattern

Synopsis

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

FcBool FcPatternAddInteger(FcPattern *p, const char *object, int i);
FcBool FcPatternAddDouble(FcPattern *p, const char *object, double d);
FcBool FcPatternAddString(FcPattern *p, const char *object, const FcChar8
*s);
FcBool FcPatternAddMatrix(FcPattern *p, const char *object, const FcMatrix
*m);
FcBool FcPatternAddCharSet(FcPattern *p, const char *object, const FcCharSet
*c);
FcBool FcPatternAddBool(FcPattern *p, const char *object, FcBool b);
FcBool FcPatternAddFTFace(FcPattern *p, const char *object, const FT_Facef);
FcBool FcPatternAddLangSet(FcPattern *p, const char *object, const FcLangSet
*l);
FcBool FcPatternAddRange(FcPattern *p, const char *object, const FcRange *r);
```

Description

These are all convenience functions that insert objects of the specified type into the pattern. Use these in preference to FcPatternAdd as they will provide compile-time typechecking. These all append values to any existing list of values. FcPatternAddRange are available since 2.11.91.

FcPatternGetWithBinding

Name

FcPatternGetWithBinding — Return a value with binding from a pattern

Synopsis

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

```
FcResult FcPatternGetWithBinding(FcPattern *p, const char *object, int id,  
FcValue *v, FcValueBinding *b);
```

Description

Returns in *v* the *id*'th value and *b* binding for that associated with the property *object*. The Value returned is not a copy, but rather refers to the data stored within the pattern directly. Applications must not free this value.

Since

version 2.12.5

FcPatternGet

Name

FcPatternGet — Return a value from a pattern

Synopsis

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

```
FcResult FcPatternGet(FcPattern *p, const char *object, int id, FcValue *v);
```

Description

Returns in *v* the *id*'th value associated with the property *object*. The value returned is not a copy, but rather refers to the data stored within the pattern directly. Applications must not free this value.

FcPatternGet-Type

Name

FcPatternGetInteger, FcPatternGetDouble, FcPatternGetString, FcPatternGetMatrix, FcPatternGetCharSet, FcPatternGetBool, FcPatternGetFTFace, FcPatternGetLangSet, FcPatternGetRange — Return a typed value from a pattern

Synopsis

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

FcResult FcPatternGetInteger(FcPattern *p, const char *object, int n, int
*i);
FcResult FcPatternGetDouble(FcPattern *p, const char *object, int n, double
*d);
FcResult FcPatternGetString(FcPattern *p, const char *object, int n, FcChar8
**s);
FcResult FcPatternGetMatrix(FcPattern *p, const char *object, int n, FcMatrix
**s);
FcResult FcPatternGetCharSet(FcPattern *p, const char *object, int n,
FcCharSet **c);
FcResult FcPatternGetBool(FcPattern *p, const char *object, int n, FcBool
*b);
FcResult FcPatternGetFTFace(FcPattern *p, const char *object, int n, FT_Face
*f);
FcResult FcPatternGetLangSet(FcPattern *p, const char *object, int n,
FcLangSet **l);
FcResult FcPatternGetRange(FcPattern *p, const char *object, int n, FcRange
**r);
```

Description

These are convenience functions that call FcPatternGet and verify that the returned data is of the expected type. They return FcResultTypeMismatch if this is not the case. Note that these (like FcPatternGet) do

not make a copy of any data structure referenced by the return value. Use these in preference to `FcPatternGet` to provide compile-time typechecking. `FcPatternGetRange` are available since 2.11.91.

FcPatternBuild

Name

`FcPatternBuild`, `FcPatternVaBuild`, `FcPatternVapBuild` — Create patterns from arguments

Synopsis

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

FcPattern * FcPatternBuild(FcPattern *pattern, ...);
FcPattern * FcPatternVaBuild(FcPattern *pattern, va_list va);
void FcPatternVapBuild(FcPattern *result, FcPattern *pattern, va_list va);
```

Description

Builds a pattern using a list of objects, types and values. Each value to be entered in the pattern is specified with three arguments:

1. Object name, a string describing the property to be added.
2. Object type, one of the `FcType` enumerated values
3. Value, not an `FcValue`, but the raw type as passed to any of the `FcPatternAdd<type>` functions. Must match the type of the second argument.

The argument list is terminated by a null object name, no object type nor value need be passed for this. The values are added to ‘pattern’, if ‘pattern’ is null, a new pattern is created. In either case, the pattern is returned. Example

```
pattern = FcPatternBuild (0, FC_FAMILY, FcTypeString, "Times", (char *) 0);
```

`FcPatternVaBuild` is used when the arguments are already in the form of a varargs value. `FcPatternVapBuild` is a macro version of `FcPatternVaBuild` which returns its result directly in the *result* variable.

FcPatternDel

Name

FcPatternDel — Delete a property from a pattern

Synopsis

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

FcBool FcPatternDel(FcPattern *p, const char *object);
```

Description

Deletes all values associated with the property ‘object’, returning whether the property existed or not.

FcPatternRemove

Name

FcPatternRemove — Remove one object of the specified type from the pattern

Synopsis

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

FcBool FcPatternRemove(FcPattern *p, const char *object, int id);
```

Description

Removes the value associated with the property ‘object’ at position ‘id’, returning whether the property existed and had a value at that position or not.

FcPatternPrint

Name

FcPatternPrint — Print a pattern for debugging

Synopsis

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

void FcPatternPrint(const FcPattern *p);
```

Description

Prints an easily readable version of the pattern to stdout. There is no provision for reparsing data in this format, it's just for diagnostics and debugging.

FcDefaultSubstitute

Name

FcDefaultSubstitute — Perform default substitutions in a pattern

Synopsis

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

void FcDefaultSubstitute(FcPattern *pattern);
```

Description

Supplies default values for underspecified font patterns:

- Patterns without a specified style or weight are set to Medium

- Patterns without a specified style or slant are set to Roman
- Patterns without a specified pixel size are given one computed from any specified point size (default 12), dpi (default 75) and scale (default 1).

FcNameParse

Name

FcNameParse — Parse a pattern string

Synopsis

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

FcPattern * FcNameParse(const FcChar8 *name);
```

Description

Converts *name* from the standard text format described above into a pattern.

FcNameUnparse

Name

FcNameUnparse — Convert a pattern back into a string that can be parsed

Synopsis

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

FcChar8 * FcNameUnparse(FcPattern *pat);
```


Description

Converts the given pattern into the standard text format described above. The return value is not static, but instead refers to newly allocated memory which should be freed by the caller using `free()`.

FcPatternFormat

Name

`FcPatternFormat` — Format a pattern into a string according to a format specifier

Synopsis

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

```
FcChar8 * FcPatternFormat(FcPattern *pat, const FcChar8 *format);
```

Description

Converts given pattern *pat* into text described by the format specifier *format*. The return value refers to newly allocated memory which should be freed by the caller using `free()`, or `NULL` if *format* is invalid.

The format is loosely modeled after printf-style format string. The format string is composed of zero or more directives: ordinary characters (not "%"), which are copied unchanged to the output stream; and tags which are interpreted to construct text from the pattern in a variety of ways (explained below). Special characters can be escaped using backslash. C-string style special characters like `\n` and `\r` are also supported (this is useful when the format string is not a C string literal). It is advisable to always escape curly braces that are meant to be copied to the output as ordinary characters.

Each tag is introduced by the character "%", followed by an optional minimum field width, followed by tag contents in curly braces (`{ }`). If the minimum field width value is provided the tag will be expanded and the result padded to achieve the minimum width. If the minimum field width is positive, the padding will right-align the text. Negative field width will left-align. The rest of this section describes various supported tag contents and their expansion.

A *simple* tag is one where the content is an identifier. When simple tags are expanded, the named identifier will be looked up in *pattern* and the resulting list of values returned, joined together using

comma. For example, to print the family name and style of the pattern, use the format "%{family} %{style}\n". To extend the family column to forty characters use "%-40{family} %{style}\n".

Simple tags expand to list of all values for an element. To only choose one of the values, one can index using the syntax "%{elt[idx]}". For example, to get the first family name only, use "%{family[0]}".

If a simple tag ends with "=" and the element is found in the pattern, the name of the element followed by "=" will be output before the list of values. For example, "%{weight=}" may expand to the string "weight=80". Or to the empty string if *pattern* does not have weight set.

If a simple tag starts with ":" and the element is found in the pattern, ":" will be printed first. For example, combining this with the =, the format "%{:weight=}" may expand to ":weight=80" or to the empty string if *pattern* does not have weight set.

If a simple tag contains the string ":-", the rest of the the tag contents will be used as a default string. The default string is output if the element is not found in the pattern. For example, the format "%{:weight=:-123}" may expand to ":weight=80" or to the string ":weight=123" if *pattern* does not have weight set.

A *count* tag is one that starts with the character "#" followed by an element name, and expands to the number of values for the element in the pattern. For example, "%{#family}" expands to the number of family names *pattern* has set, which may be zero.

A *sub-expression* tag is one that expands a sub-expression. The tag contents are the sub-expression to expand placed inside another set of curly braces. Sub-expression tags are useful for aligning an entire sub-expression, or to apply converters (explained later) to the entire sub-expression output. For example, the format "%40{ %{family} %{style} }" expands the sub-expression to construct the family name followed by the style, then takes the entire string and pads it on the left to be at least forty characters.

A *filter-out* tag is one starting with the character "-" followed by a comma-separated list of element names, followed by a sub-expression enclosed in curly braces. The sub-expression will be expanded but with a pattern that has the listed elements removed from it. For example, the format "%{-size,pixelsize{sub-expr}}" will expand "sub-expr" with *pattern* sans the size and pixelsize elements.

A *filter-in* tag is one starting with the character "+" followed by a comma-separated list of element names, followed by a sub-expression enclosed in curly braces. The sub-expression will be expanded but with a pattern that only has the listed elements from the surrounding pattern. For example, the format "%{+family,familylang{sub-expr}}" will expand "sub-expr" with a sub-pattern consisting only the family and family lang elements of *pattern*.

A *conditional* tag is one starting with the character "?" followed by a comma-separated list of element conditions, followed by two sub-expression enclosed in curly braces. An element condition can be an

element name, in which case it tests whether the element is defined in pattern, or the character "!" followed by an element name, in which case the test is negated. The conditional passes if all the element conditions pass. The tag expands the first sub-expression if the conditional passes, and expands the second sub-expression otherwise. For example, the format "%{?size,dpi,!pixelsize{pass}{fail}}" will expand to "pass" if *pattern* has size and dpi elements but no pixelsize element, and to "fail" otherwise.

An *enumerate* tag is one starting with the string "[]" followed by a comma-separated list of element names, followed by a sub-expression enclosed in curly braces. The list of values for the named elements are walked in parallel and the sub-expression expanded each time with a pattern just having a single value for those elements, starting from the first value and continuing as long as any of those elements has a value. For example, the format "%{[]family,familylang{%{family} (%{familylang})\n}}" will expand the pattern "%{family} (%{familylang})\n" with a pattern having only the first value of the family and familylang elements, then expands it with the second values, then the third, etc.

As a special case, if an enumerate tag has only one element, and that element has only one value in the pattern, and that value is of type FcLangSet, the individual languages in the language set are enumerated.

A *builtin* tag is one starting with the character "=" followed by a builtin name. The following builtins are defined:

unparse

Expands to the result of calling FcNameUnparse() on the pattern.

fcmatch

Expands to the output of the default output format of the fc-match command on the pattern, without the final newline.

fclist

Expands to the output of the default output format of the fc-list command on the pattern, without the final newline.

fccat

Expands to the output of the default output format of the fc-cat command on the pattern, without the final newline.

pkgkit

Expands to the list of PackageKit font() tags for the pattern. Currently this includes tags for each family name, and each language from the pattern, enumerated and sanitized into a set of tags terminated by newline. Package management systems can use these tags to tag their packages accordingly.

For example, the format "%{+family,style{%{=unparse}}}\n" will expand to an unparsed name containing only the family and style element values from *pattern*.

The contents of any tag can be followed by a set of zero or more *converters*. A converter is specified by the character "l" followed by the converter name and arguments. The following converters are defined:

basename

Replaces text with the results of calling `FcStrBasename()` on it.

dirname

Replaces text with the results of calling `FcStrDirname()` on it.

downcase

Replaces text with the results of calling `FcStrDowncase()` on it.

shescape

Escapes text for one level of shell expansion. (Escapes single-quotes, also encloses text in single-quotes.)

cescape

Escapes text such that it can be used as part of a C string literal. (Escapes backslash and double-quotes.)

xmlescape

Escapes text such that it can be used in XML and HTML. (Escapes less-than, greater-than, and ampersand.)

delete(*chars*)

Deletes all occurrences of each of the characters in *chars* from the text. **FIXME:** This converter is not UTF-8 aware yet.

escape(*chars*)

Escapes all occurrences of each of the characters in *chars* by prepending it by the first character in *chars*. **FIXME:** This converter is not UTF-8 aware yet.

translate(*from,to*)

Translates all occurrences of each of the characters in *from* by replacing them with their corresponding character in *to*. If *to* has fewer characters than *from*, it will be extended by repeating its last character. **FIXME:** This converter is not UTF-8 aware yet.

For example, the format "%{family}downcaseldeldelete()\n" will expand to the values of the family element in *pattern*, lower-cased and with spaces removed.

Since

version 2.9.0

4.3. FcFontSet

An FcFontSet simply holds a list of patterns; these are used to return the results of listing available fonts.

FcFontSetCreate

Name

FcFontSetCreate — Create a font set

Synopsis

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

FcFontSet * FcFontSetCreate(void);
```

Description

Creates an empty font set.

FcFontSetDestroy

Name

FcFontSetDestroy — Destroy a font set

Synopsis

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

void FcFontSetDestroy(FcFontSet *s);
```

Description

Destroys a font set. Note that this destroys any referenced patterns as well.

FcFontSetAdd

Name

FcFontSetAdd — Add to a font set

Synopsis

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

FcBool FcFontSetAdd(FcFontSet *s, FcPattern *font);
```

Description

Adds a pattern to a font set. Note that the pattern is not copied before being inserted into the set. Returns FcFalse if the pattern cannot be inserted into the set (due to allocation failure). Otherwise returns FcTrue.

FcFontSetList

Name

FcFontSetList — List fonts from a set of font sets

Synopsis

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

FcFontSet * FcFontSetList(FcConfig *config, FcFontSet **sets, int nsets,
FcPattern *pattern, FcObjectSet *object_set);
```

Description

Selects fonts matching *pattern* from *sets*, creates patterns from those fonts containing only the objects in *object_set* and returns the set of unique such patterns. If *config* is NULL, the default configuration is checked to be up to date, and used.

FcFontSetMatch

Name

FcFontSetMatch — Return the best font from a set of font sets

Synopsis

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

FcPattern * FcFontSetMatch(FcConfig *config, FcFontSet **sets, int nsets,
FcPattern *pattern, FcResult *result);
```

Description

Finds the font in *sets* most closely matching *pattern* and returns the result of FcFontRenderPrepare for that font and the provided pattern. This function should be called only after FcConfigSubstitute and FcDefaultSubstitute have been called for *pattern*; otherwise the results will not be correct. If *config* is NULL, the current configuration is used. Returns NULL if an error occurs during this process.

FcFontSetPrint

Name

FcFontSetPrint — Print a set of patterns to stdout

Synopsis

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

void FcFontSetPrint(FcFontSet *set);
```

Description

This function is useful for diagnosing font related issues, printing the complete contents of every pattern in *set*. The format of the output is designed to be of help to users and developers, and may change at any time.

FcFontSetSort

Name

FcFontSetSort — Add to a font set

Synopsis

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

FcFontSetSort(FcConfig *config, FcFontSet **sets, int nsets, FcPattern
*pattern, FcBool trim, FcCharSet **csp, FcResult *result);
```

Description

Returns the list of fonts from *sets* sorted by closeness to *pattern*. If *trim* is FcTrue, elements in the list which don't include Unicode coverage not provided by earlier elements in the list are elided. The union of Unicode coverage of all of the fonts is returned in *csp*, if *csp* is not NULL. This function should be called only after FcConfigSubstitute and FcDefaultSubstitute have been called for *p*; otherwise the results will not be correct.

The returned FcFontSet references FcPattern structures which may be shared by the return value from multiple FcFontSort calls, applications cannot modify these patterns. Instead, they should be passed, along with *pattern* to FcFontRenderPrepare which combines them into a complete pattern.

The `FcFontSet` returned by `FcFontSetSort` is destroyed by calling `FcFontSetDestroy`.

FcFontSetSortDestroy

Name

`FcFontSetSortDestroy` — DEPRECATED destroy a font set

Synopsis

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

```
FcFontSetSortDestroy(FcFontSet *set);
```

Description

This function is DEPRECATED. `FcFontSetSortDestroy` destroys `set` by calling `FcFontSetDestroy`. Applications should use `FcFontSetDestroy` directly instead.

4.4. FcObjectSet

An `FcObjectSet` holds a list of pattern property names; it is used to indicate which properties are to be returned in the patterns from `FcFontList`.

FcObjectSetCreate

Name

`FcObjectSetCreate` — Create an object set

Synopsis

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

FcObjectSet * FcObjectSetCreate(void);
```

Description

Creates an empty set.

FcObjectSetAdd

Name

FcObjectSetAdd — Add to an object set

Synopsis

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

FcBool FcObjectSetAdd(FcObjectSet *os, const char *object);
```

Description

Adds a property name to the set. Returns FcFalse if the property name cannot be inserted into the set (due to allocation failure). Otherwise returns FcTrue.

FcObjectSetDestroy

Name

FcObjectSetDestroy — Destroy an object set

Synopsis

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

void FcObjectSetDestroy(FcObjectSet *os);
```

Description

Destroys an object set.

FcObjectSetBuild

Name

`FcObjectSetBuild`, `FcObjectSetVaBuild`, `FcObjectSetVapBuild` — Build object set from args

Synopsis

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

FcObjectSet * FcObjectSetBuild(const char *first, ...);
FcObjectSet * FcObjectSetVaBuild(const char *first, va_list va);
void FcObjectSetVapBuild(FcObjectSet *result, const char *first, va_list va);
```

Description

These build an object set from a null-terminated list of property names. `FcObjectSetVapBuild` is a macro version of `FcObjectSetVaBuild` which returns the result in the *result* variable directly.

4.5. FreeType specific functions

While the fontconfig library doesn't insist that FreeType be used as the rasterization mechanism for fonts, it does provide some convenience functions.

FcFreeTypeCharIndex

Name

FcFreeTypeCharIndex — map Unicode to glyph id

Synopsis

```
#include <fontconfig.h>
#include <fcfreetype.h>

FT_UInt FcFreeTypeCharIndex(FT_Face face, FcChar32 ucs4);
```

Description

Maps a Unicode char to a glyph index. This function uses information from several possible underlying encoding tables to work around broken fonts. As a result, this function isn't designed to be used in performance sensitive areas; results from this function are intended to be cached by higher level functions.

FcFreeTypeCharSet

Name

FcFreeTypeCharSet — compute Unicode coverage

Synopsis

```
#include <fontconfig.h>
#include <fcfreetype.h>

FcCharSet * FcFreeTypeCharSet(FT_Face face, FcBlanks *blanks);
```

Description

Scans a FreeType face and returns the set of encoded Unicode chars. This scans several encoding tables to build as complete a list as possible. If 'blanks' is not 0, the glyphs in the font are examined and any blank glyphs not in 'blanks' are not placed in the returned FcCharSet.

FcFreeTypeCharSetAndSpacing

Name

FcFreeTypeCharSetAndSpacing — compute Unicode coverage and spacing type

Synopsis

```
#include <fontconfig.h>
#include <fcfreetype.h>
```

```
FcCharSet * FcFreeTypeCharSetAndSpacing(FT_Face face, FcBlanks *blanks, int
*spacing);
```

Description

Scans a FreeType face and returns the set of encoded Unicode chars. This scans several encoding tables to build as complete a list as possible. If 'blanks' is not 0, the glyphs in the font are examined and any blank glyphs not in 'blanks' are not placed in the returned FcCharSet. *spacing* receives the computed spacing type of the font, one of FC_MONO for a font where all glyphs have the same width, FC_DUAL, where the font has glyphs in precisely two widths, one twice as wide as the other, or FC_PROPORTIONAL where the font has glyphs of many widths.

FcFreeTypeQuery

Name

FcFreeTypeQuery — compute pattern from font file (and index)

Synopsis

```
#include <fontconfig.h>
#include <fcfreetype.h>
```

```
FcPattern * FcFreeTypeQuery(const FcChar8 *file, int id, FcBlanks *blanks,
int *count);
```

Description

Constructs a pattern representing the 'id'th font in 'file'. The number of fonts in 'file' is returned in 'count'.

FcFreeTypeQueryFace

Name

FcFreeTypeQueryFace — compute pattern from FT_Face

Synopsis

```
#include <fontconfig.h>
#include <fcfreetype.h>
```

```
FcPattern * FcFreeTypeQueryFace(const FT_Face face, const FcChar8 *file, int
id, FcBlanks *blanks);
```

Description

Constructs a pattern representing 'face'. 'file' and 'id' are used solely as data for pattern elements (FC_FILE, FC_INDEX and sometimes FC_FAMILY).

4.6. FcValue

FcValue is a structure containing a type tag and a union of all possible datatypes. The tag is an enum of type *FcType* and is intended to provide a measure of run-time typechecking, although that depends on careful programming.

FcValueDestroy

Name

FcValueDestroy — Free a value

Synopsis

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

void FcValueDestroy(FcValue v);
```

Description

Frees any memory referenced by *v*. Values of type FcTypeString, FcTypeMatrix and FcTypeCharSet reference memory, the other types do not.

FcValueSave

Name

FcValueSave — Copy a value

Synopsis

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

FcValue FcValueSave(FcValue v);
```

Description

Returns a copy of *v* duplicating any object referenced by it so that *v* may be safely destroyed without harming the new value.

FcValuePrint

Name

`FcValuePrint` — Print a value to stdout

Synopsis

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

void FcValuePrint(FcValue v);
```

Description

Prints a human-readable representation of *v* to stdout. The format should not be considered part of the library specification as it may change in the future.

FcValueEqual

Name

FcValueEqual — Test two values for equality

Synopsis

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

FcBool FcValueEqual(FcValue v_a, FcValue v_b);
```

Description

Compares two values. Integers and Doubles are compared as numbers; otherwise the two values have to be the same type to be considered equal. Strings are compared ignoring case.

4.7. FcCharSet

An FcCharSet is a boolean array indicating a set of Unicode chars. Those associated with a font are marked constant and cannot be edited. FcCharSets may be reference counted internally to reduce memory consumption; this may be visible to applications as the result of FcCharSetCopy may return it's argument, and that CharSet may remain unmodifiable.

FcCharSetCreate

Name

FcCharSetCreate — Create an empty character set

Synopsis

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

FcCharSet * FcCharSetCreate(void);
```

Description

`FcCharSetCreate` allocates and initializes a new empty character set object.

FcCharSetDestroy

Name

`FcCharSetDestroy` — Destroy a character set

Synopsis

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

void FcCharSetDestroy(FcCharSet *fcs);
```

Description

`FcCharSetDestroy` decrements the reference count *fcs*. If the reference count becomes zero, all memory referenced is freed.

FcCharSetAddChar

Name

`FcCharSetAddChar` — Add a character to a charset

Synopsis

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

```
FcBool FcCharSetAddChar(FcCharSet *fcs, FcChar32 ucs4);
```

Description

`FcCharSetAddChar` adds a single Unicode char to the set, returning `FcFalse` on failure, either as a result of a constant set or from running out of memory.

FcCharSetDelChar

Name

`FcCharSetDelChar` — Add a character to a charset

Synopsis

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

```
FcBool FcCharSetDelChar(FcCharSet *fcs, FcChar32 ucs4);
```

Description

`FcCharSetDelChar` deletes a single Unicode char from the set, returning `FcFalse` on failure, either as a result of a constant set or from running out of memory.

Since

version 2.9.0

FcCharSetCopy

Name

FcCharSetCopy — Copy a charset

Synopsis

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

FcCharSet * FcCharSetCopy(FcCharSet *src);
```

Description

Makes a copy of *src*; note that this may not actually do anything more than increment the reference count on *src*.

FcCharSetEqual

Name

FcCharSetEqual — Compare two charsets

Synopsis

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

FcBool FcCharSetEqual(const FcCharSet *a, const FcCharSet *b);
```

Description

Returns whether *a* and *b* contain the same set of Unicode chars.

FcCharSetIntersect

Name

FcCharSetIntersect — Intersect charsets

Synopsis

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

FcCharSet * FcCharSetIntersect(const FcCharSet *a, const FcCharSet *b);
```

Description

Returns a set including only those chars found in both *a* and *b*.

FcCharSetUnion

Name

FcCharSetUnion — Add charsets

Synopsis

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

FcCharSet * FcCharSetUnion(const FcCharSet *a, const FcCharSet *b);
```

Description

Returns a set including only those chars found in either *a* or *b*.

FcCharSetSubtract

Name

FcCharSetSubtract — Subtract charsets

Synopsis

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

FcCharSet * FcCharSetSubtract(const FcCharSet *a, const FcCharSet *b);
```

Description

Returns a set including only those chars found in *a* but not *b*.

FcCharSetMerge

Name

FcCharSetMerge — Merge charsets

Synopsis

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

FcBool FcCharSetMerge(FcCharSet *a, const FcCharSet *b, FcBool *changed);
```

Description

Adds all chars in *b* to *a*. In other words, this is an in-place version of FcCharSetUnion. If *changed* is not NULL, then it returns whether any new chars from *b* were added to *a*. Returns FcFalse on failure, either when *a* is a constant set or from running out of memory.

FcCharSetHasChar

Name

FcCharSetHasChar — Check a charset for a char

Synopsis

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

```
FcBool FcCharSetHasChar(const FcCharSet *fcs, FcChar32 ucs4);
```

Description

Returns whether *fcs* contains the char *ucs4*.

FcCharSetCount

Name

FcCharSetCount — Count entries in a charset

Synopsis

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

```
FcChar32 FcCharSetCount(const FcCharSet *a);
```

Description

Returns the total number of Unicode chars in *a*.

FcCharSetIntersectCount

Name

FcCharSetIntersectCount — Intersect and count charsets

Synopsis

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

```
FcChar32 FcCharSetIntersectCount(const FcCharSet *a, const FcCharSet *b);
```

Description

Returns the number of chars that are in both *a* and *b*.

FcCharSetSubtractCount

Name

FcCharSetSubtractCount — Subtract and count charsets

Synopsis

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

```
FcChar32 FcCharSetSubtractCount(const FcCharSet *a, const FcCharSet *b);
```

Description

Returns the number of chars that are in *a* but not in *b*.

FcCharSetIsSubset

Name

FcCharSetIsSubset — Test for charset inclusion

Synopsis

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

```
FcBool FcCharSetIsSubset(const FcCharSet *a, const FcCharSet *b);
```

Description

Returns whether *a* is a subset of *b*.

FcCharSetFirstPage

Name

FcCharSetFirstPage — Start enumerating charset contents

Synopsis

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

```
FcChar32 FcCharSetFirstPage(const FcCharSet *a, FcChar32[FC_CHARSET_MAP_SIZE]  
map, FcChar32 *next);
```

Description

Builds an array of bits in *map* marking the first page of Unicode coverage of *a*. **next* is set to contains the base code point for the next page in *a*. Returns the base code point for the page, or `FC_CHARSET_DONE` if *a* contains no pages. As an example, if `FcCharSetFirstPage` returns `0x300` and fills *map* with

```
0xffffffff 0xffffffff 0x01000008 0x44300002 0xffffd7f0 0xffffffffb 0xfffff7fff 0xffff0003
```

Then the page contains code points `0x300` through `0x33f` (the first 64 code points on the page) because *map*[0] and *map*[1] both have all their bits set. It also contains code points `0x343` ($0x300 + 32*2 + (4-1)$) and `0x35e` ($0x300 + 32*2 + (31-1)$) because *map*[2] has the 4th and 31st bits set. The code points represented by *map*[3] and later are left as an exercise for the reader ;).

FcCharSetNextPage

Name

`FcCharSetNextPage` — Continue enumerating charset contents

Synopsis

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

```
FcChar32 FcCharSetNextPage(const FcCharSet *a, FcChar32[FC_CHARSET_MAP_SIZE]
map, FcChar32 *next);
```

Description

Builds an array of bits in *map* marking the Unicode coverage of *a* for page containing **next* (see the `FcCharSetFirstPage` description for details). **next* is set to contains the base code point for the next page in *a*. Returns the base of code point for the page, or `FC_CHARSET_DONE` if *a* does not contain **next*.

FcCharSetCoverage

Name

FcCharSetCoverage — DEPRECATED return coverage for a Unicode page

Synopsis

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

```
FcChar32 FcCharSetCoverage(const FcCharSet *a, FcChar32 page,  
FcChar32[8] result);
```

Description

DEPRECATED This function returns a bitmask in *result* which indicates which code points in *page* are included in *a*. FcCharSetCoverage returns the next page in the charset which has any coverage.

FcCharSetNew

Name

FcCharSetNew — DEPRECATED alias for FcCharSetCreate

Synopsis

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

```
FcCharSet * FcCharSetNew(void);
```

Description

FcCharSetNew is a DEPRECATED alias for FcCharSetCreate.

4.8. FcLangSet

An FcLangSet is a set of language names (each of which include language and an optional territory). They are used when selecting fonts to indicate which languages the fonts need to support. Each font is marked, using language orthography information built into fontconfig, with the set of supported languages.

FcLangSetCreate

Name

FcLangSetCreate — create a langset object

Synopsis

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

FcLangSet * FcLangSetCreate(void);
```

Description

FcLangSetCreate creates a new FcLangSet object.

FcLangSetDestroy

Name

FcLangSetDestroy — destroy a langset object

Synopsis

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

void FcLangSetDestroy(FcLangSet *ls);
```

Description

`FcLangSetDestroy` destroys a `FcLangSet` object, freeing all memory associated with it.

FcLangSetCopy

Name

`FcLangSetCopy` — copy a langset object

Synopsis

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

FcLangSet * FcLangSetCopy(const FcLangSet *ls);
```

Description

`FcLangSetCopy` creates a new `FcLangSet` object and populates it with the contents of `ls`.

FcLangSetAdd

Name

`FcLangSetAdd` — add a language to a langset

Synopsis

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

FcBool FcLangSetAdd(FcLangSet *ls, const FcChar8 *lang);
```

Description

lang is added to *ls*. *lang* should be of the form Ll-Tt where Ll is a two or three letter language from ISO 639 and Tt is a territory from ISO 3166.

FcLangSetDel

Name

FcLangSetDel — delete a language from a langset

Synopsis

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

```
FcBool FcLangSetDel(FcLangSet *ls, const FcChar8 *lang);
```

Description

lang is removed from *ls*. *lang* should be of the form Ll-Tt where Ll is a two or three letter language from ISO 639 and Tt is a territory from ISO 3166.

Since

version 2.9.0

FcLangSetUnion

Name

FcLangSetUnion — Add langsets

Synopsis

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

```
FcLangSet * FcLangSetUnion(const FcLangSet *ls_a, const FcLangSet *ls_b);
```

Description

Returns a set including only those languages found in either *ls_a* or *ls_b*.

Since

version 2.9.0

FcLangSetSubtract

Name

FcLangSetSubtract — Subtract langsets

Synopsis

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

```
FcLangSet * FcLangSetSubtract(const FcLangSet *ls_a, const FcLangSet *ls_b);
```

Description

Returns a set including only those languages found in *ls_a* but not in *ls_b*.

Since

version 2.9.0

FcLangSetCompare

Name

FcLangSetCompare — compare language sets

Synopsis

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

```
FcLangResult FcLangSetCompare(const FcLangSet *ls_a, const FcLangSet *ls_b);
```

Description

FcLangSetCompare compares language coverage for *ls_a* and *ls_b*. If they share any language and territory pair, this function returns FcLangEqual. If they share a language but differ in which territory that language is for, this function returns FcLangDifferentTerritory. If they share no languages in common, this function returns FcLangDifferentLang.

FcLangSetContains

Name

FcLangSetContains — check langset subset relation

Synopsis

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

```
FcBool FcLangSetContains(const FcLangSet *ls_a, const FcLangSet *ls_b);
```


Description

`FcLangSetContains` returns `FcTrue` if `ls_a` contains every language in `ls_b`. `ls_a` will 'contain' a language from `ls_b` if `ls_a` has exactly the language, or either the language or `ls_a` has no territory.

FcLangSetEqual

Name

`FcLangSetEqual` — test for matching langsets

Synopsis

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

```
FcBool FcLangSetEqual(const FcLangSet *ls_a, const FcLangSet *ls_b);
```

Description

Returns `FcTrue` if and only if `ls_a` supports precisely the same language and territory combinations as `ls_b`.

FcLangSetHash

Name

`FcLangSetHash` — return a hash value for a langset

Synopsis

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

```
FcChar32 FcLangSetHash(const FcLangSet *ls);
```

Description

This function returns a value which depends solely on the languages supported by *ls*. Any language which equals *ls* will have the same result from `FcLangSetHash`. However, two langsets with the same hash value may not be equal.

FcLangSetHasLang

Name

`FcLangSetHasLang` — test langset for language support

Synopsis

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

```
FcLangResult FcLangSetHasLang(const FcLangSet *ls, const FcChar8 *lang);
```

Description

`FcLangSetHasLang` checks whether *ls* supports *lang*. If *ls* has a matching language and territory pair, this function returns `FcLangEqual`. If *ls* has a matching language but differs in which territory that language is for, this function returns `FcLangDifferentTerritory`. If *ls* has no matching language, this function returns `FcLangDifferentLang`.

FcGetDefaultLangs

Name

`FcGetDefaultLangs` — Get the default languages list

Synopsis

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

FcStrSet * FcGetDefaultLangs(void);
```

Description

Returns a string set of the default languages according to the environment variables on the system. This function looks for them in order of FC_LANG, LC_ALL, LC_CTYPE and LANG then. If there are no valid values in those environment variables, "en" will be set as fallback.

Since

version 2.9.91

FcLangSetGetLangs

Name

FcLangSetGetLangs — get the list of languages in the langset

Synopsis

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

FcStrSet * FcLangSetGetLangs(const FcLangSet *ls);
```

Description

Returns a string set of all languages in *langset*.

FcGetLangs

Name

FcGetLangs — Get list of languages

Synopsis

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

```
FcStrSet * FcGetLangs(void);
```

Description

Returns a string set of all known languages.

FcLangNormalize

Name

FcLangNormalize — Normalize the language string

Synopsis

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

```
FcChar8 * FcLangNormalize(const FcChar8 *lang);
```

Description

Returns a string to make *lang* suitable on fontconfig.

Since

version 2.10.91

FcLangGetCharSet

Name

FcLangGetCharSet — Get character map for a language

Synopsis

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

const FcCharSet * FcLangGetCharSet(const FcChar8 *lang);
```

Description

Returns the FcCharMap for a language.

4.9. FcMatrix

FcMatrix structures hold an affine transformation in matrix form.

FcMatrixInit

Name

FcMatrixInit — initialize an FcMatrix structure

Synopsis

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

void FcMatrixInit(FcMatrix *matrix);
```

Description

`FcMatrixInit` initializes *matrix* to the identity matrix.

FcMatrixCopy

Name

`FcMatrixCopy` — Copy a matrix

Synopsis

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

void FcMatrixCopy(const FcMatrix *matrix);
```

Description

`FcMatrixCopy` allocates a new `FcMatrix` and copies *mat* into it.

FcMatrixEqual

Name

`FcMatrixEqual` — Compare two matrices

Synopsis

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

void FcMatrixEqual(const FcMatrix *matrix1, const FcMatrix *matrix2);
```

Description

`FcMatrixEqual` compares *matrix1* and *matrix2* returning `FcTrue` when they are equal and `FcFalse` when they are not.

FcMatrixMultiply

Name

`FcMatrixMultiply` — Multiply matrices

Synopsis

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

void FcMatrixMultiply(FcMatrix *result, const FcMatrix *matrix1, const
FcMatrix *matrix2);
```

Description

`FcMatrixMultiply` multiplies *matrix1* and *matrix2* storing the result in *result*.

FcMatrixRotate

Name

FcMatrixRotate — Rotate a matrix

Synopsis

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

void FcMatrixRotate(FcMatrix *matrix, double cos, double sin);
```

Description

FcMatrixRotate rotates *matrix* by the angle whose sine is *sin* and cosine is *cos*. This is done by multiplying by the matrix:

$$\begin{pmatrix} \cos & -\sin \\ \sin & \cos \end{pmatrix}$$

FcMatrixScale

Name

FcMatrixScale — Scale a matrix

Synopsis

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

void FcMatrixScale(FcMatrix *matrix, double sx, double dy);
```


Description

`FcMatrixScale` multiplies *matrix* x values by *sx* and y values by *dy*. This is done by multiplying by the matrix:

```
sx  0
0   dy
```

FcMatrixShear

Name

`FcMatrixShear` — Shear a matrix

Synopsis

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

void FcMatrixShear(FcMatrix *matrix, double sh, double sv);
```

Description

`FcMatrixShare` shears *matrix* horizontally by *sh* and vertically by *sv*. This is done by multiplying by the matrix:

```
1  sh
sv 1
```

4.10. FcRange

An `FcRange` holds two variables to indicate a range in between.

FcRangeCopy

Name

FcRangeCopy — Copy a range object

Synopsis

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

FcRange * FcRangeCopy(const FcRange *range);
```

Description

FcRangeCopy creates a new FcRange object and populates it with the contents of *range*.

Since

version 2.11.91

FcRangeCreateDouble

Name

FcRangeCreateDouble — create a range object for double

Synopsis

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

FcRange * FcRangeCreateDouble(doublebegin, doubleend);
```

Description

`FcRangeCreateDouble` creates a new `FcRange` object with double sized value.

Since

version 2.11.91

FcRangeCreateInteger

Name

`FcRangeCreateInteger` — create a range object for integer

Synopsis

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

```
FcRange * FcRangeCreateInteger(intbegin, intend);
```

Description

`FcRangeCreateInteger` creates a new `FcRange` object with integer sized value.

Since

version 2.11.91

FcRangeDestroy

Name

FcRangeDestroy — destroy a range object

Synopsis

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

void FcRangeDestroy(FcRange *range);
```

Description

FcRangeDestroy destroys a FcRange object, freeing all memory associated with it.

Since

version 2.11.91

FcRangeGetDouble

Name

FcRangeGetDouble — Get the range in double

Synopsis

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

FcBool FcRangeGetDouble(const FcRange *range, double *begin, double *end);
```

Description

Returns in *begin* and *end* as the range.

Since

version 2.11.91

4.11. FcConfig

An FcConfig object holds the internal representation of a configuration. There is a default configuration which applications may use by passing 0 to any function using the data within an FcConfig.

FcConfigCreate

Name

FcConfigCreate — Create a configuration

Synopsis

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

FcConfig * FcConfigCreate(void);
```

Description

Creates an empty configuration.

FcConfigReference

Name

FcConfigReference — Increment config reference count

Synopsis

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

FcConfig * FcConfigReference(FcConfig *config);
```

Description

Add another reference to *config*. Configs are freed only when the reference count reaches zero. If *config* is NULL, the current configuration is used. In that case this function will be similar to FcConfigGetCurrent() except that it increments the reference count before returning and the user is responsible for destroying the configuration when not needed anymore.

FcConfigDestroy

Name

FcConfigDestroy — Destroy a configuration

Synopsis

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

void FcConfigDestroy(FcConfig *config);
```

Description

Decrements the config reference count. If all references are gone, destroys the configuration and any data associated with it. Note that calling this function with the return from `FcConfigGetCurrent` will cause a new configuration to be created for use as current configuration.

FcConfigSetCurrent

Name

`FcConfigSetCurrent` — Set configuration as default

Synopsis

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

FcBool FcConfigSetCurrent(FcConfig *config);
```

Description

Sets the current default configuration to *config*. Implicitly calls `FcConfigBuildFonts` if necessary, and `FcConfigReference()` to increase the reference count in *config* since 2.12.0, returning `FcFalse` if that call fails.

FcConfigGetCurrent

Name

`FcConfigGetCurrent` — Return current configuration

Synopsis

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

```
FcConfig * FcConfigGetCurrent (void);
```

Description

Returns the current default configuration.

FcConfigUptoDate

Name

FcConfigUptoDate — Check timestamps on config files

Synopsis

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

```
FcBool FcConfigUptoDate (FcConfig *config);
```

Description

Checks all of the files related to *config* and returns whether any of them has been modified since the configuration was created. If *config* is NULL, the current configuration is used.

FcConfigHome

Name

FcConfigHome — return the current home directory.

Synopsis

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

FcChar8 * FcConfigHome(void);
```

Description

Return the current user's home directory, if it is available, and if using it is enabled, and NULL otherwise. See also `FcConfigEnableHome`).

FcConfigEnableHome

Name

`FcConfigEnableHome` — controls use of the home directory.

Synopsis

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

FcBool FcConfigEnableHome(FcBool enable);
```

Description

If *enable* is `FcTrue`, then Fontconfig will use various files which are specified relative to the user's home directory (using the `~` notation in the configuration). When *enable* is `FcFalse`, then all use of the home directory in these contexts will be disabled. The previous setting of the value is returned.

FcConfigBuildFonts

Name

FcConfigBuildFonts — Build font database

Synopsis

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

FcBool FcConfigBuildFonts(FcConfig *config);
```

Description

Builds the set of available fonts for the given configuration. Note that any changes to the configuration after this call have indeterminate effects. Returns FcFalse if this operation runs out of memory. If *config* is NULL, the current configuration is used.

FcConfigGetConfigDirs

Name

FcConfigGetConfigDirs — Get config directories

Synopsis

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

FcStrList * FcConfigGetConfigDirs(FcConfig *config);
```

Description

Returns the list of font directories specified in the configuration files for *config*. Does not include any subdirectories. If *config* is NULL, the current configuration is used.

FcConfigGetFontDirs

Name

FcConfigGetFontDirs — Get font directories

Synopsis

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

FcStrList * FcConfigGetFontDirs(FcConfig *config);
```

Description

Returns the list of font directories in *config*. This includes the configured font directories along with any directories below those in the filesystem. If *config* is NULL, the current configuration is used.

FcConfigGetConfigFiles

Name

FcConfigGetConfigFiles — Get config files

Synopsis

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

FcStrList * FcConfigGetConfigFiles(FcConfig *config);
```

Description

Returns the list of known configuration files used to generate *config*. If *config* is NULL, the current configuration is used.

FcConfigGetCache

Name

FcConfigGetCache — DEPRECATED used to return per-user cache filename

Synopsis

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

FcChar8 * FcConfigGetCache(FcConfig *config);
```

Description

With fontconfig no longer using per-user cache files, this function now simply returns NULL to indicate that no per-user file exists.

FcConfigGetCacheDirs

Name

FcConfigGetCacheDirs — return the list of directories searched for cache files

Synopsis

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

FcStrList * FcConfigGetCacheDirs(const FcConfig *config);
```

Description

`FcConfigGetCacheDirs` returns a string list containing all of the directories that fontconfig will search when attempting to load a cache file for a font directory. If `config` is `NULL`, the current configuration is used.

FcConfigGetFonts

Name

`FcConfigGetFonts` — Get config font set

Synopsis

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

FcFontSet * FcConfigGetFonts(FcConfig *config, FcSetName set);
```

Description

Returns one of the two sets of fonts from the configuration as specified by *set*. This font set is owned by the library and must not be modified or freed. If *config* is `NULL`, the current configuration is used.

FcConfigGetBlanks

Name

`FcConfigGetBlanks` — Get config blanks

Synopsis

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

FcBlanks * FcConfigGetBlanks (FcConfig *config);
```

Description

Returns the FcBlanks object associated with the given configuration, if no blanks were present in the configuration, this function will return 0. The returned FcBlanks object if not NULL, is valid as long as the owning FcConfig is alive. If *config* is NULL, the current configuration is used.

FcConfigGetRescanInterval

Name

FcConfigGetRescanInterval — Get config rescan interval

Synopsis

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

int FcConfigGetRescanInterval (FcConfig *config);
```

Description

Returns the interval between automatic checks of the configuration (in seconds) specified in *config*. The configuration is checked during a call to FcFontList when this interval has passed since the last check. An interval setting of zero disables automatic checks. If *config* is NULL, the current configuration is used.

FcConfigSetRescanInterval

Name

FcConfigSetRescanInterval — Set config rescan interval

Synopsis

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

FcBool FcConfigSetRescanInterval(FcConfig *config, int rescanInterval);
```

Description

Sets the rescan interval. Returns FcFalse if the interval cannot be set (due to allocation failure). Otherwise returns FcTrue. An interval setting of zero disables automatic checks. If *config* is NULL, the current configuration is used.

FcConfigAppFontAddFile

Name

FcConfigAppFontAddFile — Add font file to font database

Synopsis

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

FcBool FcConfigAppFontAddFile(FcConfig *config, const FcChar8 *file);
```

Description

Adds an application-specific font to the configuration. Returns `FcFalse` if the fonts cannot be added (due to allocation failure or no fonts found). Otherwise returns `FcTrue`. If `config` is `NULL`, the current configuration is used.

FcConfigAppFontAddDir

Name

`FcConfigAppFontAddDir` — Add fonts from directory to font database

Synopsis

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

```
FcBool FcConfigAppFontAddDir(FcConfig *config, const FcChar8 *dir);
```

Description

Scans the specified directory for fonts, adding each one found to the application-specific set of fonts. Returns `FcFalse` if the fonts cannot be added (due to allocation failure). Otherwise returns `FcTrue`. If `config` is `NULL`, the current configuration is used.

FcConfigAppFontClear

Name

`FcConfigAppFontClear` — Remove all app fonts from font database

Synopsis

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



```
void FcConfigAppFontClear(FcConfig *config);
```

Description

Clears the set of application-specific fonts. If *config* is NULL, the current configuration is used.

FcConfigSubstituteWithPat

Name

FcConfigSubstituteWithPat — Execute substitutions

Synopsis

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

```
FcBool FcConfigSubstituteWithPat(FcConfig *config, FcPattern *p, FcPattern
*p_pat, FcMatchKind kind);
```

Description

Performs the sequence of pattern modification operations, if *kind* is FcMatchPattern, then those tagged as pattern operations are applied, else if *kind* is FcMatchFont, those tagged as font operations are applied and *p_pat* is used for <test> elements with target=pattern. Returns FcFalse if the substitution cannot be performed (due to allocation failure). Otherwise returns FcTrue. If *config* is NULL, the current configuration is used.

FcConfigSubstitute

Name

FcConfigSubstitute — Execute substitutions

Synopsis

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

```
FcBool FcConfigSubstitute(FcConfig *config, FcPattern *p, FcMatchKind kind);
```

Description

Calls `FcConfigSubstituteWithPat` setting `p_pat` to `NULL`. Returns `FcFalse` if the substitution cannot be performed (due to allocation failure). Otherwise returns `FcTrue`. If *config* is `NULL`, the current configuration is used.

FcFontMatch

Name

`FcFontMatch` — Return best font

Synopsis

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

```
FcPattern * FcFontMatch(FcConfig *config, FcPattern *p, FcResult *result);
```

Description

Finds the font in *sets* most closely matching *pattern* and returns the result of `FcFontRenderPrepare` for that font and the provided pattern. This function should be called only after `FcConfigSubstitute` and `FcDefaultSubstitute` have been called for *p*; otherwise the results will not be correct. If *config* is `NULL`, the current configuration is used.

FcFontSort

Name

FcFontSort — Return list of matching fonts

Synopsis

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

```
FcFontSet * FcFontSort(FcConfig *config, FcPattern *p, FcBool trim, FcCharSet  
**csp, FcResult *result);
```

Description

Returns the list of fonts sorted by closeness to *p*. If *trim* is `FcTrue`, elements in the list which don't include Unicode coverage not provided by earlier elements in the list are elided. The union of Unicode coverage of all of the fonts is returned in *csp*, if *csp* is not `NULL`. This function should be called only after `FcConfigSubstitute` and `FcDefaultSubstitute` have been called for *p*; otherwise the results will not be correct.

The returned `FcFontSet` references `FcPattern` structures which may be shared by the return value from multiple `FcFontSort` calls, applications must not modify these patterns. Instead, they should be passed, along with *p* to `FcFontRenderPrepare` which combines them into a complete pattern.

The `FcFontSet` returned by `FcFontSort` is destroyed by calling `FcFontSetDestroy`. If *config* is `NULL`, the current configuration is used.

FcFontRenderPrepare

Name

FcFontRenderPrepare — Prepare pattern for loading font file

Synopsis

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

```
FcPattern * FcFontRenderPrepare(FcConfig *config, FcPattern *pat, FcPattern  
*font);
```

Description

Creates a new pattern consisting of elements of *font* not appearing in *pat*, elements of *pat* not appearing in *font* and the best matching value from *pat* for elements appearing in both. The result is passed to `FcConfigSubstituteWithPat` with *kind* `FcMatchFont` and then returned.

FcFontList

Name

`FcFontList` — List fonts

Synopsis

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

```
FcFontSet * FcFontList(FcConfig *config, FcPattern *p, FcObjectSet *os);
```

Description

Selects fonts matching *p*, creates patterns from those fonts containing only the objects in *os* and returns the set of unique such patterns. If *config* is `NULL`, the default configuration is checked to be up to date, and used.

FcConfigFilename

Name

FcConfigFilename — Find a config file

Synopsis

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

FcChar8 * FcConfigFilename(const FcChar8 *name);
```

Description

Given the specified external entity name, return the associated filename. This provides applications a way to convert various configuration file references into filename form.

A null or empty *name* indicates that the default configuration file should be used; which file this references can be overridden with the FONTCONFIG_FILE environment variable. Next, if the name starts with ~, it refers to a file in the current users home directory. Otherwise if the name doesn't start with '/', it refers to a file in the default configuration directory; the built-in default directory can be overridden with the FONTCONFIG_PATH environment variable.

FcConfigParseAndLoad

Name

FcConfigParseAndLoad — load a configuration file

Synopsis

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

FcBool FcConfigParseAndLoad(FcConfig *config, const FcChar8 *file, FcBool
complain);
```

Description

Walks the configuration in 'file' and constructs the internal representation in 'config'. Any include files referenced from within 'file' will be loaded and parsed. If 'complain' is FcFalse, no warning will be displayed if 'file' does not exist. Error and warning messages will be output to stderr. Returns FcFalse if some error occurred while loading the file, either a parse error, semantic error or allocation failure. Otherwise returns FcTrue.

FcConfigParseAndLoadFromMemory

Name

FcConfigParseAndLoadFromMemory — load a configuration from memory

Synopsis

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

```
FcBool FcConfigParseAndLoadFromMemory(FcConfig *config, const FcChar8
*buffer, FcBool complain);
```

Description

Walks the configuration in 'memory' and constructs the internal representation in 'config'. Any includes files referenced from within 'memory' will be loaded and dparsed. If 'complain' is FcFalse, no warning will be displayed if 'file' does not exist. Error and warning messages will be output to stderr. Returns FcFalse if some error occurred while loading the file, either a parse error, semantic error or allocation failure. Otherwise returns FcTrue.

Since

version 2.12.5

FcConfigGetSysRoot

Name

FcConfigGetSysRoot — Obtain the system root directory

Synopsis

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

const FcChar8 * FcConfigGetSysRoot(const FcConfig *config);
```

Description

Obtains the system root directory in 'config' if available.

Since

version 2.10.92

FcConfigSetSysRoot

Name

FcConfigSetSysRoot — Set the system root directory

Synopsis

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

void FcConfigSetSysRoot(FcConfig *config, const FcChar8 *sysroot);
```

Description

Set 'sysroot' as the system root directory. fontconfig prepend 'sysroot' to the cache directories in order to allow people to generate caches at the build time. Note that this causes changing current config. i.e. this function calls FcConfigSetCurrent() internally.

Since

version 2.10.92

4.12. FcObjectType

Provides for application-specified font name object types so that new pattern elements can be generated from font names.

FcNameRegisterObjectTypes

Name

FcNameRegisterObjectTypes — Register object types

Synopsis

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

```
FcBool FcNameRegisterObjectTypes(const FcObjectType *types, int ntype);
```

Description

Deprecated. Does nothing. Returns FcFalse.

FcNameUnregisterObjectTypes

Name

FcNameUnregisterObjectTypes — Unregister object types

Synopsis

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

FcBool FcNameUnregisterObjectTypes(const FcObjectType *types, int ntype);
```

Description

Deprecated. Does nothing. Returns FcFalse.

FcNameGetObjectType

Name

FcNameGetObjectType — Lookup an object type

Synopsis

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

const FcObjectType * FcNameGetObjectType(const char *object);
```

Description

Return the object type for the pattern element named *object*.

4.13. FcConstant

Provides for application-specified symbolic constants for font names.

FcNameRegisterConstants

Name

FcNameRegisterConstants — Register symbolic constants

Synopsis

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

FcBool FcNameRegisterConstants(const FcConstant *consts, int nconsts);
```

Description

Deprecated. Does nothing. Returns FcFalse.

FcNameUnregisterConstants

Name

FcNameUnregisterConstants — Unregister symbolic constants

Synopsis

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

FcBool FcNameUnregisterConstants(const FcConstant *consts, int nconsts);
```

Description

Deprecated. Does nothing. Returns FcFalse.

FcNameGetConstant

Name

FcNameGetConstant — Lookup symbolic constant

Synopsis

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

const FcConstant * FcNameGetConstant(FcChar8 *string);
```

Description

Return the FcConstant structure related to symbolic constant *string*.

FcNameConstant

Name

FcNameConstant — Get the value for a symbolic constant

Synopsis

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

FcBool FcNameConstant(FcChar8 *string, int *result);
```

Description

Returns whether a symbolic constant with name *string* is registered, placing the value of the constant in *result* if present.

4.14. FcWeight

Maps weights to and from OpenType weights.

FcWeightFromOpenType

Name

`FcWeightFromOpenType` — Convert from OpenType weight values to fontconfig ones

Synopsis

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

int FcWeightFromOpenType(int ot_weight);
```

Description

`FcWeightFromOpenType` returns an integer value to use with `FC_WEIGHT`, from an integer in the 1..1000 range, resembling the numbers from OpenType specification's OS/2 `usWeight` numbers, which are also similar to CSS font-weight numbers. If input is negative, zero, or greater than 1000, returns -1. This function linearly interpolates between various `FC_WEIGHT_*` constants. As such, the returned value does not necessarily match any of the predefined constants.

Since

version 2.11.91

FcWeightToOpenType

Name

FcWeightToOpenType — Convert from fontconfig weight values to OpenType ones

Synopsis

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

int FcWeightToOpenType(int ot_weight);
```

Description

FcWeightToOpenType is the inverse of FcWeightFromOpenType. If the input is less than FC_WEIGHT_THIN or greater than FC_WEIGHT_EXTRABLACK, returns -1. Otherwise returns a number in the range 1 to 1000.

Since

version 2.11.91

4.15. FcBlanks

An FcBlanks object holds a list of Unicode chars which are expected to be blank when drawn. When scanning new fonts, any glyphs which are empty and not in this list will be assumed to be broken and not placed in the FcCharSet associated with the font. This provides a significantly more accurate CharSet for applications.

FcBlanksCreate

Name

FcBlanksCreate — Create an FcBlanks

Synopsis

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

FcBlanks * FcBlanksCreate(void);
```

Description

Creates an empty FcBlanks object.

FcBlanksDestroy

Name

FcBlanksDestroy — Destroy and FcBlanks

Synopsis

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

void FcBlanksDestroy(FcBlanks *b);
```

Description

Destroys an FcBlanks object, freeing any associated memory.

FcBlanksAdd

Name

FcBlanksAdd — Add a character to an FcBlanks

Synopsis

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

FcBool FcBlanksAdd(FcBlanks *b, FcChar32 ucs4);
```

Description

Adds a single character to an FcBlanks object, returning FcFalse if this process ran out of memory.

FcBlanksIsMember

Name

FcBlanksIsMember — Query membership in an FcBlanks

Synopsis

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

FcBool FcBlanksIsMember(FcBlanks *b, FcChar32 ucs4);
```

Description

Returns whether the specified FcBlanks object contains the indicated Unicode value.

4.16. FcAtomic

These functions provide a safe way to update configuration files, allowing ongoing reading of the old configuration file while locked for writing and ensuring that a consistent and complete version of the configuration file is always available.

FcAtomicCreate

Name

FcAtomicCreate — create an FcAtomic object

Synopsis

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

FcAtomic * FcAtomicCreate(const FcChar8 *file);
```

Description

Creates a data structure containing data needed to control access to *file*. Writing is done to a separate file. Once that file is complete, the original configuration file is atomically replaced so that reading process always see a consistent and complete file without the need to lock for reading.

FcAtomicLock

Name

FcAtomicLock — lock a file

Synopsis

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

FcBool FcAtomicLock(FcAtomic *atomic);
```

Description

Attempts to lock the file referenced by *atomic*. Returns FcFalse if the file is already locked, else returns FcTrue and leaves the file locked.

FcAtomicNewFile

Name

FcAtomicNewFile — return new temporary file name

Synopsis

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

FcChar8 * FcAtomicNewFile(FcAtomic *atomic);
```

Description

Returns the filename for writing a new version of the file referenced by *atomic*.

FcAtomicOrigFile

Name

FcAtomicOrigFile — return original file name

Synopsis

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

FcChar8 * FcAtomicOrigFile(FcAtomic *atomic);
```

Description

Returns the file referenced by *atomic*.

FcAtomicReplaceOrig

Name

FcAtomicReplaceOrig — replace original with new

Synopsis

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

FcBool FcAtomicReplaceOrig(FcAtomic *atomic);
```

Description

Replaces the original file referenced by *atomic* with the new file. Returns FcFalse if the file cannot be replaced due to permission issues in the filesystem. Otherwise returns FcTrue.

FcAtomicDeleteNew

Name

FcAtomicDeleteNew — delete new file

Synopsis

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

void FcAtomicDeleteNew(FcAtomic *atomic);
```

Description

Deletes the new file. Used in error recovery to back out changes.

FcAtomicUnlock

Name

FcAtomicUnlock — unlock a file

Synopsis

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

void FcAtomicUnlock(FcAtomic *atomic);
```

Description

Unlocks the file.

FcAtomicDestroy

Name

FcAtomicDestroy — destroy an FcAtomic object

Synopsis

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

void FcAtomicDestroy(FcAtomic *atomic);
```

Description

Destroys *atomic*.

4.17. File and Directory routines

These routines work with font files and directories, including font directory cache files.

FcFileScan

Name

FcFileScan — scan a font file

Synopsis

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

```
FcBool FcFileScan(FcFontSet *set, FcStrSet *dirs, FcFileCache *cache,  
FcBlanks *blanks, const FcChar8 *file, FcBool force);
```

Description

Scans a single file and adds all fonts found to *set*. If *force* is FcTrue, then the file is scanned even if associated information is found in *cache*. If *file* is a directory, it is added to *dirs*. Whether fonts are found depends on fontconfig policy as well as the current configuration. Internally, fontconfig will ignore BDF and PCF fonts which are not in Unicode (or the effectively equivalent ISO Latin-1) encoding as those are not usable by Unicode-based applications. The configuration can ignore fonts based on filename or contents of the font file itself. Returns FcFalse if any of the fonts cannot be added (due to allocation failure). Otherwise returns FcTrue.

FcFileIsDir

Name

FcFileIsDir — check whether a file is a directory

Synopsis

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

FcBool FcFileIsDir(const FcChar8 *file);
```

Description

Returns FcTrue if *file* is a directory, otherwise returns FcFalse.

FcDirScan

Name

FcDirScan — scan a font directory without caching it

Synopsis

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

FcBool FcDirScan(FcFontSet *set, FcStrSet *dirs, FcFileCache *cache, FcBlanks
*blanks, const FcChar8 *dir, FcBool force);
```

Description

If *cache* is not zero or if *force* is FcFalse, this function currently returns FcFalse. Otherwise, it scans an entire directory and adds all fonts found to *set*. Any subdirectories found are added to *dirs*. Calling this function does not create any cache files. Use FcDirCacheRead() if caching is desired.

FcDirSave

Name

FcDirSave — DEPRECATED: formerly used to save a directory cache

Synopsis

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

```
FcBool FcDirSave(FcFontSet *set, FcStrSet *dirs, const FcChar8 *dir);
```

Description

This function now does nothing aside from returning FcFalse. It used to create the per-directory cache file for *dir* and populates it with the fonts in *set* and subdirectories in *dirs*. All of this functionality is now automatically managed by FcDirCacheLoad and FcDirCacheRead.

FcDirCacheUnlink

Name

FcDirCacheUnlink — Remove all caches related to *dir*

Synopsis

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

```
FcBool FcDirCacheUnlink(const FcChar8 *dir, FcConfig *config);
```

Description

Scans the cache directories in *config*, removing any instances of the cache file for *dir*. Returns `FcFalse` when some internal error occurs (out of memory, etc). Errors actually unlinking any files are ignored.

FcDirCacheValid

Name

`FcDirCacheValid` — check directory cache

Synopsis

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

FcBool FcDirCacheValid(const FcChar8 *dir);
```

Description

Returns `FcTrue` if *dir* has an associated valid cache file, else returns `FcFalse`

FcDirCacheLoad

Name

`FcDirCacheLoad` — load a directory cache

Synopsis

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

FcCache * FcDirCacheLoad(const FcChar8 *dir, FcConfig *config, FcChar8
**cache_file);
```

Description

Loads the cache related to *dir*. If no cache file exists, returns NULL. The name of the cache file is returned in *cache_file*, unless that is NULL. See also `FcDirCacheRead`.

FcDirCacheRescan

Name

`FcDirCacheRescan` — Re-scan a directory cache

Synopsis

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

FcCache * FcDirCacheRescan(const FcChar8 *dir, FcConfig *config);
```

Description

Re-scan directories only at *dir* and update the cache. returns NULL if failed.

Since

version 2.11.1

FcDirCacheRead

Name

`FcDirCacheRead` — read or construct a directory cache

Synopsis

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

```
FcCache * FcDirCacheRead(const FcChar8 *dir, FcBool force, FcConfig *config);
```

Description

This returns a cache for *dir*. If *force* is `FcFalse`, then an existing, valid cache file will be used. Otherwise, a new cache will be created by scanning the directory and that returned.

FcDirCacheLoadFile

Name

`FcDirCacheLoadFile` — load a cache file

Synopsis

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

```
FcCache * FcDirCacheLoadFile(const FcChar8 *cache_file, struct stat  
*file_stat);
```

Description

This function loads a directory cache from *cache_file*. If *file_stat* is non-NULL, it will be filled with the results of `stat(2)` on the cache file.

FcDirCacheUnload

Name

FcDirCacheUnload — unload a cache file

Synopsis

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

void FcDirCacheUnload(FcCache *cache);
```

Description

This function dereferences *cache*. When no other references to it remain, all memory associated with the cache will be freed.

4.18. FcCache routines

These routines work with font directory caches, accessing their contents in limited ways. It is not expected that normal applications will need to use these functions.

FcCacheDir

Name

FcCacheDir — Return directory of *cache*

Synopsis

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

const FcChar8 * FcCacheDir(const FcCache *cache);
```

Description

This function returns the directory from which the cache was constructed.

FcCacheCopySet

Name

FcCacheCopySet — Returns a copy of the fontset from *cache*

Synopsis

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

FcFontSet * FcCacheCopySet(const FcCache *cache);
```

Description

The returned fontset contains each of the font patterns from *cache*. This fontset may be modified, but the patterns from the cache are read-only.

FcCacheSubdir

Name

FcCacheSubdir — Return the *i*'th subdirectory.

Synopsis

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

const FcChar8 * FcCacheSubdir(const FcCache *cache, inti);
```

Description

The set of subdirectories stored in a cache file are indexed by this function, i should range from 0 to $n-1$, where n is the return value from `FcCacheNumSubdir`.

FcCacheNumSubdir

Name

`FcCacheNumSubdir` — Return the number of subdirectories in *cache*.

Synopsis

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

int FcCacheNumSubdir(const FcCache *cache);
```

Description

This returns the total number of subdirectories in the cache.

FcCacheNumFont

Name

`FcCacheNumFont` — Returns the number of fonts in *cache*.

Synopsis

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

int FcCacheNumFont(const FcCache *cache);
```

Description

This returns the number of fonts which would be included in the return from FcCacheCopySet.

FcDirCacheClean

Name

`FcDirCacheClean` — This tries to clean up the cache directory of `cache_dir`. This returns `FcTrue` if the operation is successfully complete. otherwise `FcFalse`.

Synopsis

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

FcBool FcDirCacheClean(const FcChar8 *cache_dir, FcBool verbose);
```

Description

Since

version 2.9.91

FcCacheCreateTagFile

Name

`FcCacheCreateTagFile` — Create CACHEDIR.TAG at cache directory.

Synopsis

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

void FcCacheCreateTagFile(const FcConfig *config);
```

Description

This tries to create CACHEDIR.TAG file at the cache directory registered to *config*.

Since

version 2.9.91

4.19. FcStrSet and FcStrList

A data structure for enumerating strings, used to list directories while scanning the configuration as directories are added while scanning.

FcStrSetCreate

Name

FcStrSetCreate — create a string set

Synopsis

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

FcStrSet * FcStrSetCreate(void);
```

Description

Create an empty set.

FcStrSetMember

Name

FcStrSetMember — check set for membership

Synopsis

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

FcBool FcStrSetMember(FcStrSet *set, const FcChar8 *s);
```

Description

Returns whether *s* is a member of *set*.

FcStrSetEqual

Name

FcStrSetEqual — check sets for equality

Synopsis

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

FcBool FcStrSetEqual(FcStrSet *set_a, FcStrSet *set_b);
```

Description

Returns whether *set_a* contains precisely the same strings as *set_b*. Ordering of strings within the two sets is not considered.

FcStrSetAdd

Name

FcStrSetAdd — add to a string set

Synopsis

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

FcBool FcStrSetAdd(FcStrSet *set, const FcChar8 *s);
```

Description

Adds a copy of *s* to *set*.

FcStrSetAddFilename

Name

FcStrSetAddFilename — add a filename to a string set

Synopsis

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

FcBool FcStrSetAddFilename(FcStrSet *set, const FcChar8 *s);
```


Description

Adds a copy *s* to *set*, The copy is created with `FcStrCopyFilename` so that leading '~' values are replaced with the value of the HOME environment variable.

FcStrSetDel

Name

`FcStrSetDel` — delete from a string set

Synopsis

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

FcBool FcStrSetDel(FcStrSet *set, const FcChar8 *s);
```

Description

Removes *s* from *set*, returning `FcTrue` if *s* was a member else `FcFalse`.

FcStrSetDestroy

Name

`FcStrSetDestroy` — destroy a string set

Synopsis

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

void FcStrSetDestroy(FcStrSet *set);
```

Description

Destroys *set*.

FcStrListCreate

Name

FcStrListCreate — create a string iterator

Synopsis

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

FcStrList * FcStrListCreate(FcStrSet *set);
```

Description

Creates an iterator to list the strings in *set*.

FcStrListFirst

Name

FcStrListFirst — get first string in iteration

Synopsis

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

void FcStrListFirst(FcStrList *list);
```

Description

Returns the first string in *list*.

Since

version 2.11.0

FcStrListNext

Name

FcStrListNext — get next string in iteration

Synopsis

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

FcChar8 * FcStrListNext(FcStrList *list);
```

Description

Returns the next string in *list*.

FcStrListDone

Name

FcStrListDone — destroy a string iterator

Synopsis

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

void FcStrListDone(FcStrList *list);
```

Description

Destroys the enumerator *list*.

4.20. String utilities

Fontconfig manipulates many UTF-8 strings represented with the `FcChar8` type. These functions are exposed to help applications deal with these UTF-8 strings in a locale-insensitive manner.

FcUtf8ToUcs4

Name

`FcUtf8ToUcs4` — convert UTF-8 to UCS4

Synopsis

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

int FcUtf8ToUcs4(FcChar8 *src, FcChar32 *dst, int len);
```

Description

Converts the next Unicode char from *src* into *dst* and returns the number of bytes containing the char. *src* must be at least *len* bytes long.

FcUcs4ToUtf8

Name

FcUcs4ToUtf8 — convert UCS4 to UTF-8

Synopsis

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

int FcUcs4ToUtf8(FcChar32 src, FcChar8 dst[FC_UTF8_MAX_LEN]);
```

Description

Converts the Unicode char from *src* into *dst* and returns the number of bytes needed to encode the char.

FcUtf8Len

Name

FcUtf8Len — count UTF-8 encoded chars

Synopsis

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

FcBool FcUtf8Len(FcChar8 *src, int len, int *nchar, int *wchar);
```

Description

Counts the number of Unicode chars in *len* bytes of *src*. Places that count in *nchar*. *wchar* contains 1, 2 or 4 depending on the number of bytes needed to hold the largest Unicode char counted. The return value indicates whether *src* is a well-formed UTF8 string.

FcUtf16ToUcs4

Name

FcUtf16ToUcs4 — convert UTF-16 to UCS4

Synopsis

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

int FcUtf16ToUcs4(FcChar8 *src, FcEndian endian, FcChar32 *dst, int len);
```

Description

Converts the next Unicode char from *src* into *dst* and returns the number of bytes containing the char. *src* must be at least *len* bytes long. Bytes of *src* are combined into 16-bit units according to *endian*.

FcUtf16Len

Name

FcUtf16Len — count UTF-16 encoded chars

Synopsis

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

FcBool FcUtf16Len(FcChar8 *src, FcEndian endian, int len, int *nchar, int
*wchar);
```

Description

Counts the number of Unicode chars in *len* bytes of *src*. Bytes of *src* are combined into 16-bit units according to *endian*. Places that count in *nchar*. *wchar* contains 1, 2 or 4 depending on the number of bytes needed to hold the largest Unicode char counted. The return value indicates whether *string* is a well-formed UTF16 string.

FcIsLower

Name

`FcIsLower` — check for lower case ASCII character

Synopsis

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

```
FcBool FcIsLower(FcChar8c);
```

Description

This macro checks whether *c* is an lower case ASCII letter.

FcIsUpper

Name

`FcIsUpper` — check for upper case ASCII character

Synopsis

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

```
FcBool FcIsUpper(FcChar8c);
```

Description

This macro checks whether *c* is a upper case ASCII letter.

FcToLower

Name

`FcToLower` — convert upper case ASCII to lower case

Synopsis

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

```
FcChar8 FcToLower(FcChar8 c);
```

Description

This macro converts upper case ASCII *c* to the equivalent lower case letter.

FcStrCopy

Name

`FcStrCopy` — duplicate a string

Synopsis

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

```
FcChar8 * FcStrCopy(const FcChar8 *s);
```


Description

Allocates memory, copies *s* and returns the resulting buffer. Yes, this is `strdup`, but that function isn't available on every platform.

FcStrDowncase

Name

`FcStrDowncase` — create a lower case translation of a string

Synopsis

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

FcChar8 * FcStrDowncase(const FcChar8 *s);
```

Description

Allocates memory, copies *s*, converting upper case letters to lower case and returns the allocated buffer.

FcStrCopyFilename

Name

`FcStrCopyFilename` — create a complete path from a filename

Synopsis

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

```
FcChar8 * FcStrCopyFilename(const FcChar8 *s);
```

Description

`FcStrCopyFilename` constructs an absolute pathname from *s*. It converts any leading '~' characters in to the value of the HOME environment variable, and any relative paths are converted to absolute paths using the current working directory. Sequences of '/' characters are converted to a single '/', and names containing the current directory '.' or parent directory '..' are correctly reconstructed. Returns NULL if '~' is the leading character and HOME is unset or disabled (see `FcConfigEnableHome`).

FcStrCmp

Name

`FcStrCmp` — compare UTF-8 strings

Synopsis

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

int FcStrCmp(const FcChar8 *s1, const FcChar8 *s2);
```

Description

Returns the usual <0, 0, >0 result of comparing *s1* and *s2*.

FcStrCmpIgnoreCase

Name

`FcStrCmpIgnoreCase` — compare UTF-8 strings ignoring case

Synopsis

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

int FcStrCmpIgnoreCase(const FcChar8 *s1, const FcChar8 *s2);
```

Description

Returns the usual <0, 0, >0 result of comparing *s1* and *s2*. This test is case-insensitive for all proper UTF-8 encoded strings.

FcStrStr

Name

`FcStrStr` — locate UTF-8 substring

Synopsis

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

FcChar8 * FcStrStr(const FcChar8 *s1, const FcChar8 *s2);
```

Description

Returns the location of *s2* in *s1*. Returns NULL if *s2* is not present in *s1*. This test will operate properly with UTF8 encoded strings.

FcStrStrIgnoreCase

Name

FcStrStrIgnoreCase — locate UTF-8 substring ignoring ASCII case

Synopsis

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

```
FcChar8 * FcStrStrIgnoreCase(const FcChar8 *s1, const FcChar8 *s2);
```

Description

Returns the location of *s2* in *s1*, ignoring case. Returns NULL if *s2* is not present in *s1*. This test is case-insensitive for all proper UTF-8 encoded strings.

FcStrPlus

Name

FcStrPlus — concatenate two strings

Synopsis

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

```
FcChar8 * FcStrPlus(const FcChar8 *s1, const FcChar8 *s2);
```

Description

This function allocates new storage and places the concatenation of *s1* and *s2* there, returning the new string.

FcStrFree

Name

FcStrFree — free a string

Synopsis

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

```
void FcStrFree(FcChar8 *s);
```

Description

This is just a wrapper around `free(3)` which helps track memory usage of strings within the fontconfig library.

FcStrDirname

Name

FcStrDirname — directory part of filename

Synopsis

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

```
FcChar8 * FcStrDirname(const FcChar8 *file);
```

Description

Returns the directory containing *file*. This is returned in newly allocated storage which should be freed when no longer needed.

FcStrBasename

Name

FcStrBasename — last component of filename

Synopsis

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

FcChar8 * FcStrBasename(const FcChar8 *file);
```

Description

Returns the filename of *file* stripped of any leading directory names. This is returned in newly allocated storage which should be freed when no longer needed.