

Re: What is the most elegant way to convert string from unicode to ANSI?

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Source: <http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/VC/microsoft.public.vc.mfc/2005-08/msg01413.html>

- *From:* Joseph M. Newcomer <newcomer@xxxxxxxxxxxxx>
 - *Date:* Wed, 17 Aug 2005 23:24:12 -0400
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"Elegant" is not a term that pops to mind in doing these conversions. There are just ways, and ways. It all depends on what you are trying to accomplish.

For example, if you need to specify a replacement character for unmappable characters and detect when it happens, you need to do `WideCharToMultiByte`. As you observe, you need to call it twice.

If you only need the simplest possible conversion, you can use `T2A` or `W2A`. Note that they themselves call `WideCharToMultiByte` twice. If you are using `VS.NET`, you could do an construction of a `CStringA` datatype, which will do a `WideCharToMultiByte`

```
CStringW w = L"abc";  
CStringA a(w);
```

If you single-step into this (with enough patience) you will discover that, surprise, surprise, it calls `WideCharToMultiByte` twice...

If you want to avoid the two calls, you can simply allocate a buffer the same size as the Unicode buffer, since you know that it is definitely going to be smaller (note that this only applies to `CP_ACP` conversions; `CP_UTF8`, for example, would quite possibly have a result string longer than the input string!)

joe

On Wed, 17 Aug 2005 17:00:43 +0900, "P" <test@xxxxxxxxxxxxx> wrote:

```
>Hi, again.  
>I set my project UNICODE, and use TCHAR, wstring, and so on.  
>But, some legacy api need ANSI, so I use WideCharToMultiByte(CP_ACP, ...)  
>  
>If I want to use it properly, I should call this method twice to know exact  
>way for char* and  
>dynamic allocation and Whew...  
>  
>Do you have any elegant and beautiful way to convert wstring (or  
>CStringT<wchar_t> or wchar_t) to char ?  
>Thanks in advance.  
>  
Joseph M. Newcomer [MVP]
```

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email: newcomer@xxxxxxxxxxxxx

Web: <http://www.flounder.com>

MVP Tips: http://www.flounder.com/mvp_tips.htm

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