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Subject: setlocale not working properly in perl script  
Posted by [TowerGuard](#) on Thu, 12 Jun 2008 14:21:16 GMT  
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I've encountered an issue in my perl script where the locale of the box I'm running on affects the length() calculation of strings with multibyte characters. The current locale setting of the box is en\_US.UTF-8. If I "export LC\_CTYPE=en\_US" at the UNIX prompt and then run the script, the length() function does what I want it to. However, I want the script to set the locale dynamically. I found the following code from various sites online but none of them seem to have the effect that they should. For instance I use:

```
use locale;  
use POSIX qw(locale_h);  
$oldlocale = setlocale(LC_CTYPE);  
$newlocale = setlocale(LC_CTYPE, "en_US");
```

The setlocale function seems to set the locale correctly as when I print \$oldlocale and \$newlocale I get en\_US.UTF-8 and en\_US respectively.

However my length function still treats the multibyte characters in an undesired way.

How come when I change the locale at the UNIX prompt it works as desired but when I change it in the script, it does not?

Thanks,  
Steve

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