C LIBRARY FUNCTION - STRNCMP

Description

The C library function **int strncmp** $const char * str1, const char * str2, size_t n$ compares at most the first **n** bytes of **str1** and **str2**.

Declaration

Following is the declaration for strncmp function.

```
int strncmp(const char *str1, const char *str2, size_t n)
```

Parameters

- **str1** -- This is the first string to be compared.

- **str2** -- This is the second string to be compared.

- **n** -- The maximum number of characters to be compared.

Return Value

This function return values that are as follows:

- if Return value < 0 then it indicates str1 is less than str2.

- if Return value > 0 then it indicates str2 is less than str1.

- if Return value = 0 then it indicates str1 is equal to str2.

Example

The following example shows the usage of strncmp function.

```c
#include <stdio.h>
#include <string.h>

int main ()
{
   char str1[15];
   char str2[15];
   int ret;

   strcpy(str1, "abcdef");
   strcpy(str2, "ABCDEF");

   ret = strncmp(str1, str2, 4);

   if(ret < 0)
   {
      printf("str1 is less than str2");
   }
   else if(ret > 0)
   {
      printf("str2 is less than str1");
   }
   else
   {
      printf("str1 is equal to str2");
   }

   return(0);
```

```
}
```

Let us compile and run the above program that will produce the following result:

```
str2 is less than str1
```