

NAME

getpass – get a password

SYNOPSIS

```
#include <unistd.h>
```

```
char *getpass(const char *prompt);
```

Feature Test Macro Requirements for glibc (see [feature_test_macros\(7\)](#)):

getpass():

Since glibc 2.2.2:

```
_XOPEN_SOURCE && ! (_POSIX_C_SOURCE >= 200112L)
|| /* Glibc since 2.19: */ _DEFAULT_SOURCE
|| /* Glibc versions <= 2.19: */ _BSD_SOURCE
```

Before glibc 2.2.2:

none

DESCRIPTION

This function is obsolete. Do not use it. If you want to read input without terminal echoing enabled, see the description of the *ECHO* flag in [termios\(3\)](#).

The **getpass()** function opens */dev/tty* (the controlling terminal of the process), outputs the string *prompt*, turns off echoing, reads one line (the "password"), restores the terminal state and closes */dev/tty* again.

RETURN VALUE

The function **getpass()** returns a pointer to a static buffer containing (the first **PASS_MAX** bytes of) the password without the trailing newline, terminated by a null byte ('\0'). This buffer may be overwritten by a following call. On error, the terminal state is restored, *errno* is set appropriately, and NULL is returned.

ERRORS

The function may fail if

ENXIO

The process does not have a controlling terminal.

FILES

/dev/tty

ATTRIBUTES

For an explanation of the terms used in this section, see [attributes\(7\)](#).

Interface	Attribute	Value
getpass()	Thread safety	MT-Unsafe term

CONFORMING TO

Present in SUSv2, but marked LEGACY. Removed in POSIX.1-2001.

NOTES

In the GNU C library implementation, if */dev/tty* cannot be opened, the prompt is written to *stderr* and the password is read from *stdin*. There is no limit on the length of the password. Line editing is not disabled.

According to SUSv2, the value of **PASS_MAX** must be defined in *<limits.h>* in case it is smaller than 8, and can in any case be obtained using *sysconf(_SC_PASS_MAX)*. However, POSIX.2 withdraws the constants **PASS_MAX** and **_SC_PASS_MAX**, and the function **getpass()**. The glibc version accepts **_SC_PASS_MAX** and returns **BUFSIZ** (e.g., 8192).

BUGS

The calling process should zero the password as soon as possible to avoid leaving the cleartext password visible in the process's address space.

SEE ALSO

[crypt\(3\)](#)

COLOPHON

This page is part of release 4.16 of the Linux *man-pages* project. A description of the project, information about reporting bugs, and the latest version of this page, can be found at <https://www.kernel.org/doc/man-pages/>.