

NAME

getpw – reconstruct password line entry

SYNOPSIS

```
#define _GNU_SOURCE      /* See feature\_test\_macros\(7\)
*/
#include <sys/types.h>
#include <pwd.h>

int getpw(uid_t uid, char *buf);
```

DESCRIPTION

The **getpw()** function reconstructs the password line entry for the given user ID *uid* in the buffer *buf*. The returned buffer contains a line of format

name:passwd:uid:gid:gecos:dir:shell

The *passwd* structure is defined in *<pwd.h>* as follows:

```
struct passwd {
    char    *pw_name;          /* username */
    char    *pw_passwd;       /* user password */
    uid_t   pw_uid;           /* user ID */
    gid_t   pw_gid;           /* group ID */
    char    *pw_gecos;        /* user information */
    char    *pw_dir;          /* home directory */
    char    *pw_shell;        /* shell program */
};
```

For more information about the fields of this structure, see [passwd\(5\)](#).

RETURN VALUE

The **getpw()** function returns 0 on success; on error, it returns -1, and *errno* is set to indicate the error.

If *uid* is not found in the password database, **getpw()** returns -1, sets *errno* to 0, and leaves *buf* unchanged.

ERRORS**0 or ENOENT**

No user corresponding to *uid*.

EINVAL

buf is NULL.

ENOMEM

Insufficient memory to allocate *passwd* structure.

FILES

/etc/passwd
password database file

ATTRIBUTES

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

Interface	Attribute	Value
getpw()	Thread safety	MT-Safe locale

CONFORMING TO

SVr2.

BUGS

The **getpw()** function is dangerous as it may overflow the provided buffer *buf*. It is obsoleted by [getpwuid\(3\)](#).

SEE ALSO

[endpwent\(3\)](#), [fgetpwent\(3\)](#), [getpwent\(3\)](#), [getpwnam\(3\)](#), [getpwuid\(3\)](#), [putpwent\(3\)](#), [setpwent\(3\)](#), [passwd\(5\)](#)

COLOPHON

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