

NAME

getservent, getservbyname, getservbyport, setservent, endservent – get service entry

SYNOPSIS

```
#include <netdb.h>

struct servent *getservent(void);

struct servent *getservbyname(const char *name, const char *proto);

struct servent *getservbyport(int port, const char *proto);

void setservent(int stayopen);

void endservent(void);
```

DESCRIPTION

The **getservent()** function reads the next entry from the services database (see [services\(5\)](#)) and returns a *servent* structure containing the broken-out fields from the entry. A connection is opened to the database if necessary.

The **getservbyname()** function returns a *servent* structure for the entry from the database that matches the service *name* using protocol *proto*. If *proto* is NULL, any protocol will be matched. A connection is opened to the database if necessary.

The **getservbyport()** function returns a *servent* structure for the entry from the database that matches the port *port* (given in network byte order) using protocol *proto*. If *proto* is NULL, any protocol will be matched. A connection is opened to the database if necessary.

The **setservent()** function opens a connection to the database, and sets the next entry to the first entry. If *stayopen* is nonzero, then the connection to the database will not be closed between calls to one of the **get-serv*()** functions.

The **endservent()** function closes the connection to the database.

The *servent* structure is defined in *<netdb.h>* as follows:

```
struct servent {
    char *s_name;          /* official service name */
    char **s_aliases;     /* alias list */
    int s_port;           /* port number */
    char *s_proto;        /* protocol to use */
}
```

The members of the *servent* structure are:

s_name

The official name of the service.

s_aliases

A NULL-terminated list of alternative names for the service.

s_port

The port number for the service given in network byte order.

s_proto

The name of the protocol to use with this service.

RETURN VALUE

The **getservent()**, **getservbyname()** and **getservbyport()** functions return a pointer to a statically allocated *servent* structure, or NULL if an error occurs or the end of the file is reached.

FILES

/etc/services

services database file

ATTRIBUTES

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

Interface	Attribute	Value
getservent()	Thread safety	MT-Unsafe race:servent race:serventbuf locale
getservbyname()	Thread safety	MT-Unsafe race:servbyname locale
getservbyport()	Thread safety	MT-Unsafe race:servbyport locale
setservent(), endservent()	Thread safety	MT-Unsafe race:servent locale

In the above table, *servent* in *race:servent* signifies that if any of the functions **setservent()**, **getservent()**, or **endservent()** are used in parallel in different threads of a program, then data races could occur.

CONFORMING TO

POSIX.1-2001, POSIX.1-2008, 4.3BSD.

SEE ALSO

[getnetent\(3\)](#), [getprotoent\(3\)](#), [getservent_r\(3\)](#), [services\(5\)](#)

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/>.