

gets(3)

Library Functions Manual

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NAME

gets - get a string from standard input (DEPRECATED)

LIBRARY

Standard C library (libc, -lc)

SYNOPSIS

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

```
[[deprecated]] char *gets(char *s);
```

DESCRIPTION

Never use this function.

`gets()` reads a line from `stdin` into the buffer pointed to by `s` until either a terminating newline or EOF, which it replaces with a null byte (`'\0'`). No check for buffer overrun is performed (see **BUGS** below).

RETURN VALUE

`gets()` returns `s` on success, and `NULL` on error or when end of file is reached while no characters have been read. However, given the lack of buffer overrun checking, there can be no guarantees that the function

the `_ISOC11_SOURCE` feature test macro is defined.

BUGS

Never use `gets()`. Because it is impossible to tell without knowing the data in advance how many characters `gets()` will read, and because `gets()` will continue to store characters past the end of the buffer, it is extremely dangerous to use. It has been used to break computer security. Use `fgets()` instead.

For more information, see [CWE-242](http://cwe.mitre.org/data/definitions/242.html) (aka "Use of Inherently Dangerous Function") at <http://cwe.mitre.org/data/definitions/242.html>

SEE ALSO

`read(2)`, `write(2)`, `ferror(3)`, `fgetc(3)`, `fgets(3)`, `fgetwc(3)`, `fgetws(3)`, `fopen(3)`, `fread(3)`, `fseek(3)`, `getline(3)`, `getwchar(3)`, `puts(3)`, `scanf(3)`, `ungetwc(3)`, `unlocked_stdio(3)`, `feature_test_macros(7)`