



## ***Rocky Enterprise Linux 9.2 Manual Pages on command 'getpass.3'***

**C:\>man getpass.3**

GETPASS(3)                      Linux Programmer's Manual                      GETPASS(3)

### 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This function is obsolete.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"), reopens `/dev/tty`, stores 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 5.05 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/>.

Linux

2019-03-06

GETPASS(3)