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Red Hat Enterprise Linux Release 9.2 Manual Pages on 'gets.3p' command

\$ man gets.3p

GETS(3P) POSIX Programmer's Manual GETS(3P)

PROLOG

This manual page is part of the POSIX Programmer's Manual. The Linux implementation of this interface may differ (consult the corresponding Linux manual page for details of Linux behavior), or the interface may not be implemented on Linux.

NAME

gets ? get a string from a stdin stream

SYNOPSIS

```
#include <stdio.h>

char *gets(char *s);
```

DESCRIPTION

The functionality described on this reference page is aligned with the ISO C standard. Any conflict between the requirements described here and the ISO C standard is unintentional. This volume of POSIX.1?2017 defers to the ISO C standard.

The `gets()` function shall read bytes from the standard input stream, `stdin`, into the array pointed to by `s`, until a `<newline>` is read or an end-of-file condition is encountered. Any `<newline>` shall be discarded and a null byte shall be placed immediately after the last byte read into the array.

The `gets()` function may mark the last data access timestamp of the file associated with stream for update. The last data access timestamp shall

be marked for update by the first successful execution of `fgetc()`, `fgets()`, `fread()`, `fscanf()`, `getc()`, `getchar()`, `getdelim()`, `getline()`, `gets()`, or `scanf()` using stream that returns data not supplied by a prior call to `ungetc()`.

RETURN VALUE

Upon successful completion, `gets()` shall return `s`. If the end-of-file indicator for the stream is set, or if the stream is at end-of-file, the end-of-file indicator for the stream shall be set and `gets()` shall return a null pointer. If a read error occurs, the error indicator for the stream shall be set, `gets()` shall return a null pointer, and set `errno` to indicate the error.

ERRORS

Refer to `fgetc()`.

The following sections are informative.

EXAMPLES

None.

APPLICATION USAGE

Reading a line that overflows the array pointed to by `s` results in undefined behavior. The use of `fgets()` is recommended.

Since the user cannot specify the length of the buffer passed to `gets()`, use of this function is discouraged. The length of the string read is unlimited. It is possible to overflow this buffer in such a way as to cause applications to fail, or possible system security violations.

Applications should use the `fgets()` function instead of the obsolescent `gets()` function.

RATIONALE

The standard developers decided to mark the `gets()` function as obsolescent even though it is in the ISO C standard due to the possibility of buffer overflow.

FUTURE DIRECTIONS

The `gets()` function may be removed in a future version.

SEE ALSO

Section 2.5, Standard I/O Streams, feof(), ferrord(), fgets()

The Base Definitions volume of POSIX.1?2017, <stdio.h>

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