



Linux Ubuntu 26.04 Manual Pages on command 'getmntent.3'

\$ man getmntent.3

getmntent(3) Library Functions Manual getmntent(3)

NAME

getmntent, setmntent, addmntent, endmntent, hasmntent, getmntent_r - get filesystem descrip-
tor file entry

LIBRARY

Standard C library (libc, -lc)

SYNOPSIS

```
#include <stdio.h>

#include <mntent.h>

FILE *setmntent(const char *path, const char *type);

struct mntent *getmntent(FILE *stream);

int addmntent(FILE *restrict stream,
              const struct mntent *restrict mnt);

int endmntent(FILE *stream);

char *hasmntent(const struct mntent *mnt, const char *opt);

/* GNU extension */

#include <mntent.h>

struct mntent *getmntent_r(int size;
                          FILE *restrict stream,
                          struct mntent *restrict mntbuf,
                          char buf[restrict size], int size);
```

Feature Test Macro Requirements for glibc (see feature_test_macros(7)):

getmntent_r():

Since glibc 2.19:

```
_DEFAULT_SOURCE
```

glibc 2.19 and earlier:

```
_BSD_SOURCE || _SVID_SOURCE
```

DESCRIPTION

These routines are used to access the filesystem description file `/etc/fstab` and the mounted filesystem description file `/etc/mtab`.

The `setmntent()` function opens the filesystem description file path and returns a file pointer which can be used by `getmntent()`. The argument type is the type of access required and can take the same values as the mode argument of `fopen(3)`. The returned stream should be closed using `endmntent()` rather than `fclose(3)`.

The `getmntent()` function reads the next line of the filesystem description file from stream and returns a pointer to a structure containing the broken out fields from a line in the file. The pointer points to a static area of memory which is overwritten by subsequent calls to `getmntent()`.

The `addmntent()` function adds the mntent structure mnt to the end of the open stream.

The `endmntent()` function closes the stream associated with the filesystem description file.

The `hasmntopt()` function scans the `mnt_opts` field (see below) of the mntent structure mnt for a substring that matches opt. See `<mntent.h>` and `mount(8)` for valid mount options.

The reentrant `getmntent_r()` function is similar to `getmntent()`, but stores the mntent structure in the provided `*mntbuf`, and stores the strings pointed to by the entries in that structure in the provided array `buf` of size `size`.

The mntent structure is defined in `<mntent.h>` as follows:

```
struct mntent {
    char *mnt_fsname; /* name of mounted filesystem */
    char *mnt_dir;    /* filesystem path prefix */
    char *mnt_type;   /* mount type (see mntent.h) */
    char *mnt_opts;   /* mount options (see mntent.h) */
    int  mnt_freq;    /* dump frequency in days */
    int  mnt_passno;  /* pass number on parallel fsck */
};
```

Since fields in the mtab and fstab files are separated by whitespace, octal escapes are used to represent the characters space (`\040`), tab (`\011`), newline (`\012`), and backslash (`\`) in

RETURN VALUE

The `hasmntopt()` function returns the address of the substring if a match is found and `NULL` otherwise.

FILES

mounted filesystem description file

ATTRIBUTES

[illegible]

STANDARDS

HISTORY

The nonreentrant functions are from SunOS 4.1.3. A routine `getmntent_r()` was introduced in HP-UX 10, but it returns an `int`. The prototype shown above is glibc-only.

System V also has a `getmntent()` function but the calling sequence differs, and the returned structure is different. Under System V `/etc/mnttab` is used. 4.4BSD and Digital UNIX have a routine `getmntinfo()`, a wrapper around the system call `getfsstat()`.

SEE ALSO

`fopen(3)`, `fstab(5)`, `mount(8)`

Linux man-pages 6.17

2026-02-08

`getmntent(3)`