



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

\$ man getpw.3

getpw(3) Library Functions Manual getpw(3)

NAME

getpw - reconstruct password line entry

LIBRARY

Standard C library (libc, -lc)

SYNOPSIS

```
#define _GNU_SOURCE      /* See feature_test_macros(7) */

#include <sys/types.h>

#include <pwd.h>

[[deprecated]] int getpw(uid_t uid, char *buf);
```

DESCRIPTION

The `getpw()` function reconstructs the password line entry for the given user ID `uid` in the buffer `buf`. The returned buffer contains a line of format

name:passwd:uid:gid:gecos:dir:shell

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

```
struct passwd {
    char *pw_name;      /* username */
    char *pw_passwd;    /* user password */
    uid_t pw_uid;       /* user ID */
    gid_t pw_gid;       /* group ID */
    char *pw_gecos;     /* user information */
    char *pw_dir;       /* home directory */
    char *pw_shell;     /* shell program */
};
```

$$\};$$

For more information about the fields of this structure, see `passwd(5)`.

RETURN VALUE

The `getpw()` function returns 0 on success; on error, it returns -1, and `errno` is set to indicate the error.

If `uid` is not found in the password database, `getpw()` returns -1, sets `errno` to 0, and leaves `buf` unchanged.

ERRORS

0 or ENOENT

No user corresponding to uid.

EINVAL buf is NULL.

ENOMEM Insufficient memory to allocate passwd structure.

FILES

```
/etc/passwd
```

password database file

ATTRIBUTES

For an explanation of the terms used in this section, see `attributes(7)`.

[illegible]

Interface	Attribute	Value
?	?	?

[illegible]

? getpw() ? Thread safety ? MT-Safe locale ?

[illegible]

STANDARDS

None.

HISTORY

SVr2.

BUGS

The `getpw()` function is dangerous as it may overflow the provided buffer `buf`. It is obsoleted by `getpwuid(3)`.

SEE ALSO

endpwent(3), fgetpwent(3), getpwent(3), getpwnam(3), getpwuid(3), putpwent(3), setpwent(3),
passwd(5)