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

\$ man getpwnam.3

getpwnam(3) Library Functions Manual getpwnam(3)

NAME

getpwnam, getpwnam_r, getpwuid, getpwuid_r - get password file entry

LIBRARY

Standard C library (libc, -lc)

SYNOPSIS

```
#include <sys/types.h>
```

```
#include <pwd.h>
```

```
struct passwd *getpwnam(const char *name);
```

```
struct passwd *getpwuid(uid_t uid);
```

```
int getpwnam_r(size_t size;
```

```
    const char *restrict name,
```

```
    struct passwd *restrict pwd,
```

```
    char buf[restrict size], size_t size,
```

```
    struct passwd **restrict result);
```

```
int getpwuid_r(size_t size;
```

```
    uid_t uid,
```

```
    struct passwd *restrict pwd,
```

```
    char buf[restrict size], size_t size,
```

```
    struct passwd **restrict result);
```

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

```
getpwnam_r(), getpwuid_r():
```

```
    _POSIX_C_SOURCE
```

```
|| /* glibc <= 2.19: */ _BSD_SOURCE || _SVID_SOURCE
```

DESCRIPTION

The `getpwnam()` function returns a pointer to a structure containing the broken-out fields of the record in the password database (e.g., the local password file `/etc/passwd`, NIS, and LDAP) that matches the username name.

The `getpwuid()` function returns a pointer to a structure containing the broken-out fields of the record in the password database that matches the user ID `uid`.

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 */
};
```

See `passwd(5)` for more information about these fields.

The `getpwnam_r()` and `getpwuid_r()` functions obtain the same information as `getpwnam()` and `getpwuid()`, but store the retrieved `passwd` structure in the space pointed to by `pwd`. The string fields pointed to by the members of the `passwd` structure are stored in the buffer `buf` of size `size`. A pointer to the result (in case of success) or `NULL` (in case no entry was found or an error occurred) is stored in `*result`.

The call

```
sysconf(_SC_GETPW_R_SIZE_MAX)
```

returns either `-1`, without changing `errno`, or an initial suggested size for `buf`. (If this size is too small, the call fails with `ERANGE`, in which case the caller can retry with a larger buffer.)

RETURN VALUE

The `getpwnam()` and `getpwuid()` functions return a pointer to a `passwd` structure, or `NULL` if the matching entry is not found or an error occurs. If an error occurs, `errno` is set to indicate the error. If one wants to check `errno` after the call, it should be set to zero before the call.

The return value may point to a static area, and may be overwritten by subsequent calls to `getpwent(3)`, `getpwnam()`, or `getpwuid()`. (Do not pass the returned pointer to `free(3)`.)

On success, `getpwnam_r()` and `getpwuid_r()` return zero, and set `*result` to `pwd`. If no matching password record was found, these functions return 0 and store NULL in `*result`. In case of error, an error number is returned, and NULL is stored in `*result`.

ERRORS

0 or ENOENT or ESRCH or EBADF or EPERM or ...

The given name or uid was not found.

EINTR A signal was caught; see `signal(7)`.

EIO I/O error.

EMFILE The per-process limit on the number of open file descriptors has been reached.

ENFILE The system-wide limit on the total number of open files has been reached.

ENOMEM Insufficient memory to allocate `passwd` structure.

ERANGE Insufficient buffer space supplied.

NOTE

The user password database mostly refers to `/etc/passwd`. However, with recent systems it also refers to network wide databases using NIS, LDAP and other local files as configured in `/etc/nsswitch.conf`.

FILES

`/etc/passwd`

local password database file

`/etc/nsswitch.conf`

System Databases and Name Service Switch configuration file

ATTRIBUTES

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

??

? Interface ? Attribute ? Value ?

??

? `getpwnam()` ? Thread safety ? MT-Unsafe race:pwnam locale ?

??

? `getpwuid()` ? Thread safety ? MT-Unsafe race:pwuid locale ?

??

? `getpwnam_r()`, ? Thread safety ? MT-Safe locale ?

[illegible]

```

{
    struct passwd pwd;

    struct passwd *result;

    char *buf;

    long bufsize;

    int s;

    if (argc != 2) {
        fprintf(stderr, "Usage: %s username\n", argv[0]);
        exit(EXIT_FAILURE);
    }

    bufsize = sysconf(_SC_GETPW_R_SIZE_MAX);

    if (bufsize == -1)        /* Value was indeterminate */
        bufsize = 16384;    /* Should be more than enough */

    buf = malloc(bufsize);

    if (buf == NULL) {
        perror("malloc");
        exit(EXIT_FAILURE);
    }

    s = getpwnam_r(argv[1], &pwd, buf, bufsize, &result);

    if (result == NULL) {
        if (s == 0)
            printf("Not found\n");
        else {
            errno = s;
            perror("getpwnam_r");
        }
        exit(EXIT_FAILURE);
    }

    printf("Name: %s; UID: %jd\n", pwd.pw_gecos,
        (intmax_t) pwd.pw_uid);

    exit(EXIT_SUCCESS);
}

```

endpwent(3), fgetpwent(3), getgrnam(3), getpw(3), getpwent(3), getspnam(3), putpwent(3),
setpwent(3), nsswitch.conf(5), passwd(5)

Linux man-pages 6.17

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