



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

\$ man getusershell.3

getusershell(3) Library Functions Manual getusershell(3)

NAME

getusershell, setusershell, endusershell - get permitted user shells

LIBRARY

Standard C library (libc, -lc)

SYNOPSIS

```
#include <unistd.h>
```

```
char *getusershell(void);
```

```
void setusershell(void);
```

```
void endusershell(void);
```

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

getusershell(), setusershell(), endusershell():

Since glibc 2.21:

```
_DEFAULT_SOURCE
```

In glibc 2.19 and 2.20:

```
_DEFAULT_SOURCE || (_XOPEN_SOURCE && _XOPEN_SOURCE < 500)
```

Up to and including glibc 2.19:

```
_BSD_SOURCE || (_XOPEN_SOURCE && _XOPEN_SOURCE < 500)
```

DESCRIPTION

The `getusershell()` function returns the next line from the file `/etc/shells`, opening the file if necessary. The line should contain the pathname of a valid user shell. If `/etc/shells` does not exist or is unreadable, `getusershell()` behaves as if `/bin/sh` and `/bin/csh` were listed in the file.

The `setusershell()` function rewinds `/etc/shells`.

The `endusershell()` function closes `/etc/shells`.

RETURN VALUE

The `getusershell()` function returns `NULL` on end-of-file.

FILES

/etc/shells

ATTRIBUTES

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

[illegible]

?	Interface	?	Attribute	?	Value	?
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[illegible]

? getusershell(), setusershell(), endusershell() ? Thread safety ? MT-Unsafe ?

[illegible]

STANDARDS

None.

HISTORY

4.3BSD.

SEE ALSO

shells(5)

Linux man-pages 6.17

2026-02-08

```
getusershell(3)
```