

System Data Files and Information

Table of Contents

- [System Data Files and Information](#)
 - [Table of Contents](#)
 - [Overview](#)
 - [Password](#)
 - [Group](#)
 - [Other Data Files](#)
 - [Accounting](#)
 - [System Identification](#)
 - [Time and Date Routines](#)

Overview

- password file: `/etc/passwd`
- group file: `/etc/group`
- many other system configuration files: `/etc`
- portable interfaces to these files are provided
- who am I: `id` command

Password

- `/etc/passwd` file

Description	struct passwd member	POSIX.1	FreeBSD 8.0	Linux 3.2	Mac OS X 10.6.8	Solaris 10
User name	char *pw_name	•	•	•	•	•
Encrypted password	char *pw_passwd		•	•	•	•
Numerical user ID	uid_t pw_uid	•	•	•	•	•
Numerical group ID	gid_t pw_gid	•	•	•	•	•
Comment field	char *pw_gecos		•	•	•	•
Initial working dir	char *pw_dir	•	•	•	•	•
Initial shell	char *pw_shell	•	•	•	•	•
User access class	char *pw_class		•		•	

Description	struct passwd member	POSIX.1	FreeBSD 8.0	Linux 3.2	Mac OS X 10.6.8	Solaris 10
Next time to change password	<code>time_t pw_change</code>		•		•	
Account expiration time	<code>time_t pw_expire</code>		•		•	

- initial shell is the first process that a user logs in
 - use `/dev/null` or `/bin/false` to prevent users from logging in
 - valid shells are listed in `/etc/shells`
- use command `finger` to read information of this file

- functions

- include `<pwd.h>`
- get `struct passwd` for a specific user
 - `struct passwd *getpwuid(uid_t uid);`
 - `struct passwd *getpwnam(const char *name);`
- iteratively retrieve all password information
 - `struct passwd *getpwent(void);`
 - `void setpwent(void);` -> rewind
 - `void endpwent(void);` -> close file

- modern UNIX systems move the encrypted password into another file

- instead of `/etc/passwd` in the past
- FreeBSD: `/etc/master.passwd`
- Linux: `/etc/shadow`

- Linux's Shadow Structure

- include `<shadow.h>`
- `struct spwd *getspnam(const char *name);`
- `struct spwd *getspent(void);`
- `void setspent(void);`
- `void endspent(void);`

Decription	struct spwd member
User login name	<code>char *sp_nmap</code>
Encrypted password	<code>char *sp_pwdp</code>
Date of last password change (days since epoch)	<code>long sp_lastchg</code>
Min # of days between changes	<code>long sp_min</code>
Max # of days between changes	<code>long sp_max</code>
# of days before password expires to warn user to change it	<code>long sp_warn</code>
# of days after password expires until account is disabled	<code>long sp_inact</code>

Decription	struct spwd member
Date when account expires (days since epoch)	<code>long sp_expire</code>
Reserved	<code>long sp_flag</code>

- More on User Passwords
 - Algorithm id + Salt + Encrypted password
 - `crypt(3)` function
 - include `<crypt.h>`, link with `-lcrypt`
 - `char *crypt (const char *key, const char *salt)`
 - e.g.
 - `crypt("password", "abcde")`
 - `crypt("password", "5abcde$")`

Group

- `/etc/group` file

Description	struct group member	POSIX.1	FreeBSD 8.0	Linux 3.2	Mac OS X 10.6.8	Solaris 10
Group name	<code>char *gr_name</code>	•	•	•	•	•
Encrypted password	<code>char *gr_passwd</code>		•	•	•	•
Numerical group ID	<code>gid_t gr_gid</code>	•	•	•	•	•
Array of pointers to individual user names	<code>char **gr_mem</code>	•	•	•	•	•

- Supplement Group IDs
 - in the past, a UNIX user is belong to a single group
 - user is also belong to a number of additional groups
 - command `newgrp(1)` to switch between allowed groups
 - change current effective GID
 - permission check are performed based on all the group IDs
 - the number of additional groups has a limit `NGROUPS_MAX`, usually 16
- functions
 - include `<grp.h>`
 - get `struct group` for a specific group
 - `struct group *getgrgid(gid_t gid);`
 - `struct group *getgrnam(const char *name);`
 - iteratively retrieve all group information
 - `struct group *getgrent(void);`
 - `void setgrent(void);` -> rewind
 - `void endgrent(void);` -> close file

- `initgroups(3):int initgroups(const char *username, gid_t basegid);`
 - setup gid and supplement groups IDs for a user based on `/etc/group`
- `setgroups(2):int setgroups(int ngroups, const gid_t grouplist[]);`
 - setup supplement group IDs, usually called by `initgroups(3)`
- `getgroups(2):int getgroups(int gidsetsize, gid_t grouplist[]);`
 - in `<unistd.h>`
- Implementation Differences

Information	FreeBSD 8.0	Linux 3.2.0	Mac OS 10.6.8	Solaris 10
Account information	<code>/etc/passwd</code>	<code>/etc/passwd</code>	Directory Services	<code>/etc/passwd</code>
Encrypted passwords	<code>/etc/master.passwd</code>	<code>/etc/shadow</code>	Directory Services	<code>/etc/shadow</code>
Hashed password files?	yes	no	no	no
Group information	<code>/etc/group</code>	<code>/etc/group</code>	Directory Services	<code>/etc/group</code>

- some UNIX systems implement user and group database by
 - network information service (NIS)
 - lightweight directory access protocol (LDAP)
 - have a look at `/etc/nsswitch.conf`

Other Data Files

Description	Data file	Header	Structure	Lookup function
password	<code>/etc/passwd</code>	<code><pwd.h></code>	<code>passwd</code>	<code>getpwnam, getpwuid</code>
groups	<code>/etc/groups</code>	<code><grp.h></code>	<code>group</code>	<code>getgrnam, getgrgid</code>
shadow	<code>/etc/shadow</code>	<code><shadow.h></code>	<code>shwd</code>	<code>getspnam</code>
hosts	<code>/etc/hosts</code>	<code><netdb.h></code>	<code>hostent</code>	<code>gethostbyname, gethostbyaddr</code>
networks	<code>/etc/networks</code>	<code><netdb.h></code>	<code>netent</code>	<code>getnetbyname, getnetbyaddr</code>
protocols	<code>/etc/protocols</code>	<code><netdb.h></code>	<code>protornt</code>	<code>getprotobynabe, getprotobynumber</code>
services	<code>/etc/services</code>	<code><netdb.h></code>	<code>servent</code>	<code>getservbyname, getservbyport</code>

Accounting

- `utmp(5)`: record the currently logged in users

```
struct utmp {
    short    ut_type;           /* Type of record */
    pid_t    ut_pid;           /* PID of login process */
    char     ut_line[UT_LINESIZE]; /* Device name of tty - "/dev/" */
}
```

```

    char    ut_id[4];           /* Terminal name suffix, or inittab(5)
ID */
    char    ut_user[UT_NAMESIZE]; /* Username */
    char    ut_host[UT_HOSTSIZE]; /* Hostname for remote login,
                                   or kernel version for run-level
messages */
    ...
}

```

- `wtmp(5)`: record the history of user login, logout, and system (up, down, or reboot) activities
- relevant commands
 - `w(1)`
 - `who(1)`
 - `last(1)`

System Identification

- `uname(2): int uname(struct utsname *buf);`
 - return: 0 OK, -1 error

```

struct utsname {
    char sysname[]; /* Operating system name (e.g., "Linux") */
    char nodename[]; /* Name within "some implementation-defined
network" */
    char release[]; /* Operating system release (e.g., "2.6.28") */
    char version[]; /* Operating system version */
    char machine[]; /* Hardware identifier */
};

```

- `uname(1)`

```

$ uanme -a
Linux ee904-itri-pc2 4.15.0-50-generic #54-Ubuntu SMP Mon May 6
18:46:08 UTC 2019 x86_64 x86_64 x86_64 GNU/Linux

```

Field	Description
System	Linux
Node	ee904-itri-pc2
Release	4.15.0-50-generic
Version	#54-Ubuntu SMP Mon May 6 18:46:08 UTC 2019
Machine	x86_64

Field	Description
Processor	x86_64
Hardware platform	x86_64
Operating system	GNU/Linux

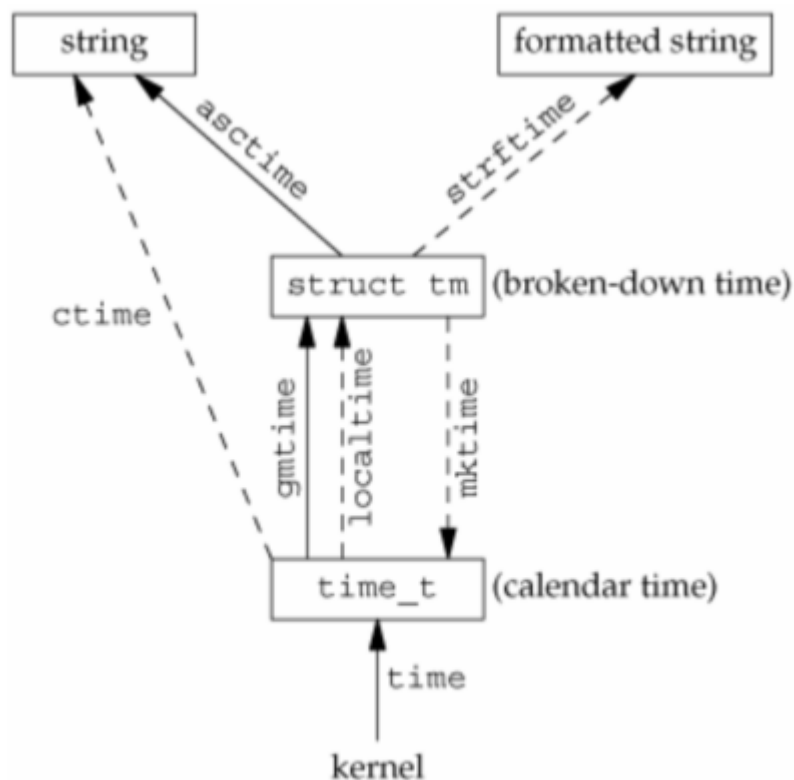
Time and Date Routines

- `time(2):time_t time(time_t *tloc);`
 - return: current time from epoch (seconds)
 - if `tloc` is not `NULL`, `tloc` will also point to the current time
- `gettimeofday(2):int gettimeofday(struct timeval *tv, struct timezone *tz);`
 - return: 0 OK, -1 error
 - `tv` point to current time from epoch (microseconds)
 - `tz` is usually `NULL`, see NOTES in man page

```
struct timeval {
    time_t      tv_sec;        /* seconds */
    suseconds_t tv_usec;      /* microseconds */
};

struct timezone {
    int tz_minuteswest;      /* minutes west of Greenwich */
    int tz_dsttime;          /* type of DST correction */
};
```

- Time Functions
 - relationships
 - solid arrow: UTC time zone
 - dashed arrow: time zone base on environment variable `TZ`



- structure `tm`

```

struct tm {
    int tm_sec;    /* Seconds (0-60) */
    int tm_min;    /* Minutes (0-59) */
    int tm_hour;   /* Hours (0-23) */
    int tm_mday;   /* Day of the month (1-31) */
    int tm_mon;    /* Month (0-11) */
    int tm_year;   /* Year - 1900 */
    int tm_wday;   /* Day of the week (0-6, Sunday = 0) */
    int tm_yday;   /* Day in the year (0-365, 1 Jan = 0) */
    int tm_isdst;  /* Daylight saving time */
};
  
```

- break down `time_t` value

- `gmtime(3)`
 - `struct tm *gmtime(const time_t *timep);`
 - `struct tm *gmtime_r(const time_t *timep, struct tm *result);`
- `localtime(3)`
 - `struct tm *localtime(const time_t *timep);`
 - `struct tm *localtime_r(const time_t *timep, struct tm *result);`

- print out time in a string

- `asctime(3)`

- `char *asctime(const struct tm *tm);`
- `char *asctime_r(const struct tm *tm, char *buf);`
- `ctime(3)`
 - `char *ctime(const time_t *timep);`
 - `char *ctime_r(const time_t *timep, char *buf);`
- make up `time_t` value
 - `mktime(3): time_t mktime(struct tm *tm);`
- formatted output
 - `strftime(3): size_t strftime(char *s, size_t max, const char *format, const struct tm *tm);`

Format	Description	Example
<code>%a</code>	Abbr. weekday name	Mon
<code>%A</code>	Full weekday name	Monday
<code>%b</code>	Abbr. month name	May
<code>%B</code>	Full month name	May
<code>%c</code>	Date and time	Mon May 27 13:25:57 2019
<code>%C</code>	Year/100	20
<code>%d</code>	Day of month, leading zero	27
<code>%D</code>	Date [MM/DD/YY]	05/27/19
<code>%e</code>	Day of month, leading space.	27
<code>%F</code>	ISO 8601: <code>%Y-%m-%d</code>	2019-05-27
<code>%g</code>	<code>%G</code> without century	19
<code>%G</code>	ISO 8601 week-based year	2019
<code>%h</code>	same as <code>%b</code>	May
<code>%H</code>	Hour (24-hours)	13
<code>%I</code>	Hour (12-hours)	01
<code>%j</code>	Day of the year: 001-366	147
<code>%m</code>	Month: 01-12	05
<code>%M</code>	Minute: 00-59	37
<code>%n</code>	New line	
<code>%p</code>	AM or PM	PM
<code>%r</code>	Locale's time (12-hours)	13:37:13 PM

Format	Description	Example
%R	%H:%M	13:37
%S	Second: 00-60	13
%t	Horizontal tab	
%T	%H:%M:%S	13:37:13
%u	ISO 8601 weekday: 1-7	1
%U	Sunday week number: 00-53	21
%V	ISO 8601 week number	22
%w	Sunday weekay: 0-6	1
%W	Monday week number: 00-53	21
%x	Date	05/27/19
%X	Time	13:37:13
%y	Year without century	19
%Y	Year	2019
%Z	Offset from UTC	+0800
%Z	Timezone name or abbreviation	CST
%%	'%' character	%

- Example

```
int main() {
    time_t t = time(0);
    struct tm tm1, tm2;
    char buf[256];
    gmtime_r(&t, &tm1);
    localtime_r(&t, &tm2);
    printf("      time: %ld\n", t);
    printf("      cime: %s", ctime_r(&t, buf));
    printf(" g -> asctime: %s", asctime(&tm1));
    printf(" l -> asctime: %s", asctime(&tm2));
    strftime(buf, sizeof(buf), "%c %Z (%z)", &tm1);
    printf("g -> strftime: %s\n", buf);
    strftime(buf, sizeof(buf), "%c %Z (%z)", &tm2);
    printf("l -> strftime: %s\n", buf);
}
```

/* Result:

```
*      time: 1558936577
*      cime: Mon May 27 13:56:17 2019
* g -> asctime: Mon May 27 05:56:17 2019
```

```
* l -> asctime: Mon May 27 13:56:17 2019
* g -> strftime: Mon May 27 05:56:17 2019 GMT (+0000)
* l -> strftime: Mon May 27 13:56:17 2019 CST (+0800)
*/
```

- Time Zone

- `tzset(3)`
- standard: `std offset`
 - `offset`
 - `[+|-]hh[:mm[:ss]]`
 - positive: west of the Prime Meridian
 - negative: east of the Prime Meridian
 - e.g.
 - `CST-08:00:00`
 - `PST08:00:00`
 - `NSDT-13:00:00`
- daylight saving time: `std offset dst[offset][,start[/time],end[/time]]`
 - e.g.
 - `NZST-12:00:00NZDT-13:00:00,M10.1.0,M3.3.0`
- predefined: files stored in `/usr/share/zoneinfo`
 - `:filename`
 - e.g.
 - `:Asia/Taipei`
 - `:America/Vancouver`
 - `:NZ`