tgetent()



This function is part of the Terminal Capability library "termcap", which is older than "terminfo".

Many modern systems use "ncurses" or "terminfo", but "termcap" is still supported for legacy compatibility.

The tgetent() function loads the Terminal Entry for a given terminal type from the Terminal Capabilities Database. It's defined in the "termcap.h" system header.

The Terminal Capabilities Database is usually the "/etc/termcap" file.

It prepares the data needed by other "termcap" functions such as: "tgetstr()", "tgetnum()", and "tgetflag()".

```
#include <termcap.h>
// "bp" is a buffer to store the terminal entry
// "termtype" the terminal type
int tgetent(char *bp, const char *termtype);
```

The "termtype" is usually obtained from the TERM environment variable.

tgetent()

Returns 1 if the terminal entry is found and loaded. If the terminal type is not found, returns 0.

In case of failure, returns -1.

Example Usage

```
/* includes... */
int main(void)
{
  char term_buffer[2048];
  char *termtype;
  int success;
    termtype = getenv("TERM");
  if (!termtype)
  {
    fprintf(stderr, "TERM environment variable not set.\n");
    return (1);
  success = tgetent(term_buffer, termtype);
  if (success < 0)
    fprintf(stderr, "Could not access termcap database.\n");
    return (1);
  else if (success == 0)
    fprintf(stderr, "Terminal type '%s' not found.\n", termtype);
    return (1);
  }
  printf("Termcap entry loaded for terminal type: %s\n", termtype);
  return (0);
}
```

tgetent()