

**NAME**

`pcap_lookupdev` – find the default device on which to capture

**SYNOPSIS**

```
#include <pcap/pcap.h>
```

```
char errbuf[PCAP_ERRBUF_SIZE];
```

```
[DEPRECATED] char *pcap_lookupdev(char *errbuf);
```

**DESCRIPTION**

**This interface is obsoleted by `pcap_findalldevs(3PCAP)`.** To find a default device on which to capture, call `pcap_findalldevs()` and, if the list it returns is not empty, use the first device in the list. (If the list is empty, there are no devices on which capture is possible.)

**If `pcap_init(3PCAP)` has been called, this interface always returns `NULL`.**

`pcap_lookupdev()` returns a pointer to a string giving the name of a network device suitable for use with `pcap_create(3PCAP)` and `pcap_activate(3PCAP)`, or with `pcap_open_live(3PCAP)`, and with `pcap_lookupnet(3PCAP)`. If there is an error, or if `pcap_init(3PCAP)` has been called, `NULL` is returned and *errbuf* is filled in with an appropriate error message. *errbuf* is assumed to be able to hold at least `PCAP_ERRBUF_SIZE` chars.

**SEE ALSO**

`pcap(3PCAP)`

**BUGS**

The pointer returned by `pcap_lookupdev()` points to a static buffer; subsequent calls to `pcap_lookupdev()` in the same thread, or calls to `pcap_lookupdev()` in another thread, may overwrite that buffer.

In WinPcap and Npcap, this function may return a UTF-16 string rather than an ASCII or UTF-8 string.