

**NAME**

getpw – reconstruct password line entry

**LIBRARY**

Standard C library (*libc*, *-lc*)

**SYNOPSIS**

```
#define _GNU_SOURCE      /* See feature_test_macros(7) */
#include <sys/types.h>
#include <pwd.h>

[[deprecated]] int getpw(uid_t uid, char *buf);
```

**DESCRIPTION**

The **getpw()** function reconstructs the password line entry for the given user ID *uid* in the buffer *buf*. The returned buffer contains a line of format

```
name:passwd:uid:gid:gecos:dir:shell
```

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 */
};
```

For more information about the fields of this structure, see **passwd(5)**.

**RETURN VALUE**

The **getpw()** function returns 0 on success; on error, it returns *-1*, and *errno* is set to indicate the error.

If *uid* is not found in the password database, **getpw()** returns *-1*, sets *errno* to 0, and leaves *buf* unchanged.

**ERRORS****0 or ENOENT**

No user corresponding to *uid*.

**EINVAL**

*buf* is NULL.

**ENOMEM**

Insufficient memory to allocate *passwd* structure.

**FILES**

*/etc/passwd*  
password database file

**ATTRIBUTES**

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

Interface	Attribute	Value
<b>getpw()</b>	Thread safety	MT-Safe locale

**STANDARDS**

SVr2.

**BUGS**

The **getpw()** function is dangerous as it may overflow the provided buffer *buf*. It is obsoleted by **getpwuid(3)**.

**SEE ALSO**

**endpwent(3), fgetpwent(3), getpwent(3), getpwnam(3), getpwuid(3), putpwent(3), setpwent(3), passwd(5)**