

getent(1) — Linux manual page

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GETENT(1)

User Commands

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NAME [top](#)

`getent` - get entries from Name Service Switch libraries

SYNOPSIS [top](#)

`getent` [*option*]... *database key*...

DESCRIPTION [top](#)

The **getent** command displays entries from databases supported by the Name Service Switch libraries, which are configured in */etc/nsswitch.conf*. If one or more *key* arguments are provided, then only the entries that match the supplied keys will be displayed. Otherwise, if no *key* is provided, all entries will be displayed (unless the database does not support enumeration).

The *database* may be any of those supported by the GNU C Library, listed below:

ahosts When no *key* is provided, use [sethostent\(3\)](#), [gethostent\(3\)](#), and [endhostent\(3\)](#) to enumerate the hosts database. This is identical to using **hosts**. When one or more *key* arguments are provided, pass each *key* in succession to [getaddrinfo\(3\)](#) with the address family **AF_UNSPEC**, enumerating each socket address structure returned.

ahostsv4
Same as **ahosts**, but use the address family **AF_INET**.

ahostsv6
Same as **ahosts**, but use the address family **AF_INET6**. The call to [getaddrinfo\(3\)](#) in this case includes the **AI_V4MAPPED** flag.

aliases
When no *key* is provided, use [setaliasent\(3\)](#), [getaliasent\(3\)](#), and [endaliasent\(3\)](#) to enumerate the

aliases database. When one or more *key* arguments are provided, pass each *key* in succession to `getaliasbyname(3)` and display the result.

ethers When one or more *key* arguments are provided, pass each *key* in succession to `ether_aton(3)` and `ether_hostton(3)` until a result is obtained, and display the result. Enumeration is not supported on **ethers**, so a *key* must be provided.

group When no *key* is provided, use `setgrent(3)`, `getgrent(3)`, and `endgrent(3)` to enumerate the group database. When one or more *key* arguments are provided, pass each numeric *key* to `getgrgid(3)` and each nonnumeric *key* to `getgrnam(3)` and display the result.

gshadow

When no *key* is provided, use **`setsgent(3)`**, **`getsgent(3)`**, and **`endsgent(3)`** to enumerate the gshadow database. When one or more *key* arguments are provided, pass each *key* in succession to **`getsgnam(3)`** and display the result.

hosts When no *key* is provided, use `sethostent(3)`, `gethostent(3)`, and `endhostent(3)` to enumerate the hosts database. When one or more *key* arguments are provided, pass each *key* to `gethostbyaddr(3)` or `gethostbyname2(3)`, depending on whether a call to `inet_pton(3)` indicates that the *key* is an IPv6 or IPv4 address or not, and display the result.

initgroups

When one or more *key* arguments are provided, pass each *key* in succession to `getgrouplist(3)` and display the result. Enumeration is not supported on **initgroups**, so a *key* must be provided.

netgroup

When one *key* is provided, pass the *key* to `setnetgrent(3)` and, using `getnetgrent(3)` display the resulting string triple (*hostname*, *username*, *domainname*). Alternatively, three *keys* may be provided, which are interpreted as the *hostname*, *username*, and *domainname* to match to a netgroup name via `innetgr(3)`. Enumeration is not supported on **netgroup**, so either one or three *keys* must be provided.

networks

When no *key* is provided, use `setnetent(3)`, `getnetent(3)`, and `endnetent(3)` to enumerate the networks database. When one or more *key* arguments are provided, pass each numeric *key* to `getnetbyaddr(3)` and each nonnumeric *key* to `getnetbyname(3)` and display the result.

passwd When no *key* is provided, use `setpwent(3)`, `getpwent(3)`, and `endpwent(3)` to enumerate the passwd database. When one or more *key* arguments are provided, pass each numeric *key* to `getpwuid(3)` and each nonnumeric *key* to `getpwnam(3)` and display the result.

protocols

When no *key* is provided, use `setprotoent(3)`, `getprotoent(3)`, and `endprotoent(3)` to enumerate the protocols database. When one or more *key* arguments are provided, pass each numeric *key* to `getprotobynumber(3)` and each nonnumeric *key* to `getprotobynam(3)` and display the result.

rpc

When no *key* is provided, use `setrpcent(3)`, `getrpcent(3)`, and `endrpcent(3)` to enumerate the rpc database. When one or more *key* arguments are provided, pass each numeric *key* to `getrpcbynumber(3)` and each nonnumeric *key* to `getrpcbyname(3)` and display the result.

services

When no *key* is provided, use `setservent(3)`, `getservent(3)`, and `endservent(3)` to enumerate the services database. When one or more *key* arguments are provided, pass each numeric *key* to `getservbynumber(3)` and each nonnumeric *key* to `getservbyname(3)` and display the result.

shadow When no *key* is provided, use `setspent(3)`, `getspent(3)`, and `endspent(3)` to enumerate the shadow database. When one or more *key* arguments are provided, pass each *key* in succession to `getsppnam(3)` and display the result.

OPTIONS

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- s *service*, --service *service***
Override all databases with the specified service. (Since glibc 2.2.5.)
- s *database:service*, --service *database:service***
Override only specified databases with the specified service. The option may be used multiple times, but only the last service for each database will be used. (Since glibc 2.4.)
- i, --no-idn**
Disables IDN encoding in lookups for `ahosts/getaddrinfo(3)` (Since glibc-2.13.)
- ?, --help**
Print a usage summary and exit.
- usage**

Print a short usage summary and exit.

-V, --version

Print the version number, license, and disclaimer of warranty for **getent**.

EXIT STATUS [top](#)

One of the following exit values can be returned by **getent**:

- 0** Command completed successfully.
- 1** Missing arguments, or *database* unknown.
- 2** One or more supplied *key* could not be found in the *database*.
- 3** Enumeration not supported on this *database*.

SEE ALSO [top](#)

[nsswitch.conf\(5\)](#)

COLOPHON [top](#)

This page is part of release 5.13 of the Linux *man-pages* project. A description of the project, information about reporting bugs, and the latest version of this page, can be found at <https://www.kernel.org/doc/man-pages/>.

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Pages that refer to this page: [groups\(1\)](#), [homectl\(1\)](#), [userdbctl\(1\)](#), [users\(1\)](#), [nsswitch.conf\(5\)](#), [passwd\(5@@shadow-utils\)](#), [nss-myhostname\(8\)](#), [nss-mymachines\(8\)](#), [nss-systemd\(8\)](#)

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