



Chapter 6.

System Data Files and Information

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Disclaimer: The slides are borrowed from many sources!

Password File

- Called *user database* in POSIX, and usually `/etc/passwd`
- Password file contains the following fields:

Description	struct passwd member	POSIX.1	FreeBSD 8.0	Linux 3.2.0	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 directory	char *pw_dir	•	•	•	•	•
initial shell (user program)	char *pw_shell	•	•	•	•	•
user access class	char *pw_class		•		•	
next time to change password	time_t pw_change		•		•	
account expiration time	time_t pw_expire		•		•	

Figure 6.1 Fields in `/etc/passwd` file



Password File

- The **encrypted password** field contains a **single character** as a placeholder where older versions of the UNIX System used to store the encrypted password.
- Some fields can be empty:
 - password empty implies **no password**
 - shell empty implies **/bin/sh**
 - **/dev/null**: Nobody can log in as squid.

```
root:x:0:0:root:/root:/bin/bash
squid:x:23:23::/var/spool/squid:/dev/null
nobody:x:65534:65534:Nobody:/home:/bin/sh
sar:x:205:105:Stephen Rago:/home/sar:/bin/bash
```



Password File

```
#include <sys/types.h>
#include <pwd.h>

struct passwd *getpwent(void);
void setpwent(void);
void endpwent(void);
```

Returns: pointer if OK, NULL on error

- getpwent returns next password entry in file each time it's called, no order
- setpwent rewinds to "beginning" of entries
- endpwent closes the file(s)



Password File

```
#include <sys/types.h>
#include <pwd.h>

struct passwd *getpwuid(uid_t uid);
struct passwd *getpwnam(const char *name);
```

Returns: pointer if OK, NULL on error

```
#include <pwd.h>
#include <stddef.h>
#include <string.h>

struct passwd *
getpwnam(const char *name)
{
    struct passwd *ptr;
    setpwent();
    while ((ptr = getpwent()) != NULL)
        if (strcmp(name, ptr->pw_name) == 0)
            break;      /* found a match */
    endpwent();
    return(ptr);      /* ptr is NULL if no match found */
}
```

Figure 6.2 The getpwnam function



Group File

- Called *user database* in POSIX, and usually `/etc/group`
- Group file contains the following fields:

Description	struct group member	POSIX.1	FreeBSD 8.0	Linux 3.2.0	Mac OS X 10.6.8	Solaris 10
group name	char *gr_name	•	•	•	•	•
encrypted password	char *gr_passwd		•	•	•	•
numerical group ID	int gr_gid	•	•	•	•	•
array of pointers to individual user names	char **gr_mem	•	•	•	•	•

Figure 6.4 Fields in `/etc/group` file



Group File

```
#include <sys/types.h>
#include <grp.h>

struct group *getgrgid(gid_t gid);
struct group *getgrnam(const char *name);
```

Returns: pointer if OK, NULL on error

- These allow us to look up an entry given a user's group name or numerical GID.



Group File

```
#include <sys/types.h>
#include <grp.h>

struct group *getgrent(void);
void setgrent(void);
void endgrent(void);
```

Returns: pointer if OK, NULL on error

- What if we need to go through the group file entry by entry? **Nothing in POSIX.1**, but SVR4 and BSD give us:
- `getgrent` returns next group entry in file each time it's called, no order.
- `setgrent` rewinds to "beginning" of entries.
- `endgrent` closes the file(s).



Supplementary Groups and other data files

```
#include <sys/types.h>
#include <unistd.h>

int getgroups(int gidsetsize, gid_t *grouplist);
    Returns: returns number of suppl. groups if OK, -1 on error
```

- In old times, a user belonged to a single group at any point of time.
- But now **multiple groups** (supplementary group IDs) are possible. (POSIX.1)
- if `gidsetsize == 0`, `getgroups(2)` returns number of groups without modifying `grouplist`.



Account Implementation Differences

Information	FreeBSD 8.0	Linux 3.2.0	Mac OS X 10.6.8	Solaris 10
account information	/etc/passwd	/etc/passwd	Directory Services	/etc/passwd
encrypted passwords	/etc/master.passwd	/etc/shadow	Directory Services	/etc/shadow
hashed password files?	yes	no	no	no
group information	/etc/group	/etc/group	Directory Services	/etc/group

Figure 6.5 Account implementation differences



Other system databases

- Similar routines as for password/group for accessing system data files:

Description	Data file	Header	Structure	Additional lookup functions
hosts	/etc/hosts	<netdb.h>	hostent	gethostbyname gethostbyaddr
networks	/etc/networks	<netdb.h>	netent	getnetbyname getnetbyaddr
protocols	/etc/protocols	<netdb.h>	protoent	getprotobyname getprotobynumber
services	/etc/services	<netdb.h>	servent	getservbyname getservbyport



System Identification

```
#include <sys/utsname.h>
```

```
int uname(struct utsname *name);
```

Returns: nonnegative value if OK, -1 on error

- Pass a pointer to a utsname struct. This struct contains fields like opsys name, version, release, architecture, etc.
- This function used by the uname(1) command (try **uname -a**)
- Not that the size of the fields in the utsname struct may not be large enough to id a host on a network



System Identification

```
#include <unistd.h>
```

```
int gethostname(char *name, int namelen);
```

Returns: 0 if OK, -1 on error

- To get just a hostname that will identify you on a TCP/IP network, use the Berkeley-derived.
- try **hostname**



Time and Date

```
#include <time.h>

time_t time(time_t *calptr);
```

Returns: value of time if OK, -1 on error

- Time is kept in UTC.
 - the number of seconds that have passed since the Epoch: 00:00:00 January 1, 1970, Coordinated Universal Time(UTC).
- Time conversions (timezone, daylight savings time) handled "automatically"
- Time and date kept in a single quantity (time_t)



Time and Date

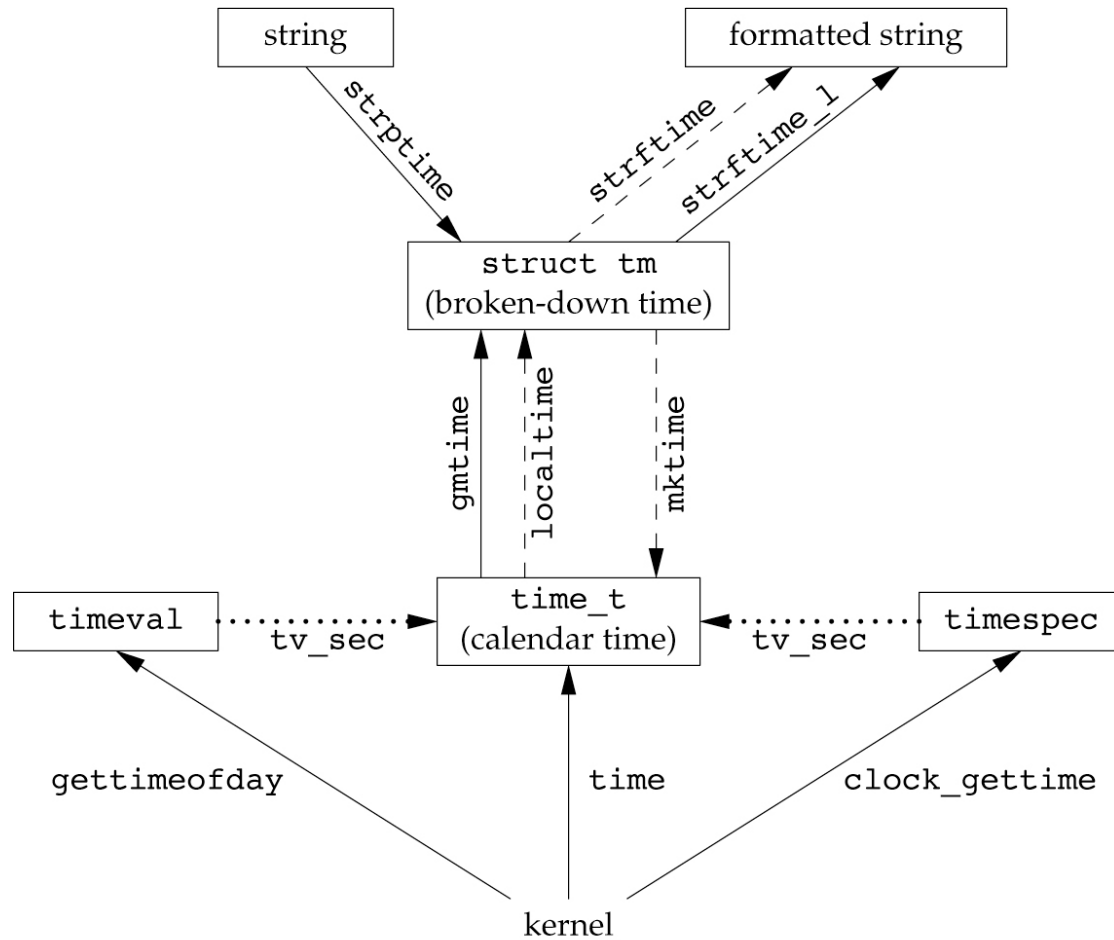


Figure 6.9 Relationship of the various time functions



Time and Date

- We can break this `time_t` value into its components with either of the following:

```
#include <time.h>

struct tm *gmtime(const time_t *calptr);
struct tm *localtime(const time_t *calptr);
Returns: pointer to broken down time
```

- `localtime(3)` takes into account daylight savings time and the TZ environment variable.



Time and Date

struct tm

<ctime> <wchar>

Time structure

Structure containing a calendar date and time broken down into its components.

The structure contains nine members of type `int` (in any order), which are:

C90 (C++98)

C99 (C++11)



Member	Type	Meaning	Range
tm_sec	int	seconds after the minute	0-60*
tm_min	int	minutes after the hour	0-59
tm_hour	int	hours since midnight	0-23
tm_mday	int	day of the month	1-31
tm_mon	int	months since January	0-11
tm_year	int	years since 1900	
tm_wday	int	days since Sunday	0-6
tm_yday	int	days since January 1	0-365
tm_isdst	int	Daylight Saving Time flag	

The *Daylight Saving Time flag* (`tm_isdst`) is greater than zero if Daylight Saving Time is in effect, zero if Daylight Saving Time is not in effect, and less than zero if the information is not available.

* `tm_sec` is generally 0-59. The extra range is to accommodate for *leap seconds* in certain systems.



Time and Date

- To output human readable results, use:

```
#include <time.h>

char *asctime(const struct tm *tm_ptr);
char *ctime(const struct tm *tm_ptr);
Returns: pointer to NULL terminated string
```

- Lastly, there is a printf(3) like function for times:

```
#include <time.h>

size_t strftime(char *buf, size_t maxsize, const char *restricted format, const struct tm *timeptr);
Returns: number of characters stored in array if room, else 0
```



Lab: Exercise 6.3

- Write a program that calls `uname` and prints all the fields in the `utsname` structure. Compare the output to the output from the `uname(1)` command.

