35.2. pwd — The password database

This module provides access to the Unix user account and password database. It is available on all Unix versions.

Password database entries are reported as a tuple-like object, whose attributes correspond to the members of the `passwd` structure (Attribute field below, see `<pwd.h>`):

Index	Attribute	Meaning
0	pw_name	Login name
1	pw_passwd	Optional encrypted password
2	pw_uid	Numerical user ID
3	pw_gid	Numerical group ID
4	pw_gecos	User name or comment field
5	pw_dir	User home directory
6	pw_shell	User command interpreter

The uid and gid items are integers, all others are strings. `KeyError` is raised if the entry asked for cannot be found.

> **Note:** In traditional Unix the field `pw_passwd` usually contains a password encrypted with a DES derived algorithm (see module `crypt`). However most modern unices use a so-called *shadow password* system. On those unices the *pw_passwd* field only contains an asterisk (`'*'`) or the letter `'x'` where the encrypted password is stored in a file `/etc/shadow` which is not world readable. Whether the *pw_passwd* field contains anything useful is system-dependent. If available, the `spwd` module should be used where access to the encrypted password is required.

It defines the following items:

pwd.**getpwuid**(*uid*)
> Return the password database entry for the given numeric user ID.

pwd.**getpwnam**(*name*)
> Return the password database entry for the given user name.

pwd.**getpwall**()
> Return a list of all available password database entries, in arbitrary order.

See also:

Module `grp`
    An interface to the group database, similar to this.

Module `spwd`
    An interface to the shadow password database, similar to this.