Whichever initialization you use, the initialization program boots the rest of your system by running a series of scripts. For System V init, these scripts typically live in /etc/rc.d/init.d or /etc/init.d. They perform services such as setting the system's hostname, checking the filesystem for errors, mounting additional filesystems, enabling networking, starting print services, and so on. When the scripts complete, init starts a program called getty, which displays the login prompt on consoles. Graphical login screens are handled with a graphical display manager, such as GDM for Gnome.

**getty**, short for "get tty", is a [Unix](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Unix) program running on a [host computer](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Host_computer) that manages physical or virtual [terminals](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Computer_terminal) (TTYs). When it detects a connection, it prompts for a username and runs the '[login](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Login)' program to authenticate the user.

Originally, on traditional Unix systems, getty handled connections to serial terminals (often [Teletype](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Teletype) machines) connected to a host computer. The *tty* part of the name stands for *Teletype*, but has come to mean any type of [text terminal](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Text_terminal). One *getty* process serves one terminal. In some systems, for example, [Solaris](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Solaris_%28operating_system%29), *getty* was replaced by [ttymon](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Ttymon&action=edit&redlink=1).

[Personal computers](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Personal_computer) running [Unix-like](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Unix-like) [operating systems](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Operating_system), even if they do not provide any remote login services, may still use *getty* as a means of logging in on a local [virtual console](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Virtual_console).

Cycling through the tty's can be done by the key combination [Ctrl]+[Alt]+[F1] to [F6].[[1]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Getty_%28Unix%29#cite_note-1) The key combination Ctrl+D can often be used to terminate a tty.[[2]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Getty_%28Unix%29#cite_note-2)

Starting X from the command-line style tty can be done by means of the command "startx".

Instead of the *login* program, *getty* may also be set up by the [system administrator](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/System_administrator) to run any other program, for example pppd ([point-to-point protocol](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Point-to-point_protocol) [daemon](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Daemon_%28computing%29)) to provide a dial-up Internet connection.