

NAME

getent - get entries from Name Service Switch libraries

SYNOPSIS

getent *database* [*key* ...]

DESCRIPTION

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 *nokey* 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 [getprotobyname\(3\)](#) 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 [getspnam\(3\)](#) and display the result.

EXIT STATUS

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

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

COLOPHON

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