

**NAME**

getprotoent, getprotobyname, getprotobynumber, setprotoent, endprotoent - get protocol entry

**SYNOPSIS**

```
#include <netdb.h>

struct protoent *getprotoent(void);

struct protoent *getprotobyname(const char *name);

struct protoent *getprotobynumber(int proto);

void setprotoent(int stayopen);

void endprotoent(void);
```

**DESCRIPTION**

The **getprotoent()** function reads the next entry from the protocols database (see [protocols\(5\)](#)) and returns a *protoent* structure containing the broken-out fields from the entry. A connection is opened to the database if necessary.

The **getprotobyname()** function returns a *protoent* structure for the entry from the database that matches the protocol name *name*. A connection is opened to the database if necessary.

The **getprotobynumber()** function returns a *protoent* structure for the entry from the database that matches the protocol number *number*. A connection is opened to the database if necessary.

The **setprotoent()** function opens a connection to the database, and sets the next entry to the first entry. If *stayopen* is nonzero, then the connection to the database will not be closed between calls to one of the **getproto\*()** functions.

The **endprotoent()** function closes the connection to the database.

The *protoent* structure is defined in *<netdb.h>* as follows:

```
struct protoent {
    char *p_name; /* official protocol name */
    char **p_aliases; /* alias list */
    int p_proto; /* protocol number */
}
```

The members of the *protoent* structure are:

*p\_name*

The official name of the protocol.

*p\_aliases*

A NULL-terminated list of alternative names for the protocol.

*p\_proto*

The protocol number.

**RETURN VALUE**

The **getprotoent()**, **getprotobyname()** and **getprotobynumber()** functions return a pointer to a statically allocated *protoent* structure, or a null pointer if an error occurs or the end of the file is reached.

**FILES**

*/etc/protocols*

protocol database file

**CONFORMING TO**

4.3BSD, POSIX.1-2001.

**SEE ALSO**

[getnetent\(3\)](#), [getprotoent\\_r\(3\)](#), [getservent\(3\)](#), [protocols\(5\)](#)

**COLOPHON**

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