

**NAME**

getpw - reconstruct password line entry

**SYNOPSIS**

```
#define _GNU_SOURCE /* See feature\_test\_macros\(7\) */
#include <sys/types.h>
#include <pwd.h>

int getpw(uid_t uid, char *buf);
```

**DESCRIPTION**

The `getpw()` function reconstructs the password line entry for the given user ID *uid* in the buffer *buf*. The returned buffer contains a line of format

**name:passwd:uid:gid:gecos:dir:shell**

The *passwd* structure is defined in *<pwd.h>* as follows:

```
struct passwd {
    char *pw_name; /* username */
    char *pw_passwd; /* user password */
    uid_t pw_uid; /* user ID */
    gid_t pw_gid; /* group ID */
    char *pw_gecos; /* user information */
    char *pw_dir; /* home directory */
    char *pw_shell; /* shell program */
};
```

For more information about the fields of this structure, see [passwd\(5\)](#).

**RETURN VALUE**

The `getpw()` function returns 0 on success; on error, it returns -1, and *errno* is set to indicate the error.

**ERRORS****EINVAL**

*buf* is NULL.

**ENOENT**

No user corresponding to *uid*.

**ENOMEM**

Insufficient memory to allocate *passwd* structure.

**FILES**

*/etc/passwd*  
password database file

**CONFORMING TO**

SVr2.

**BUGS**

The `getpw()` function is dangerous as it may overflow the provided buffer *buf*. It is obsoleted by [getpwuid\(3\)](#).

**SEE ALSO**

[endpwent\(3\)](#), [fgetpwent\(3\)](#), [getpwent\(3\)](#), [getpwnam\(3\)](#), [getpwuid\(3\)](#), [putpwent\(3\)](#), [setpwent\(3\)](#), [passwd\(5\)](#)

**COLOPHON**

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