

**NAME**

getusershell, setusershell, endusershell - get permitted user shells

**SYNOPSIS**

```
#include <unistd.h>
```

```
char *getusershell(void);
```

```
void setusershell(void);
```

```
void endusershell(void);
```

Feature Test Macro Requirements for glibc (see [feature\\_test\\_macros\(7\)](#)):

```
getusershell(), setusershell(), endusershell():  
    _BSD_SOURCE || (_XOPEN_SOURCE && _XOPEN_SOURCE < 500)
```

**DESCRIPTION**

The **getusershell()** function returns the next line from the file */etc/shells*, opening the file if necessary. The line should contain the pathname of a valid user shell. If */etc/shells* does not exist or is unreadable, **getusershell()** behaves as if */bin/sh* and */bin/csh* were listed in the file.

The **setusershell()** function rewinds */etc/shells*.

The **endusershell()** function closes */etc/shells*.

**RETURN VALUE**

The **getusershell()** function returns NULL on end-of-file.

**FILES**

*/etc/shells*

**ATTRIBUTES**

**Multithreading** (see [pthreads\(7\)](#))

The **getusershell()**, **setusershell()** and **endusershell()** functions are not thread-safe.

**CONFORMING TO**

4.3BSD.

**SEE ALSO**

[shells\(5\)](#)

**COLOPHON**

This page is part of release 3.74 of the Linux *man-pages* project. A description of the project, information about reporting bugs, and the latest version of this page, can be found at <http://www.kernel.org/doc/man-pages/>.