

NAME

device_get_softc - access driver private instance variables

SYNOPSIS

```
#include <sys/param.h>
```

```
#include <sys/bus.h>
```

```
void *
```

```
device_get_softc(device_t dev);
```

DESCRIPTION

Return the driver-specific software context of *dev*. The *softc* is automatically allocated and zeroed when the device is attached. The *softc* is also initialized and present when a device is probed, but is subject to caveats as described in [DEVICE_PROBE\(9\)](#). The size of the allocation is determined by the device's *driver_t* information used to define the driver. The *softc* typically encapsulates the state of this instance of the device.

Driver writers are discouraged from using their own *softc* management mechanisms. Driver writers should not copy such mechanisms found in drivers in the tree that predate this function.

RETURN VALUES

The pointer to the driver-specific instance variable is returned.

SEE ALSO

[device\(9\)](#), [DEVICE_PROBE\(9\)](#), [device_set_softc\(9\)](#), [driver\(9\)](#)

AUTHORS

This manual page was written by Doug Rabson.