

**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.