NAME

ethers - ethernet address database

DESCRIPTION

The **ethers** database contains information regarding known 48-bit ethernet addresses of hosts on an Internetwork. The data is stored in a file called */etc/ethers* in the following format:

ethernet-address fully-qualified-host-name

Items are separated by any number of blanks and/or tab characters. A ''#'' at the start of a line indicates the beginning of a comment that extends to the end of the line. A ''+'' at the start of a line will cause the ethers(3) library functions to use data stored in the NIS *ethers.byname* and *ethers.byaddr* maps in addition to the data in the */etc/ethers* file.

An ethernet address is expressed in ASCII form as "x:x:x:x:x:x" where *x* is a hexadecimal value between 0x00 and 0xFF. The address values should be in network order. Hostnames specified in the */etc/ethers* database should correspond to entries in the hosts(5) file.

The **ether_line**() function in the standard C library can be used to break individual lines in the */etc/ethers* database into their individual components: a binary Ethernet address stored as an *ether_addr* structure, and a hostname stored as a character string.

FILES

/etc/ethers   The **ethers** file resides in */etc*.

SEE ALSO

ethers(3), yp(8)

HISTORY

The **ethers** format is based on the format used in SunOS 4.1.x.