NAME

getent - get entries from administrative database

SYNOPSIS

getent *database* [*key ...*]

DESCRIPTION

The **getent** utility retrieves and displays entries from the administrative database specified by *database*, using the lookup order specified in nsswitch.conf(5). The display format for a given *database* is as per the "traditional" file format for that database.

The *database* argument may be one of:

Database	Display format
ethers	address name
group	group:passwd:gid:[member[,member]...]
hosts	address name [alias ...]
netgroup	(host,user,domain) [...]
networks	name network [alias ...]
passwd	user:passwd:uid:gid:gecos:home_dir:shell
protocols	name protocol [alias ...]
rpc	name number [alias ...]
services	name port/protocol [alias ...]
shells	/path/to/shell
utmpx	[time] type: properties

If one or more *key* arguments are provided, they will be looked up in *database* using the appropriate function. For example, "passwd" supports a numeric UID or user name; "hosts" supports an IPv4 address, IPv6 address, or host name; and "services" supports a service name, service name/protocol name, numeric port, or numeric port/protocol name.

If no *key* is provided and *database* supports enumeration, all entries for *database* will be retrieved using the appropriate enumeration function and printed.

EXIT STATUS

The **getent** utility exits 0 on success, 1 if there was an error in the command syntax, 2 if one of the specified key names was not found in *database*, or 3 if there is no support for enumeration on *database*.

EXAMPLES

Show entry for user sshd from the passwd database:

```
$ getent passwd sshd
sshd:*:22:22:Secure Shell Daemon:/var/empty:/usr/sbin/nologin
```

Show entry for TCP from the protocols database:

```
$ getent protocols tcp
tcp              6  TCP
```

Show entry for the localhost IPv6 address ::1 from the hosts database:

```
$ getent hosts ::1
::1            localhost  localhost.my.domain
```

SEE ALSO

getutxent(3), ethers(5), group(5), hosts(5), netgroup(5), networks(5), nsswitch.conf(5), passwd(5), protocols(5), rpc(5), services(5), shells(5)

HISTORY

A **getent** command appeared in NetBSD 3.0, and was imported into FreeBSD 7.0. It was based on the command of the same name in Solaris and Linux.