

NAME

getifaddrs - get interface addresses

SYNOPSIS

```
#include <ifaddrs.h>
```

int

```
getifaddrs(struct ifaddrs **ifap);
```

void

```
freeifaddrs(struct ifaddrs *ifp);
```

DESCRIPTION

The **getifaddrs**() function stores a reference to a linked list of the network interfaces on the local machine in the memory referenced by *ifap*. The list consists of **ifaddrs** structures, as defined in the include file *<ifaddrs.h>*. The **ifaddrs** structure contains at least the following entries:

```
struct ifaddrs *ifa_next;    /* Pointer to next struct */
char           *ifa_name;    /* Interface name */
u_int          ifa_flags;    /* Interface flags */
struct sockaddr *ifa_addr;   /* Interface address */
struct sockaddr *ifa_netmask; /* Interface netmask */
struct sockaddr *ifa_broadaddr; /* Interface broadcast address */
struct sockaddr *ifa_dstaddr; /* P2P interface destination */
void           *ifa_data;    /* Address specific data */
```

The *ifa_next* field contains a pointer to the next structure on the list. This field is NULL in last structure on the list.

The *ifa_name* field contains the interface name.

The *ifa_flags* field contains the interface flags, as set by *ifconfig(8)* utility.

The *ifa_addr* field references either the address of the interface or the link level address of the interface, if one exists, otherwise it is NULL. (The *sa_family* field of the *ifa_addr* field should be consulted to determine the format of the *ifa_addr* address.)

The *ifa_netmask* field references the netmask associated with *ifa_addr*, if one is set, otherwise it is NULL.

The `ifa_broadaddr` field, which should only be referenced for non-P2P interfaces, references the broadcast address associated with `ifa_addr`, if one exists, otherwise it is `NULL`.

The `ifa_dstaddr` field references the destination address on a P2P interface, if one exists, otherwise it is `NULL`.

The `ifa_data` field references address family specific data in a pointer to the *struct if_data* (as defined in include file `<net/if.h>`). For `AF_LINK` addresses, it contains various interface attributes and statistics. For all other address families, it contains per-address interface statistics.

The data returned by **getifaddrs()** is dynamically allocated and should be freed using **freeifaddrs()** when no longer needed.

RETURN VALUES

The **getifaddrs()** function returns the value 0 if successful; otherwise the value -1 is returned and the global variable *errno* is set to indicate the error.

ERRORS

The **getifaddrs()** may fail and set *errno* for any of the errors specified for the library routines `ioctl(2)`, `socket(2)`, `malloc(3)` or `sysctl(3)`.

SEE ALSO

`ioctl(2)`, `socket(2)`, `sysctl(3)`, `networking(4)`, `ifconfig(8)`

HISTORY

The **getifaddrs** implementation first appeared in BSDi BSD/OS.

BUGS

If both `<net/if.h>` and `<ifaddrs.h>` are being included, `<net/if.h>` *must* be included before `<ifaddrs.h>`.