

**NAME**

**protocols** - protocol name data base

**DESCRIPTION**

The **protocols** file contains information regarding the assigned protocol numbers used by IPv4 and IPv6 to identify the next level protocol. For each protocol a single line should be present with the following information:

official protocol name  
protocol number  
aliases

Items are separated by any number of blanks and/or tab characters. A ‘#’ indicates the beginning of a comment; characters up to the end of the line are not interpreted by routines which search the file.

Protocol names may contain any printable character other than a field delimiter, newline, or comment character.

**FILES**

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

**SEE ALSO**

getprotoent(3)

*IANA Allocation Guidelines For Values In the Internet Protocol and Related Headers*, RFC 2780, March 2000.

*IANA Allocation Guidelines for the Protocol Field*, RFC 5237, February 2008.

**HISTORY**

The **protocols** file format appeared in 4.2BSD, describing the "known protocols used in the DARPA Internet".

**BUGS**

A name server should be used instead of a static file.