

NAME

services - service name data base

DESCRIPTION

The **services** file contains information regarding the known services available in the Internet. For each service a single line should be present with the following information:

- official service name
- port number
- protocol name
- aliases

Items are separated by any number of blanks and/or tab characters. The port number and protocol name are considered a single *item*; a “/” is used to separate the port and protocol (e.g. “512/tcp”). A “#” indicates the beginning of a comment; subsequent characters up to the end of the line are not interpreted by the routines which search the file.

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

If "db" is specified as source in the `nsswitch.conf(5)`, `/var/db/services.db` is searched. The database in `/var/db/services.db` needs to be updated with `services_mkdb(8)` after changes to the services file have been applied.

NIS INTERACTION

Access to the NIS *services.byname* map can be enabled by adding a single “+” on a line by itself in the `/etc/services` file. This causes the contents of the NIS services map to be inserted at the location where the “+” appears.

FILES

`/etc/services` The **services** file resides in `/etc`.

SEE ALSO

`getservent(3)`, `nsswitch.conf(5)`, `services_mkdb(8)`

HISTORY

The **services** file format appeared in 4.2BSD.

BUGS

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