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16.7. `getpass` — Portable password input¶

The `getpass` module provides two functions:

```
getpass.getpass([prompt[, stream]])¶
```

Prompt the user for a password without echoing. The user is prompted using the string *prompt*, which defaults to `'Password: '`. On Unix, the prompt is written to the file-like object *stream*. *stream* defaults to the controlling terminal (`/dev/tty`) or if that is unavailable to `sys.stderr` (this argument is ignored on Windows).

If echo free input is unavailable `getpass()` falls back to printing a warning message to *stream* and reading from `sys.stdin` and issuing a [GetPassWarning](#).

Availability: Macintosh, Unix, Windows.

Changed in version 2.5: The *stream* parameter was added.

Changed in version 2.6: On Unix it defaults to using `/dev/tty` before falling back to `sys.stdin` and `sys.stderr`.

Note

If you call `getpass` from within IDLE, the input may be done in the terminal you launched IDLE from rather than the idle window itself.

exception `getpass.GetPassWarning`¶

A [UserWarning](#) subclass issued when password input may be echoed.

```
getpass.getuser()¶
```

Return the “login name” of the user. Availability: Unix, Windows.

This function checks the environment variables **LOGNAME**, **USER**, **LNAME** and **USERNAME**, in order, and returns the value of the first one which is set to a non-empty string. If none are set, the login name from the password database is returned on systems which support the [pwd](#) module, otherwise, an exception is raised.

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