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11.9. linecache — Random access to text lines¶

The `linecache` module allows one to get any line from any file, while attempting to optimize internally, using a cache, the common case where many lines are read from a single file. This is used by the `traceback` module to retrieve source lines for inclusion in the formatted traceback.

The `linecache` module defines the following functions:

```
linecache.getline(filename, lineno[, module_globals])¶
```

Get line `lineno` from file named `filename`. This function will never throw an exception — it will return `''` on errors (the terminating newline character will be included for lines that are found).

If a file named `filename` is not found, the function will look for it in the module search path, `sys.path`, after first checking for a [PEP 302](#) `__loader__` in `module_globals`, in case the module was imported from a zipfile or other non-filesystem import source.

New in version 2.5: The `module_globals` parameter was added.

```
linecache.clearcache()¶
```

Clear the cache. Use this function if you no longer need lines from files previously read using [getline\(\)](#).

```
linecache.checkcache([filename])¶
```

Check the cache for validity. Use this function if files in the cache may have changed on disk, and you require the updated version. If `filename` is omitted, it will check all the entries in the cache.

Example:

```
>>> import linecache
>>> linecache.getline('/etc/passwd', 4)
'sys:x:3:3:sys:/dev:/bin/sh\n'
```

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