

## Navigation

- [index](#)
- [modules](#) |
- [next](#) |
- [previous](#) |
- [Python v2.6.4 documentation](#) »
- [The Python Standard Library](#) »
- [36. Unix Specific Services](#) »

## 36.2. pwd — The password database¶

Platforms: Unix

This module provides access to the Unix user account and password database. It is available on all Unix versions.

Password database entries are reported as a tuple-like object, whose attributes correspond to the members of the `passwd` structure (Attribute field below, see `<pwd.h>`):

Index	Attribute	Meaning
0	<code>pw_name</code>	Login name
1	<code>pw_passwd</code>	Optional encrypted password
2	<code>pw_uid</code>	Numerical user ID
3	<code>pw_gid</code>	Numerical group ID
4	<code>pw_gecos</code>	User name or comment field
5	<code>pw_dir</code>	User home directory
6	<code>pw_shell</code>	User command interpreter

The uid and gid items are integers, all others are strings. [KeyError](#) is raised if the entry asked for cannot be found.

Note

In traditional Unix the field `pw_passwd` usually contains a password encrypted with a DES derived algorithm (see module [crypt](#)). However most modern unices use a so-called *shadow password* system. On those unices the `pw_passwd` field only contains an asterisk ( `'*'` ) or the letter `'x'` where the encrypted password is stored in a file `/etc/shadow` which is not world readable. Whether the `pw_passwd` field contains anything useful is system-dependent. If available, the [spwd](#) module should be used where access to the encrypted password is required.

It defines the following items:

```
pwd.getpwuid(uid)¶
```

Return the password database entry for the given numeric user ID.

```
pwd.getpwnam(name)¶
```

Return the password database entry for the given user name.

```
pwd.getpwall()¶
```

Return a list of all available password database entries, in arbitrary order.

See also

Module [grp](#)

An interface to the group database, similar to this.

Module [spwd](#)

An interface to the shadow password database, similar to this.

Previous topic

[36.1. posix — The most common POSIX system calls](#)

Next topic

[36.3. spwd — The shadow password database](#)

This Page

- [Show Source](#)

Navigation

- [index](#)

- [modules](#) |
- [next](#) |
- [previous](#) |
- [Python v2.6.4 documentation](#) »
- [The Python Standard Library](#) »
- [36. Unix Specific Services](#) »

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