

NAME

getlocalbase - return the path to the local software directory

LIBRARY

System Utilities Library (libutil, -lutil)

SYNOPSIS

```
#include <libutil.h>
```

```
const char*
```

```
getlocalbase(void);
```

DESCRIPTION

The **getlocalbase()** function returns the path to the local software base directory. Normally this is the */usr/local* directory. First the LOCALBASE environment variable is checked. If that does not exist then the *user.localbase* sysctl is checked. If that also does not exist then the value of the LOCALBASE_PATH compile-time variable is used. If that is undefined then the system default, *_PATH_LOCALBASE* is used.

The contents of the string returned by the **getlocalbase()** function shall not be modified.

IMPLEMENTATION NOTES

Calls to **getlocalbase()** will perform a setugid check on the running binary before checking the environment.

The address returned by **getlocalbase()** will point into the executing processes environment if it is the result of **getenv(LOCALBASE)**, to a static buffer if it is the result of **sysctl(user.localbase)**, and to a constant string if the compiled in default value is returned.

The same value will be returned on successive calls during the run-time of the program, ignoring any changes to the environment variable or the sysctl value that might have been made.

The **getlocalbase()** function can be compiled with a non-default value of LOCALBASE_CTL_LEN. A value of 0 will disable fetching of the sysctl value, a value less than MAXPATHLEN will put a limit on the maximum string length supported for this sysctl value. If built with a non-default value of LOCALBASE_CTL_LEN, a value of the user.localbase sysctl variable longer than this value will make **getlocalbase()** return a valid string that is not a valid path prefix in any filesystem.

RETURN VALUES

The **getlocalbase()** function returns a pointer to a string, whose length may exceed MAXPATHLEN, if it

has been obtained from the environment.

ENVIRONMENT

The **getlocalbase()** library function retrieves the LOCALBASE environment variable.

ERRORS

The **getlocalbase()** function always succeeds and returns a valid pointer to a string.

SEE ALSO

env(1), src.conf(5), sysctl(8)

HISTORY

The **getlocalbase** library function first appeared in FreeBSD 13.0.

AUTHORS

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