

NAME

`getchar` – read character

SYNOPSIS

`getchar()`

DESCRIPTION

Getchar provides the simplest means of reading characters from the standard input for C programs. It returns successive characters until end-of-file, when it returns “\0”.

Associated with this routine is an external variable called *fin*, which is a structure containing a buffer such as described under *getc* (III).

Normally input via *getchar* is unbuffered, but if the file-descriptor (first) word of *fin* is non-zero, *getchar* calls *getc* with *fin* as argument. This means that

`fin = open(...)`

makes *getchar* return (buffered) input from the opened file; also

`fin = dup(0);`

causes the standard input to be buffered.

Generally speaking, *getchar* should be used only for the simplest applications; *getc* is better when there are multiple input files.

SEE ALSO

`getc` (III)

DIAGNOSTICS

Null character returned on EOF or error.

BUGS

–1 should be returned on EOF; null is a legitimate character.