

**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.