

Command Line Arguments

A C program can access information you type on the *command line*. This is useful, for example, if you want to specify the name of an input file at run time.

For example we could do the following:

```
a.out myDict.txt
```

Using a different signature, the main function has access to the command line as an array of strings. The array is called `argv` and the count is given by `argc`. In the above case, it would get an array with two strings: “a.out” and “myDict.txt”.

Here is code, taken from howstuffworks.com, which echoes the command line to the screen. Note that `char *argv[]` is an array of strings.

```
#include <stdio.h>
int main(int argc, char *argv[])
{
    int x;
    printf("argc is %d\n", argc);
    for (x=0; x<argc; x++)
        printf("arg[%d] is %s\n", x, argv[x]);
    return 0;
}
```