

Sequence of Characters

- The procedure `getCharacter ()` is used to read the next byte into the buffer.
- The return value is either the number of read bytes or 0, which indicates end of file (EOF).
- Any input file is nothing more than a **sequence of characters** to the scanner. It will even accept meaningless sequences as long as it consists of valid symbols in the specified language.

Whitespace

- Whitespace and comments do not change the semantics of code and could even be omitted (minification). Their purpose is to make the code more readable.
- The scanner implements whitespace and comments by simply ignoring them using the procedure findNextCharacter().

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