



# Command Line Arguments

How to get outside information into your program without recompiling



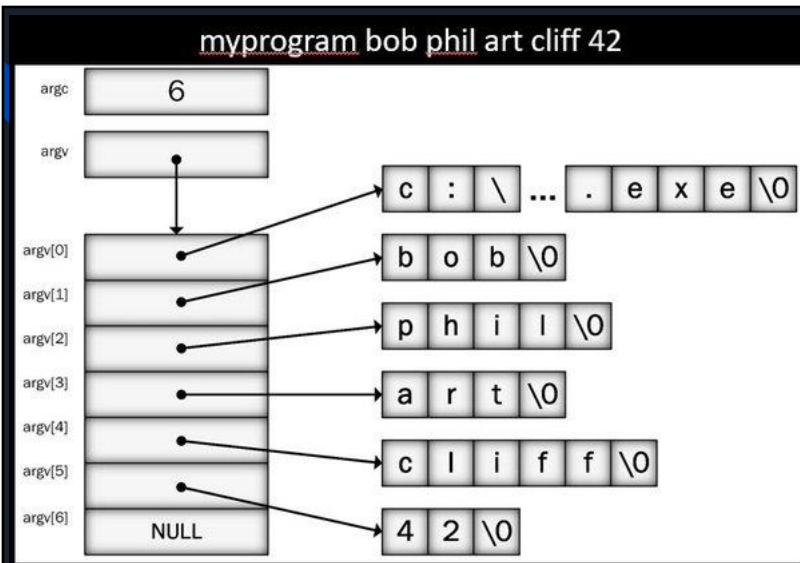
## argc

argc is the number of command line arguments:

- `./a.out` here is an example
- `argc = 5`
- `./myprogram bob phil art cliff 42`
- `argc = 6`

# argv

- argv is a pointer (an address) to an array of pointers (addresses) which point to c-strings



There is a slight error in the diagram.

Can you find it?



## C-String

- A c-string is a character array with a null terminator: `'\0'`
  - Suppose we have a character array, `str`:  
`['s' 't' 'r' 'i' 'n' 'g' '\0']`
  - `str` is a c-string
- `str` is different internally from the C++ data type *string*
  - `string str1 = "This is a c++ string.";`
  - `str1` is a variable of type *string*



## Link to a Tutorial

[https://www.tutorialspoint.com/cprogramming/c\\_command\\_line\\_arguments.htm](https://www.tutorialspoint.com/cprogramming/c_command_line_arguments.htm)