



C User Input

[< Previous](#)[Next >](#)

User Input

You have already learned that `printf()` is used to **output values** in C.

To get **user input**, you can use the `scanf()` function:

Example

Output a number entered by the user:

```
// Create an integer variable that will store the number we get from the user
int myNum;

// Ask the user to type a number
printf("Type a number: \n");

// Get and save the number the user types
scanf("%d", &myNum);

// Output the number the user typed
printf("Your number is: %d", myNum);
```

[Run example »](#)

The `scanf()` function takes two arguments: the format specifier of the variable (`%d` in the example above) and the reference operator (`&myNum`), which stores the memory address of the variable.

Tip: You will learn more about memory addresses and functions in the next chapter.

User Input Strings

You can also get a string entered by the user:

Example

Output the name of a user:

```
// Create a string
char firstName[30];

// Ask the user to input some text
printf("Enter your first name: \n");

// Get and save the text
scanf("%s", firstName);

// Output the text
printf("Hello %s.", firstName);
```

[Run example »](#)

Note that you must specify the size of the string/array (we used a very high number, 30, but at least then we are certain it will store enough characters for the first name), and

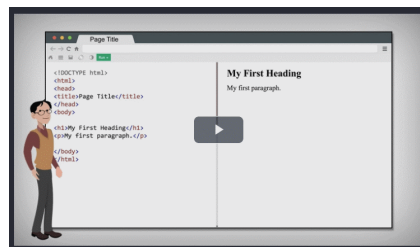
you don't have to specify the reference operator (**&**) when working with strings in **scanf()** .

[< Previous](#)[Next >](#)

ADVERTISEMENT

NEW

We just launched
W3Schools videos



[Explore now](#)

COLOR PICKER



Get certified
by completing

a course today!



Get started

CODE GAME



Play Game

Report Error

Spaces

Pro

Get Certified

Top Tutorials

HTML Tutorial
CSS Tutorial
JavaScript Tutorial
How To Tutorial
SQL Tutorial
Python Tutorial
W3.CSS Tutorial
Bootstrap Tutorial
PHP Tutorial
Java Tutorial
C++ Tutorial
jQuery Tutorial

Top References

HTML Reference
CSS Reference
JavaScript Reference
SQL Reference
Python Reference
W3.CSS Reference
Bootstrap Reference
PHP Reference
HTML Colors
Java Reference
Angular Reference
jQuery Reference

Top Examples

HTML Examples
CSS Examples
JavaScript Examples
How To Examples
SQL Examples
Python Examples
W3.CSS Examples
Bootstrap Examples
PHP Examples
Java Examples
XML Examples
jQuery Examples

Get Certified

HTML Certificate
CSS Certificate
JavaScript Certificate
Front End Certificate
SQL Certificate
Python Certificate

PHP Certificate
jQuery Certificate
Java Certificate
C++ Certificate
C# Certificate
XML Certificate

[FORUM](#) | [ABOUT](#)

W3Schools is optimized for learning and training. Examples might be simplified to improve reading and learning. Tutorials, references, and examples are constantly reviewed to avoid errors, but we cannot warrant full correctness of all content. While using W3Schools, you agree to have read and accepted our terms of use, cookie and privacy policy.

Copyright 1999-2022 by Refsnes Data. All Rights Reserved.
W3Schools is Powered by W3.CSS.

