

It is very easy to deal with whitespace in a C-like language. Just one rule was needed for this lab that handled all occurrences of tabs, spaces and new lines. If the language we were writing a lexer for depended on the placement of whitespace, one rule could not handle all cases. Each rule for matching would have to determine if the whitespace/tabs before/in each line, operator, statement, if, else etc.. was correctly formatted and in the correct place, otherwise it wouldn't accept the input file. We would probably have to count the number of tabs/spaces/ in each line, depending on what the previous line was. It would make the lex program a lot more complicated to account for all of the whitespace issues.