

## Command line parameter in C

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This chapter only really makes sense for you if you are using a **command prompt** to compile the program. It is possible to pass values from the command line - command line to program C when it is executed. These values are called **Command line arguments** and are sometimes important for your program when you control your program outside instead of raw coding values inside the code.

The command line parameters are handled using the **main ()** function parameters, with **argc** pointing to the number of parameters you pass and **argv []** as the pointer array to any parameter provided for that program . Here is an example to check if there are any parameters provided from the command line and perform the corresponding actions:

```
#include <stdio.h>
int main ( int argc , char * argv [] ) { if ( argc == 2 ) { printf ( "%s\n", argv [1] ); }
```

When the above code is compiled and executed with a parameter, it will print the following result:

```
$ ./ a . out thamsol Tham so duoc cung cap la : thamsol
```

When you pass two parameters to the code above, it will print the following result:

```
$ ./ a . out thamsol thamsol2 Qua nhieu tham so duoc cung cap .
```

When the above code is executed and executed with no parameters passed, it will print the result below:

```
$ ./ a . out Ban nen cung cap mot tham so .
```

Note that **argv [0]** holds the name of the program itself and **argv [1]** is a pointer to the first command line parameter provided, **argv [n]** is the last parameter. If no parameters are provided, **argc** will be 1, if you pass a parameter then **argc** will have a value of 2.

You pass all command line parameters separately by a space, but if the parameters itself have a space, you can pass these parameters by placing them in double quotation marks (") or quoting single ("). Now we rewrite the above program when you print out the program name and pass the command line parameters inside the double quotation mark (").

```
#include <stdio.h>
int main ( int argc , char * argv [] ) { printf ( "Ten chuong trinh %s\n", argv [0] ); }
```

When the above code is compiled and executed with a single parameter by a space inside the double quotation mark, the following result is printed:

```
$ ./ a . out "thamsol thamsol2" Ten chuong trinh la : ./ a . out Tham so duoc
```

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