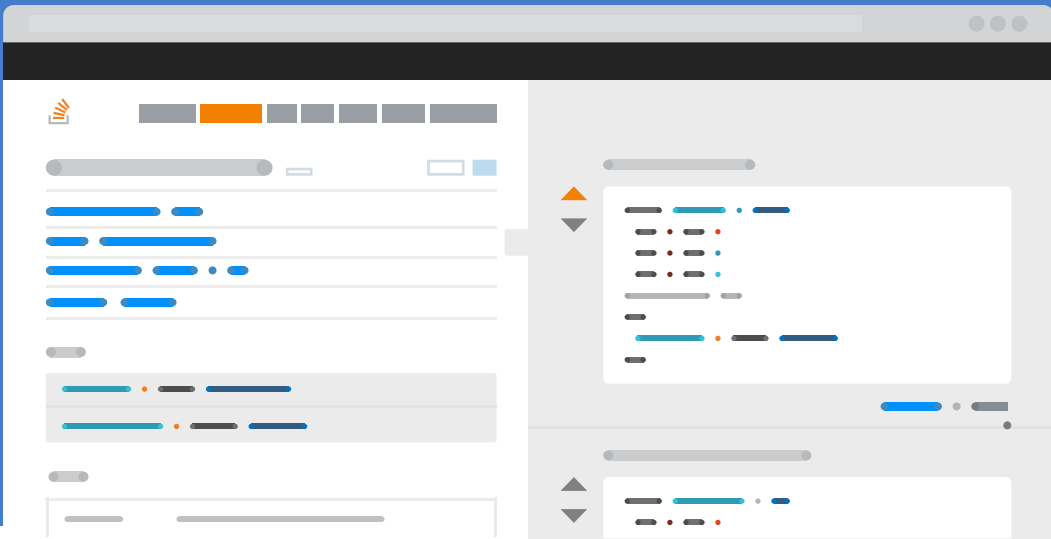


Whether you're a beginner or an experienced developer, you *can* contribute.

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```
public class Test {
    public static void main(String[] args) throws java.io.IOException {
        int c;
        while ((c = System.in.read()) != -1)
            System.out.print((char) c);
    }
}
```

- What is the underlying reason for this?
- Is it a limitation of Java?
- Is this behavior system-dependent (I'm on Ubuntu)? How does it work on Mac? Windows?
- Is it dependent on the specific terminal I run the application in? (For me it behaves like this in Eclipse and in gnome-terminal)
- Is there a workaround?

stdin

Marc Mutz - mmutz

aioobe

246k ● 51 ● 550 ● 635

see my answer in stackoverflow.com/questions/1864076/... – nagarajub Apr 12 '12 at 7:16

What is the underlying reason for this?

Most terminals is line buffered by default, Java does not receive input until a newline.

Is it a limitation of Java?

Some ancient terminals might only have line-buffered input; though it should be possible to disable buffering in most modern terminal.

Is this behavior system-dependent (I'm on Ubuntu)? How does it work on Mac? Windows?

Yes.

Is it dependent on the specific terminal I run the application in? (For me it behaves like this

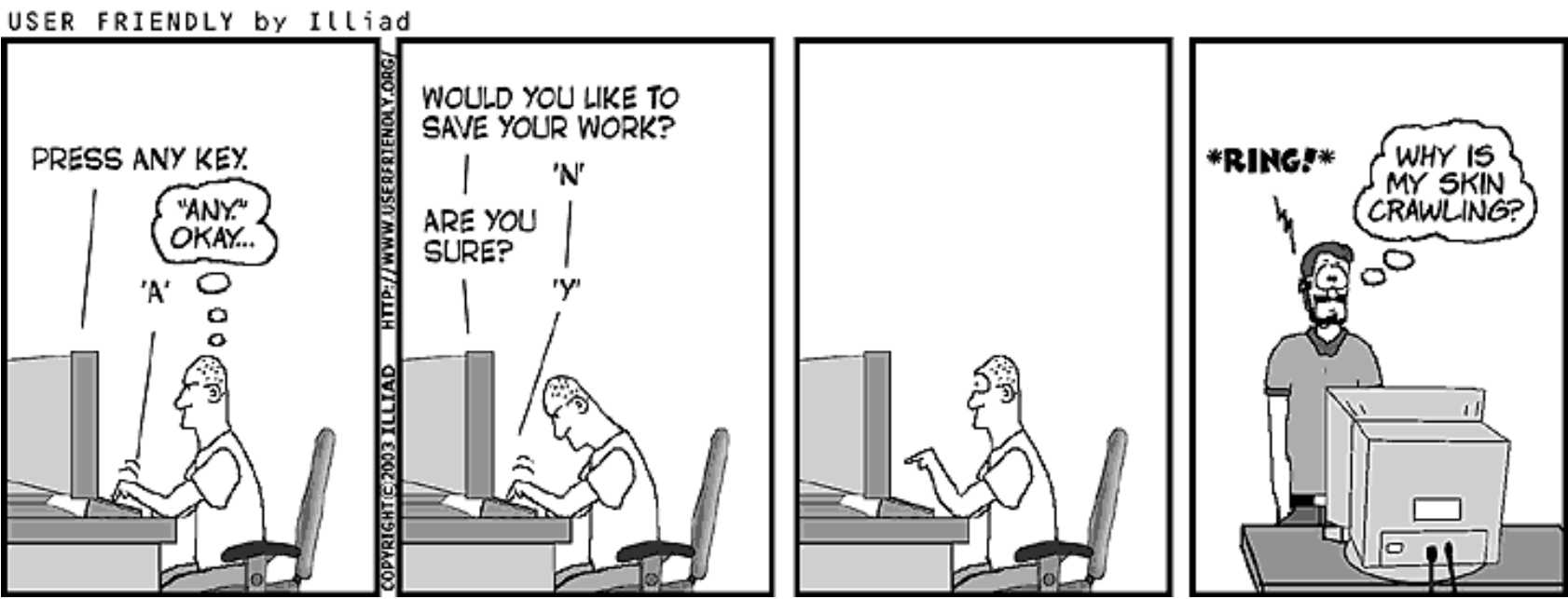
in Eclipse and in gnome-terminal)

Yes.

Is there a workaround?

There are platform specific hacks. `curse` in Linux and Unix-like platforms, and `getch()` in Windows. I'm not aware of any cross-platform way.

related: Why "Press any key to continue" is bad idea:



answered Oct 24 '10 at 8:39

Lie Ryan

34.3k ● 8 ● 58 ● 109

```
36  if (dev.isBored() || job.sucks()) {
37      searchJobs({flexibleHours: true, companyCulture: 100});
38  }
39  A career site that's by developers, for developers.
```


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I'm on Ubuntu

Is there a workaround?

```
Runtime.getRuntime().exec("stty -icanon min 1").waitFor();
```

And after that all reads of `System.in` in the same process will read 1 character not waiting for EOL.

edited Jan 18 '15 at 10:36

community wiki
[2 revs](#)
[hoat4](#)

see my answer in [Equivalent function to C's "_getch\(\)" in Java?](#)

```
public static void getCh() {

    final JFrame frame = new JFrame();

    synchronized (frame) {

        frame.setUndecorated(true);

        frame.getRootPane().setWindowDecorationStyle(JRootPane.FRAME);

        frame.addKeyListener(new KeyListener() {

            public void keyPressed(KeyEvent e) {

                synchronized (frame) {

                    frame.setVisible(false);

                    frame.dispose();

                    frame.notify();

                }

            }

        })

    }

    public void keyReleased(KeyEvent e) {

    }

}
```

```
        public void keyTyped(KeyEvent e) {
        }
    });
    frame.setVisible(true);
    try {
        frame.wait();
    } catch (InterruptedException e1) {
    }
}

}
```

answered Apr 12 '12 at 7:21



nagarajub

751 ● 5 ● 11

2 This doesn't read from `System.in` at all though. – aioobe Apr 12 '12 at 8:42
