void strcount(const char * str)
{
    static int total = 0;    // static local variable
    int count = 0;           // automatic local variable

    cout << "\" << str << "\" contains ";
    while (*str++)          // go to end of string
        count++;
    total += count;
    cout << count << " characters\n";
    cout << total << " characters total\n";
}

**Compatibility Note**

Some older compilers don't implement the requirement that when cin.get(char *,int) reads an empty line, it sets the failbit error flag, causing cin to test as false. In that case, you can replace the test

```
while (cin)
```

with this:

```
while (input[0])
```

Or, for a test that works for both old and new implementations, do this:

```
while (cin && input[0])
```

Here is the program's output:

Enter a line:
**nice pants**

"nice pant" contains 9 characters