

Perl

The *Friendly* Programming Language.

A short talk to introduce the Perl programming language and its **culture**.



History

- Perl is a programming language created by Larry Wall on 18 December 1987
- Perl 5 released on 17 October 1994
- Perl 5.8.8 released 2 February 2006
- Perl 5.10.0 really soon now...
- Perl 6 still to be released...



Perl's Parents

- Perl is a language that unashamedly takes ideas from other languages
- awk/nawk
- sed
- shell
- C
- Lisp



Compiled or Interpreted?

- Perl source code is compiled very quickly into a syntax tree
- The syntax tree is automatically optimised
- Finally the optimised syntax tree is executed
- Perl is compiled and interpreted just like other modern languages such as Java.



“hard tasks easy and seriously non-trivial tasks possible”

- Perl is designed to make life easy for the programmer
- Autovivication of variables
- Dynamic typing
- Automatic memory management
- Hashes
- Procedural, object-oriented or both
- Many, many built-in convenience features



Hello World

```
print 'Hello World'
```



Hello World MK-2

```
#!/usr/bin/perl
```

```
use strict;
```

```
use warnings;
```

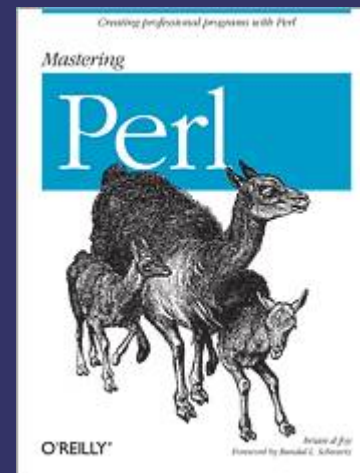
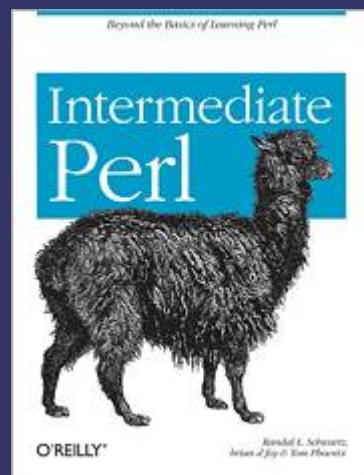
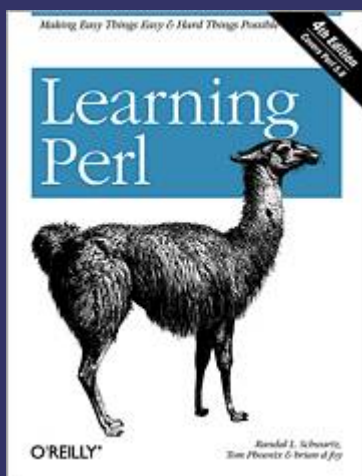
```
my $greeting = "Hello World\n";
```

```
print $greeting;
```

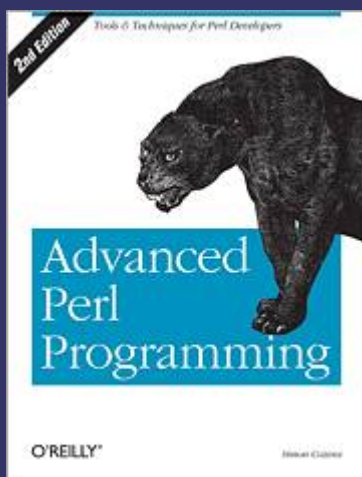
```
exit;
```



Some Books



<http://books.perl.org/>





Comprehensive Perl Archive Network

- Over 10,000 modules
- A module for every imaginable task:
 - Web/CGI
 - Databases
 - SAP
 - MP3/Oggs
 - Time/Dates
 - Templating
 - and much much more!





CPAN

- Global system with mirrors worldwide.
- PAUSE
 - Perl Authors Upload SErver
- RT
 - Request Tracker
- CPAN testers & CPANTS
- Search/Kobe Search
 - Two Web Based Search engines



Killer Modules!

- CGI
- DBI
- Template
- CPAN
- Apache mod_perl
- File::Find::Rule
- LWP/WWW::Mechanize
- MVC/ORM



Useful Resources

- Perl Training Australia:
 - <http://perltraining.com.au/notes.html>
- Ovid's CGI Course:
 - http://users.easystreet.com/ovid/cgi_course/
- Learn.perl.org:
 - <http://learn.perl.org/>
- On-line Documentation:
 - <http://perldoc.perl.org/>
- Randal's Perl Columns:
 - <http://www.stonehenge.com/merlyn/columns.html>



Some Community Sites

- PerlMonks:
 - <http://www.perlmonks.org/>
- use Perl;
 - <http://use.perl.org/>
- Perl Foundation:
 - <http://www.perlfoundation.org/>
- Perl Mongers:
 - <http://www.pm.org/>



New Sites

- Perl 5 Wiki
 - <http://www.perlfoundation.org/perl5/>
- London Perl Mongers/BBC Perl Teach-In
 - <http://mag-sol.com/train/teachin/>
- PerlBuzz
 - <http://perbuzz.com/>



Meetings

- OSCON - Open Source Conference
 - Originally Perl only, now everything open-source
 - Expensive
 - <http://conferences.oreillynnet.com/>
- YAPC - Yet Another Perl Conference
 - Still just Perl
 - Cheaper
 - <http://www.yapceurope.org/>



Smaller Meetings

- PM Workshops
 - London.PM Workshop every winter
- PM TechMeets
 - London.PM and ThamesValley.PM
- Perl Birds of a Feather “BOF” meetings
 - LUGs



More Links...

- <http://www.cpan.org/>
- <http://search.cpan.org/>
- <http://kobesearch.cpan.org/>
- <http://rt.cpan.org/>
- <http://pause.perl.org/>
- <http://jobs.perl.org/>
- <http://cpants.perl.org/>
- <http://perldoc.perl.org/>
- <http://www.perl.com/>



This Talk

- The original version of this talk can be obtained from me, or downloaded from my LUG in either Open Document format or PDF or as video in ogg, wmv or flash:
 - <http://www.hants.lug.org.uk/cgi-bin/wiki.pl?TechTalks/3rdJune2006>
 - adam.trickett@iredale.net
 - PGP Key: 0x166C4BF0



Some Screen Shots of Sites



"be consistent."

Search **Perl Monks**

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(#131=superdoc: [print w/replies](#), [xml](#))

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If you're new here please read [Perl Monks Site FAQ](#)
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Want Mega XP? Prepare to have your hopes dashed, join in on the: [poll ideas quest](#) (11534 days remain)

New Questions

[Strange interaction between command line and encoding](#) [3 replies](#) by [VSarkiss](#)
on Jun 02, 2006 at 12:57

This might be blatantly obvious, but nobody in the CB seemed to spot the problem, so I thought I'd ask here.

I have some UTF-16 files I need to convert to UTF-8, so I wrote this tiny program:

```
#!/perl
use encoding "utf16", STDOUT => "utf8";
while (<=>) { print }
```

It works fine. Then I realized I could just do it all from the command line:

```
perl -Mencoding=utf16,STDOUT,utf8 -p -e 1 < in > out
```

Much to my surprise the output isn't UTF-8, it's some strange UTF-16-ish thing (the file is hosed, basically).

Just for grins, I even tried

```
perl -Mencoding=utf16,STDOUT,utf8 -n -e print < in > out
```

But it had the same results

[\[Offer your reply\]](#)

Chatterbox

[\[enhering\]](#): Hello, everybody. I'd like to ask two questions: 1 - If the right way to read and set cookies on different browsers is by using HTTP::Cookies::etc or if any other modules (CGI::Cookies) know how to deal with this problem.

[\[mutatedgene\]](#): ok so another question... now that my program works .. when i set the \$ENV variable in my perl script, how does the module LWP Simple recognize that variable from my script?? im not passing it to any of the functions in the variable

[\[enhering\]](#): 2 - How do I set a cookie using HTTP::Cookies?

[\[jimbus\]](#): here's the http-ssl.conf that included in httpd.conf: [my scratchpad](#)

[\[bart\]](#): The environment variables are like super-globals. Usually they're set outside a script for all programs to use. See for



Where 2.0 Conference June 13-14, 2006, San Jose, CA

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[A DSL for web client programming](#)



[Writing server-side functions in Perl](#)



[Programming Perl among the penguins](#)

Unraveling Code with the Debugger

Reading other people's code can be difficult, especially if you have no idea what happens when and where. Understanding code flow is vital to maintenance and bug fixes, but littering code with print and debugging statements is tedious and prone to error. There's another way: use the debugger! Daniel Allen demonstrates how to pinpoint a problem with Perl's debugger. [\[Perl.com\]](#)

Using Ajax from Perl

The recently rediscovered Ajax technique makes the client side of web programming much more useful and pleasant. However, it also means revising your existing web applications to take advantage of this new power. Dominic Mitchell shows how to use CGI::Ajax to give your Perl applications access to this new power. [\[Perl.com\]](#)

Perl 5 Summary for 15-21 May 2006

Perl 5 Summary for 15-21 May 2006 [\[Perl 5 List Summaries\]](#)

Perl 5 Summary for 8-14 May 2006

Perl 5 Summary for 8-14 May 2006 [\[Perl 5 List Summaries\]](#)

Perl 5 Summary for 1-7 May 2006

Perl 5 Summary for 1-7 May 2006 [\[Perl 5 List Summaries\]](#)

Advanced Subroutine Techniques

Subroutines seem like a basic building block of code. They're simple and easy to understand and use, right? That's true--but there are a few advanced techniques to make your code more maintainable and robust. Rob Kinyon goes beyond making sense of subroutines to making subroutines work for you. [\[Perl.com\]](#)

A Canary Trap for URI Escaping

As web applications talk to each other more and more, the issue of URI escaping becomes more important--and more difficult. Escaping reserved characters correctly is vital to preserving user security and proper behavior, but it's neither idempotent nor free. Robert Spier shows how to build a canary trap into your URIs to help you escape and unescape data appropriately, effectively, and sufficiently. [\[ONLamp\]](#)



You want to create searches at runtime. For example, you want users of your program to be able to specify combinations of columns and allowable ranges of values.

[Do it now.](#)



- [Stable is 5.8.8.](#)
- [Latest is 5.8.8.](#)
- [Devel is 5.9.3.](#)



[Refactoring Everything, Day 27](#) This 30-day project explores the refactoring of a legacy system. The Everything Engine is an... *chromatic*

[Installing Ubuntu Dapper: The Good, The Bad, The ... well, you know](#) I've been all but gushing about Ubuntu since my first

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London Perl Mongers

So, what is this all about ?

We are a group of people dedicated to the encouragement of all things Perl-like in London. This involves helping each other, [discussing](#) topics, sharing information and the occasional drink and mention of Buffy the Vampire Slayer.

We are part of the world wide [Perl Mongers](#) group and play host to (as well as visit) others from round the world..

Next Official Meeting

Find out more on the [meetings](#) page. In the meantime, why not [join](#) the mailing list, or hang out on IRC?

The site

© 2003-2006 on everything, in a GNU type of way. Created with Template Toolkit, XML::XPath and Perl!

There are several sections which are not finished on this site. These will be finished ASAP.

Any errors, additions or (and there will be lots) spelling mistakes contact: leo at london.pm.org.

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in All CPAN Search

Adam John Trickett > XML-RSS-Tools-0.16

XML-RSS-Tools-0.16

This Release XML-RSS-Tools-0.16 [Download] [Browse] 15 Jan 2006

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Special Files Build.PL MANIFEST Makefile.PL
CHANGES META.yml README

Modules

[XML::RSS::Tools](#) A tool-kit providing a wrapper around a HTTP client, a RSS parser, and a XSLT engine. 0.16

Documentation

- [Article](#) Processing RSS Files with XSLT
- [Example-1](#) Very simple example
- [Example-2](#) A Longer example
- [Example-3](#) Another simple example
- [Example-4](#) Using a single XSLT stylesheet
- [Example-5](#) A complete web server based RSS-client
- [Introduction](#) A Simple Introduction To RSS





Perl 5 Wiki

What is this?

This Is The Wiki For Perl 5. Fill this wiki with Perl 5 related content. **Be Bold!**

The 2007 Perl Survey

You are invited to read about the [2007 Perl Survey](#) and complete it. Translations into other languages will be gratefully received. Spread the word!

Please feel free to add or modify pages -- even this one -- as you see fit, but before you start editing away, please review the [policies and guidelines](#).

Still feeling confused? You might want to check out the [help section](#).

What Goes On This Wiki?

This wiki exists to collect and make available to all the knowledge of the Perl community. An encyclopedia of Perl. The rule of thumb is if you're not sure, go ahead and post it. Here is a general, incomplete listing. For more ideas, see [Suggested Topics](#) below.

- ◆ [Perl 5 Wikithon Notes from OSCON 2007](#)
- ◆ [General Perl information](#) suitable for being linked to by other web sites. This keeps other sites from having to repeat the same information over and over again.
- ◆ [Tribal Perl knowledge](#). Things you can't find in the docs. Things that certain groups of people only seem to know in their head. Why don't we call it [PERL](#)? Who are we talking about when we say [Tom](#)? What are the [best CPAN modules](#)? A good rule of thumb is this: If a person asks you a question and you can't think of a definitive place you'd send them for an answer, it deserves to be here.
- ◆ If you have a small wiki related to Perl that you think would do better here, feel free to move your content here. (Caveat: make sure you sort out your content licences.)

What Does Not Go On This Wiki?

The rule of thumb is if you're not sure, go ahead and post it. It can always be deleted later. But there are a few things which don't go here.

- ◆ Copies of [documentation](#) or other documents which already have fine, canonical homes. It is better to link to the external resource than to duplicate.
- ◆ Anything you, or someone else, wouldn't want aired in public. This is a public, revision-controlled web site for all to see and archive. Once its posted here it can't fully be deleted. Don't post others' personal contact information (phone numbers, IM names, children's names, date of birth, address, passwords, embarrassing stories) unless they have already done so publicly.

Wiki Caretaker Tasks

- ◆ Some general means of communicating needs to be created other than the IRC channel because people who aren't on at the time will not see things said there. For the time

116 REVISIONS

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