Perl

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History, Man. It’s Wild.

- Developed by Larry Wall
- Started in 1987
- Version 1.0 was released to the comp.sources.misc newsgroup on December 18, 1987.
- Several versions of Perl since

That guy
Call me ... PERL!

- "Pearl" after the Parable of the Pearl
- Unfortunately PEARL programming language
- Therefore, Pearl was transformed into Perl
- Perl: language
- perl: interpreter program
- Owned: PERL
Visions of Versions

- Perl 2: 1988 better regular expression engine.
- Perl 3: 1989 added support for binary data streams.
- Perl 5: 1994 nearly complete rewrite of the interpreter
- Perl 5 added features: objects, reference, local variables, and modules
- Perl 5.8.8
Perls in Space

- Perl 6
- 2000
- Remove "historical warts"
- "easy things should stay easy, hard things should get easier, impossible things should get hard."
- Request for Comments/ Suggestions
- No end in sight.... YET
Perly Whites

- Design Goals of Perl
  - Make efficient use of expensive programmers (unlike C)
  - Uses greater CPU time and memory in order to do tasks for the user
    - automatic memory management
    - dynamic typing
    - string lists
    - Perl is concise and natural for humans to read
Handling your *Perl*

- Anything
- CGI scripts
- LAMP (Linux, Apache, MySQL, Perl)
- Processing large amounts of data
- Tying together systems and interfaces not designed to work together
Pretty Perls

- Slash
- Bugzilla
- WxPerl
- Movable Type

- Amazon.com
- LiveJournal.com
- Ticketmaster.com
- IMDb.com
Perl mottoes or Perl expressions

- **TIMTOWTDI** pronounced “Tim Today” there is more then one way to do it

- **Perl: the Swiss Army Chainsaw of Programming Languages**

- “No unnecessary limits”

- “The Duct Tape of the Internet”
Perls of Wisdom

- **Hello World**
  
  ```perl
  print hello world ;
  ```

- **Shebang**
  
  ```perl
  #!/usr/bin/perl
  ```

- **Variables in strings**
  
  ```perl
  print Hi $person ;
  ```

- **Default Variable**
  
  ```perl
  $_[ @
  ```
What's my type?

• Scalars
  
  $s1 = \text{hello} ;$
  $s2 = 0 ;$
  $s3 = 0.0 ;$

• Arrays
  
  @a = (a,b,c,d,e);
  print $a[3];$

• Hashes
  
  %h = (red => 0xff0000, blue => 0x0000cc);
  print $h{\text{red}} ;
EVERYBODY STAND BACK.

I KNOW REGULAR EXPRESSIONS.
• How to match
  \$a =~ /some regex/

• Quantifiers
  /a*/  /a+/  /a?/  /a{3,5}/

• Find and replace
  S/0/A/;
  s/01*0//;
A GOD'S LAMENT

SOME SAID THE WORLD SHOULD BE IN PERL;
SOME SAID IN LISP.
NOW, HAVING GIVEN BOTH A WHIRL,
I HELD WITH THOSE WHO FAVORED PERL.
BUT I FEAR WE PASSED TO MEN
A DISAPPOINTING FOUNDING MYTH,
AND SHOULD WE WRITE IT ALL AGAIN,
I'D END IT WITH
A CLOSE-PAREN.