

What We Will Cover

The history of Perl

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- The history of Perl
 - ◆ (in about three minutes)

What We Will Do 1 ver

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The History of Perl



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- Text processing
- Network programming
- Borrowed ideas from C, awk, sed, shell, etc.

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 - ◆ Introduced the Camel book :-)

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- Also ongoing maintenance on 5.5.x and 5.6.x

The Current State of Perl

Perl's Strengths

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- Statement modifiers

```
print "DEBUG: $var" if $debug;
```

- Implicit variables

```
while (<FILE>) {  
    # record in $_  
}
```

- Putting them together...

```
open FILE, $somefile or die $!;  
while (<FILE>) {  
    print if /$search_string/;  
}
```


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```
- Quality "control"
 - ◆ Easier test plans for authors
 - ◆ CPAN testers - automatic testing of new uploads



CPAN Examples

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- Database Access - DBI & DBD
- Template processing - Template Toolkit

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- Specialised XML Processing
 - ◆ XML::RSS

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- Template processing - Template Toolkit
 - ◆ (or one of a hundred other tools)
- XML Parsing - XML::Parser, XML::SAX, XML::LibXML
- Specialised XML Processing
 - ◆ XML::RSS
 - ◆ RDF::Core or RDF::Simple
 - ◆ XML::FOAF

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- Perl powers some of the most successful web sites
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- Many large banks rely on Perl for data munging



Perl Usage

Perl's Future

Perl 5.x



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- Latest major release (5.8) released July 2002

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- Latest minor release (5.8.4) released Apr 2004
-

Perl 6

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- "Perl 5 was my rewrite of Perl. I want Perl 6 to be the community's rewrite of Perl" - Larry Wall
- More later...

Conclusion

The State of Perl

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- Perl isn't just for the web

The State of Perl



