What We Will Cover

The history of Perl



What We Will Cover

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

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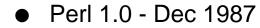
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The History of Perl

Perl 1.0





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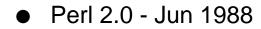
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- Text processing



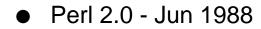
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- Perl 1.0 Dec 1987
- Written by Larry Wall
- "Diagonal" Language
- Text processing
- Network programming
- Borrowed ideas from C, awk, sed, shell, etc.











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 - Introduced the Camel book :-)





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- Current version 5.8.4 Apr 2004
- Also ongoing maintenance on 5.5.x and 5.6.x

The Current State of Perl



• Technical



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Perl's Strengths

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 - "Manipulexity and Whipupitude" Larry Wall
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• There's more than one way to do it



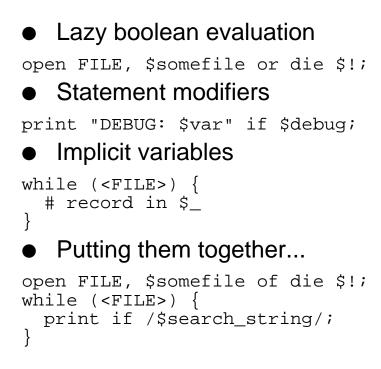
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• Lazy boolean evaluation

open FILE, \$somefile or die \$!;







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 - On all continents
 - □ (except Antarctica)
 - Mailing lists, social meetings, technical meetings, conferences

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- Other web sites

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• The Comprehensive Perl Archive Network



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- Perl's "killer app"
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- Quality "control"
 - Easier test plans for authors
 - CPAN testers automatic testing of new uploads



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- Specialised XML Processing
 - XML::RSS

CPAN Examples

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- Specialised XML Processing
 - XML::RSS
 - RDF::Core or RDF::Simple
 - XML::FOAF

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- Data manipulation too
- Many large banks rely on Perl for data munging

Perl's Future



- Development of Perl 5 continues
- Latest major release (5.8) released July 2002

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- Latest major release (5.8) released July 2002
- Latest minor release (5.8.4) released Apr 2004

Perl 6

Perl 6

- "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