



# What We Will Cover

- The history of Perl
  - ◆ (in about three minutes)
- The current state of Perl
- The future of Perl
  - ◆ Perl 6
  - ◆ Parrot
  - ◆ PONIE

# The History of Perl

# Perl 1.0

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

# Early Perl Versions

- Perl 2.0 - Jun 1988
  - ◆ Introduced regular expressions
- Perl 3.0 - Oct 1989
  - ◆ Introduced ability to handle binary data
- Perl 4.0 - Mar 1991
  - ◆ Introduced the Camel book :-)

# Perl 5

- Released Oct 1994
- "introduced everything else, including the ability to introduce everything else" - Larry Wall
- Modules, references and objects
- Regular maintenance and enhancement releases
- Current version 5.8.3 - Jan 2004
- Also ongoing maintenance on 5.5.x and 5.6.x
-

# The Current State of Perl

# Perl's Strengths

- Technical
  - ◆ "Manipulexity and Whipupitude" - Larry Wall
- Social
  - ◆ Community
  - ◆





## Technical Strengths

- There's more than one way to do it

Support for many different programming styles

# Procedural

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# A few Perl Idioms

- Lazy boolean evaluation

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

- 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/;  
}
```

# The Perl Community

- Perl Mongers
  - ◆ Hundreds of local Perl user groups
  - ◆ On all continents
    - (except Antarctica)
  - ◆ Mailing lists, social meetings, technical meetings, conferences
  - ◆ <http://www.pm.org/>
- Yet Another Perl Conference (YAPC)
  - ◆ Grassroots Perl Conference organised by volunteers
  - ◆ Started in Pittsburgh in 1999
  - ◆ 2000 - Pittsburgh an, London
  - ◆ 2004 - Herzliya (Israel), Taipei, Buffalo, Belfast, Melbourne & Canada

# The Perl Community (cont)

- Perl Monks
  - ◆ <http://perlmonks.org/>
  - ◆ Friendly community web site for Perl help and advice
- Other web sites
  - ◆ <http://www.perl.org/> - Perl portal
  - ◆ <http://learn.perl.org/> - Beginners site
  - ◆ <http://books.perl.org/> - Book reviews and ratings
  - ◆ <http://lists.perl.org/> - Mailing lists
  - ◆ <http://history.perl.org/> - History of Perl
  - ◆ Many more...
- The Perl Foundation
  - ◆ Co-ordinates most of the community activity
  - ◆ Holds various Perl copyrights
  - ◆ Raises money and awards grants
  - ◆ <http://www.perl-foundation.org/>

# CPAN

- The Comprehensive Perl Archive Network
- Perl's "killer app"
- The definitive source for all Perl downloads
  - ◆ Perl distributions
  - ◆ Additional modules
  - ◆ Programs
  - ◆ Documentation
-

# CPAN Modules

- Over 5,000 modules available
- All Open Source
-



# Perl Usage

- Perl is currently used by many of the curompanie
-



# Perl's Future





## Perl 6 (cont)

- Apocalypses further explained in "Exegeses"
  - ◆ <http://dev.perl.org/perl6/exegesis/>
- Much discussion takes place on mailing lists
  - ◆ <http://dev.perl.org/perl6/lists/>
- Weekly summaries of progress
  - ◆ <http://dev.perl.org/perl6/list-summaries/>

# Perl 6 Features

- Clean up Perl's internals
- Improved "regular" expressions
  - ◆

# Parrot

- Parrot is a virtual machine used to efficiently execute bytecode for dynamic languages
- Parrot will be the core of the Perl 6 compiler
- It will be Perl 6's target platform
- Other languages will be able to target Parrot too
- <http://www.parrotcode.org/>

**PONIE**



# Conclusion





# The State of Perl

- Perl 6 has really galvanised the Perl community
- Even Perl 5 T helpment has felt the impact
- The Perl community is larger and more active