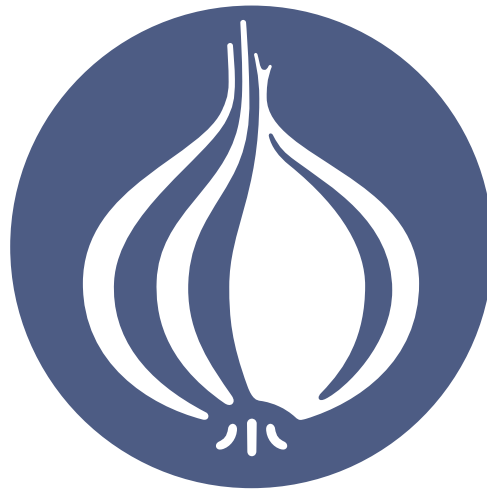




THE Perl FOUNDATION

ADVANCING THE PERL PROGRAMMING LANGUAGE



Press Pack

<http://www.perlfoundation.org>

The Perl Foundation - 170 College Ave. Suite 230 - Holland, MI 49423

A non-profit 501(c)(3) corporation



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Synopsis

The Perl Foundation is a not-for-profit corporation dedicated to advancing the usage, and development, of the Perl programming language. The Perl Foundation carries out a range of activities including: the collection and distribution of development grants; sponsorship and organisation of community-led local and international Perl conferences; support for community web sites and user groups, including Perl Monks, Perl Mongers and Perl.org; management of intellectual property for Perl 6 and holds the copyright of the 'onion' logo for use in connection with Perl.

The Perl Foundation is controlled by a central board with several organisational committees who oversee the running of the various foundation activities.

As a not for profit organisation the TPF is reliant on the sponsorship it receives from both individuals and corporate partners. Historically sponsors have, and may so in the future, target their funding towards specific goals. In 2008 Booking.com gave \$50,000 (USD) towards the development of the Perl 5 core which was used on grants to Dave Mitchell and also in Ian Hague gave \$200,000 (USD) towards the development of Perl 6. During 2011 the TPF started the Perl 5 Core Maintenance Fund to help raise money to improve the stability and performance of the Perl 5 core.

The Perl Foundation was founded in the year 2000.

Registered as an American not-for-profit organisation: 501(c)(3)

Donations can be made using the old form method:
<https://donate.perlfoundation.org/index.pl?node=Contribution%20Info>

Or by the new online donations system with targeted funds at:
<https://secure.donor.com/pf012/give>



What is Perl?

Perl is generally described as a general purpose dynamic programming language, it is a high-level language that is interpreted rather than compiled. Perl was developed by Larry Wall in 1987 as a general-purpose scripting language for the Unix platform to perform easy report processing. Since 1987 it has evolved with a number of revisions to become widely popular amongst programmers.

Larry Wall continues to oversee development of the language as he develops Perl 6 which is a new language specification, there are several implementations of Perl 6 already such as Rakudo compiler which runs on the Parrot Virtual Machine.

Perl provides powerful text processing facilities without the arbitrary data length limits of many contemporary Unix tools which facilitates the easy manipulation of text. Perl 4 gained widespread popularity in the 1990s as a scripting language (CGI) but since then the language has undergone massive evolutionary change.

In addition to CGI, Perl is used for graphics programming, system administration tasks, game development, network programming, engineering programming, bioinformatics where it was used as an integral part of the mapping of the human genome, finance packages, web applications. Perl has been nicknamed "the Swiss Army chainsaw of programming languages" due to its flexibility and power, and also referred to as the "duct tape that holds the Internet together", in reference to its ubiquity and perceived inelegance.

Perl is a stable, cross-platform, programming language with cutting-edge features for application development. There are two languages based on Perl: version 14.1, which is an implementation of Perl 5; and the Perl 6 language specification which has a number of projects that implement it such as Rakudo.

This text is based upon the article on Perl to be found at <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Perl>



Perl Development Grants

Synopsis

The Perl Foundation awards a stipend to leading Perl developers through its development grant program. This allows leading community developers to focus on their contributions to Perl. By funding such critical areas of Perl development, The Perl Foundation insures the continued growth and innovation of the language.

Grants Benefits to the Open Source Community

Funding leading Perl developers and educators enables the Perl Foundation to effectively pursue its mandate to advance the use and understanding of Perl in the wider community.

Public presentations by grant recipients offer grass-roots Perl users unprecedented opportunities to learn from and interact with leading members of the Perl community, and also provide an important means for the those users to give direct feedback to the the language developers.

Writing articles for print and on-line media enhances that transfer of information and adds to the learning resources available to the community.

The grant recipients have the opportunity to focus their considerable talents on important projects that can directly benefit tens of thousands of Perl users around the world. This may involve improving Perl's own code base, or developing valuable new software for general use. Recipients have the time and the freedom-from-distraction to study difficult problems carefully, and develop practical, efficient, and easy-to-use solutions to them.

The grants themselves have raised the profile of the Open Source community, prompting debate on the economics of "free" software, and the funding models that can best support non-commercial development. They also engender a greater sense of community pride in and proprietorship of the Perl language, acting as a focus around which interest, energy, and productive interaction can be built.



Direct Benefits to Sponsors

A Vital Perl Language

Perl has a worldwide impact, and Perl 6 is an important new generation of efficient, flexible Perl. Individuals and corporations that depend on, have an interest in, and love Perl can contribute directly to support the basic costs of development and support for this great programming language.

Tax deductibility

TPF is a non-profit, 501(c)(3) organization with offices in Holland, Michigan. All donations to TPF are tax deductible for US residents. Donations may also qualify as tax deductions by individuals in other countries as well (check your local regulations). Employers may match individual donations.

Kudos

The Open Source and Free Software movements often operate as meritocracies, in which reputation reflects performance. Sponsoring a high-profile, high-achiever from within these communities is an excellent way to gain credit and status, both directly for the donation itself and indirectly by association with the grant recipient.

The software community is also heavily driven by personalities, and many members strongly identify with talented individuals. Visible support for such people is seen as visible support for the community, and is a rich source of goodwill.

This funding drive and the subsequent grants will receive significant publicity throughout the Open Source IT industry. Historically, donations made early in the fund-raising process are particularly effective in garnering community recognition and approval.

Publicity

TPF publicly acknowledges all sponsors, and provides special recognition for large donors.

Sponsors donating US\$5,000 or more have the opportunity to display their corporate logo on the TPF website, with a link to their home-page and a personalized note of and recognition and thanks from TPF.



Sponsors contributing US\$10,000 or more may additionally set up their own page on the TPF website (with only minor restrictions on content).

Sponsors donating US\$50,000 or more are also granted the naming rights to a particular grant. For example: "The 2002 GoodWillCorp Perl Development Grant".

Software

All software developed under a TPF Development grant must be released under a publically available license that is free for redistribution and use without discrimination against field of endeavour. The fruits of the work are thus immediately available for use by sponsors. Furthermore, although sponsors are not entitled to direct the course of software development, their ideas, suggestions, and questions naturally receive particular attention by grant recipients.

Training

Grant recipients travel widely as part of their grant, and provide free public seminars on their work wherever they go. Not surprisingly, their travel itinerary almost always includes major IT centres where their sponsors are likely to be situated. For example, in 2001 Dr Conway presented seminars in locations accessible to each of his six major sponsors.

Grant recipients also offer major sponsors special discounted rates on corporate training.

Each grant is budgeted individually, according to the duration of the award, the recipient's financial needs, and projected expenses (travel, equipment, etc.) A typical amount for a 12-month grant involving some domestic US travel would be US \$80,000.

The purpose and goals of each grant are also individually negotiated with the recipient. These may include any combination of:

- * Development of specific software packages,
- * Maintenance and enhancement of the Perl core code,
- * Design or implementation work for the forthcoming Perl 6,
- * Delivering keynotes, tutorials, and other presentations at national and international conferences,



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- * Speaking to local Perl and Open Source user groups,
- * Participation in relevant on-line forums,
- * Any other activity the committee deems beneficial to the wider Perl community.



Perl 5 Core Maintenance Fund

Introduction

Since 2008 The Perl Foundation has provided a series of grants targeted at improving the Perl 5 core. This project has been very successful but the original funding is now almost depleted. The Perl Foundation is committed to raising new funding to help continue and expand this important venture.

The original funding for this project was provided solely by a generous donation from Booking.com aimed at improving the overall stability and performance of the Perl 5 Core which would in turn benefit all users.

The Perl Foundation is seeking to further extend the work already performed, which were done through a series of Grants to Dave Mitchell, and now hopes to extend Dave's work through funding and also in the first part to additionally fund Nicholas Clark.

We hope to encourage businesses, organisations and individuals to directly contribute towards this fund to build a better Perl. We will keep a list of all sponsors which may be used in promotion of the fund and to thank those who donate (anonymity may be requested); furthermore significant donors will have their logo (or a logo of their choice) placed on The Perl Foundation Sponsors page under a heading indicating their direct support of this, and any donation of greater than \$1,000 dollars will have the sponsor mentioned in the weekly report that they have sponsored.

Applicant Eligibility

Due to the nature of this fund, and its targeted focus, eligibility to apply has two initial requirements:

1. To be eligible the applicant 'must' be a contributor to the Perl 5 core.
2. The application 'must' be endorsed by one or more people with commit rights to the core.

This will ensure that the grant funds are given to experienced members of the community who can target well-known problems and create lasting solutions.



Description of Fund

The donations made to this fund will be used for the maintenance and improvement of the Perl5 core. Funds will be disbursed via grants awarded by The Perl Foundation in conjunction with well-respected members of the perl5 community. The grants will be awarded to the most appropriate applicant and managed in association with the Perl 5 Porters.

Once an application has been received, and confirmed as matching the initial requirements, it will be published on The Perl Foundation blog for a period of community feedback. If it is required, by the nature of the grant, feedback may also be requested from key community members. Final evaluation of any grants will be performed by the president of The Perl Foundation in consultation with other members (Executive, Board and Committee); with members of the Perl 5 Porters; with the Perl 5 Pumpking.

Quotations

“donations are wonderful news, and a clear vote of confidence in the ongoing relevance of Perl 5 in the commercial environment. It's great to see this encouragement for the less than sexy work that provides the firm foundations to the more visible and fun aspects of Perl's renaissance.”

Nicholas Clark

CMF Awardee

“The Perl Foundation is delighted to announce these generous gifts to the Perl 5 Maintenance Fund from the consistent supporters of Perl. These donation come at a key time [for the fund] and will be exceptionally helpful to ensure the ongoing maintenance of Perl 5. This is yet another example of the commitment that companies have to Perl and a demonstration of their generosity to the Perl Community”.

Karen Pauley

President, The Perl Foundation



Yet Another Perl Conference

The Yet Another Perl Conference (YAPC) started existence as a single grassroots conference organized by Perl users who had the goal of bringing together the community for a reasonably priced event.

The first YAPC was a small, regional conference in Pittsburgh, PA, hosted by Carnegie Mellon University in 1999. Since that time, YAPC has grown into a series of affordable regional conferences many held under the auspices of The Perl Foundation.

YAPC events provide an inexpensive alternative to other conferences with prohibitive registration fees. Registration fees at YAPC average less than many other events of a similar size and scope. YAPC events provide attendees with a friendly venue for sharing research, learning new techniques, and talking with leading developers.

There are also a number of other conferences funded and supported by The Perl Foundation such as Frozen Perl and Perl Oasis.

Since 1999 a number of other countries have started their own YAPC events, with conferences held on every continent except Africa and Antarctica. There is a separate organisation that is responsible for the events held in Europe (YAPC Europe Federation - YEF) and the YAPC Asia is aided by the Japan Perl Association.

For a historical list of all YAPCs see: <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/YAPC>



Perl Community Groups

The Perl Foundation has consolidated the responsibility and authority for the Perl Mongers organization and the popular perlmonks.org community Web site. With this action, TPF has become a leading source of support and advocacy for the Perl community. There are over 200 Perl Mongers groups worldwide that bring together local Perl developers for face-to-face technical and social meetings. Developers meet online at PerlMonks.com to provide technical, professional, and personal support to each other.

TPF also hosts the discussion channel #perl-help on the IRC chatting network. New and experienced Perl programmers use this chat channel to seek and offer help.



Who's Who in The Perl Foundation

Board of Directors

Chairman - Nathan Torkington

President - Karen Pauley

Secretary - Jim Brandt

Treasurer - Dan Wright

Kurt DeMaagd

Curtis "Ovid" Poe

Allison Randal

Director Emeritus

Kevin Lenzo

Steering Committee Members

Steering Committee Chair - Karen Pauley

Perl.org - Ask Bjorn Hansen

Conferences - Josh McAdams

PerlFoundation.org - Casey West

Marketing and Public Relations - Mark Keating

Donor Relations - Larry Hixson

Grants - Alberto Simões

CPAN - Graham Barr

"At Large" committee members

David Adler (Awards)

Uri Guttman (Social Events)

Paul Blair (PR)



Ex officio:

Jim Brandt

Kurt DeMaagd

Grants Committee Members

Committee Members

Secretary - Alberto Simões

Leon Brocard

Rafael Garcia-Suarez

Thomas Klausner

Ben Tilly

Will "Coke" Coleda

Perrin Harkins

Elizabeth Mattijsen

Andy Armstrong

Ex officio:

Kurt DeMaagd as board liaison

Grant Managers (non-voting)

Rosellyne Thompson

Ricardo Signes

Jeff Horwitz

Renée Baecker

Tom Hukins

Alan Alavi

Makoto Nozaki

Former Committee Members

Hugo van der Sanden



Stas Bekman

Piers Cawley

Curtis "Ovid" Poe

Former Grant Managers

Jeff Adams

Adrian Howard

Conferences Committee

Conferences Chair - Josh McAdams

Jeff Bisbee

Uri Guttman

Kevin Eye

Pete Krawczyk

G. Wade Johnson

Will Willis

Todd Rinaldo

Jeremy Fluhmann

Marketing Committee

Marketing Chair - Mark Keating

Dave Cross

Jon Allen

Curtis "Ovid" Poe

Karen Pauley



Quotes

General Perl Usage

"Perl has no problem processing everything we need to handle, and it's easy enough to use that we can get things done quickly without having to spend months developing things. Really, it's perfect."

Jesse Sheidlower

Principal Editor of the Oxford English Dictionary's North American editorial unit

"Perl provides invaluable reliability and performance to our client, The National Weather Service Headquarters. The data manipulation capabilities of Perl, particularly when teamed with the MySQL database, not only rival, but far surpass most commercial data extraction, transformation, or loading (ETL) software. The stability, usefulness, and the speed of both development and program execution constantly impress me. Perl has become my language of choice for quick programs and critical production software. My donations to the Perl Foundation help further the development of Perl."

Lawrence K. Hixson

Principal Programmer and Senior Analyst Raytheon Information Technology and Scientific Services Division

On Grants

"Through these [TPF] grants, the support of the community can be put to use for the good of everyone."

Kevin Lenzo

President and Co-founder The Perl Foundation

"I am, of course, extremely pleased to receive this grant. But it's even more gratifying to see our community developing the depth and maturity to successfully perform such a miracle, even when times are tough. When people care, the future is bright."

Larry Wall 2002

Perl Development Grant Recipient



On Perl Mongers

"I attend Perl Monger meetings because it gives me a chance to learn from many knowledgeable people. I have become a much better developer as a result of joining Perl Mongers."

Julian Cook

US Army Corps of Engineers

On Core Maintenance Fund

"donations are wonderful news, and a clear vote of confidence in the ongoing relevance of Perl 5 in the commercial environment. It's great to see this encouragement for the less than sexy work that provides the firm foundations to the more visible and fun aspects of Perl's renaissance."

Nicholas Clark

CMF Awardee

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Karen Pauley

President, The Perl Foundation



Online Resources and Sites

<http://www.perlfoundation.org>

The Perl Foundation homepage

<http://yapceurope.org>

YAPC Europe Foundation homepage

<http://learn.perl.org>

Beginners can get help with programming problems

<http://perldoc.perl.org>

Online community documentation resource

<http://www.perl.org>

Perl community, resource portal

<http://www.yapc.org>

YAPC: Find out more information about the North American and European Yet Another Perl Conferences

<http://www.cpan.org>

Save time by using existing Perl modules found at The Comprehensive Perl Archive Network

<http://www.pm.org>

Perl Mongers: Find your local Perl User group

<http://www.PerlMonks.com>

PerlMonks: Trade programming support and participate in thought provoking discussions

<http://www.perl.com>

Read interesting articles and keep up with Perl6 news

<http://www.ParrotCode.org>

ParrotCode.org: Track the development of the Perl6 implementation



Contacts

President

Karen Pauley – karen@perlfoundation.org

Treasurer

Dan Wright – dan@perlfoundation.org

Website Content

Casey West – webmaster@perlfoundation.org

Public Relations

Mark Keating – pr@perlfoundation.org

Mailing Address

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340 S Lemon Ave #6055
Walnut
CA 91789

Mailing Address for event payments (YAPC)

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