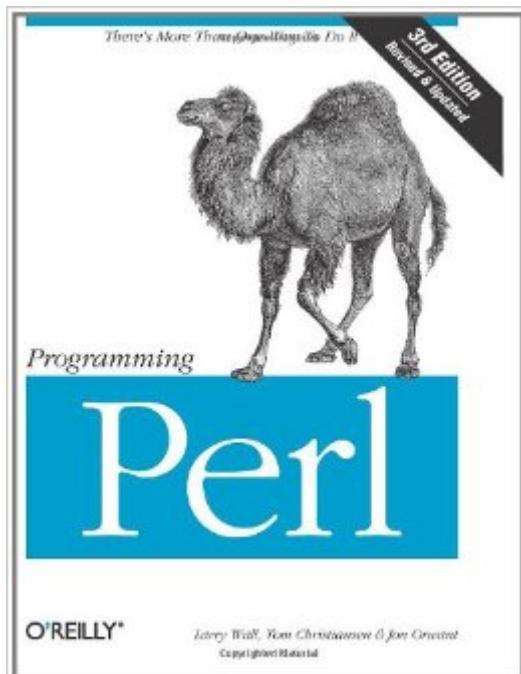


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Programming Perl (3rd Edition)



Synopsis

Perl is a powerful programming language that has grown in popularity since it first appeared in 1988. The first edition of this book, *Programming Perl*, hit the shelves in 1990, and was quickly adopted as the undisputed bible of the language. Since then, Perl has grown with the times, and so has this book. *Programming Perl* is not just a book about Perl. It is also a unique introduction to the language and its culture, as one might expect only from its authors. Larry Wall is the inventor of Perl, and provides a unique perspective on the evolution of Perl and its future direction. Tom Christiansen was one of the first champions of the language, and lives and breathes the complexities of Perl internals as few other mortals do. Jon Orwant is the editor of *The Perl Journal*, which has brought together the Perl community as a common forum for new developments in Perl. Any Perl book can show the syntax of Perl's functions, but only this one is a comprehensive guide to all the nooks and crannies of the language. Any Perl book can explain typeglobs, pseudohashes, and closures, but only this one shows how they really work. Any Perl book can say that `my` is faster than `local`, but only this one explains why. Any Perl book can have a title, but only this book is affectionately known by all Perl programmers as "The Camel." This third edition of *Programming Perl* has been expanded to cover version 5.6 of this maturing language. New topics include threading, the compiler, Unicode, and other new features that have been added since the previous edition.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

If you're like me, and you're shopping for a book, you immediately start reading the negative reviews and work upwards. So I started reading the reviews and read through them all, bought the book despite the many negative, and frankly, snippish comments made by many reviewers and decided that I need to respond. Many say that the examples are convoluted, or that he focuses on obscure language references. One says the book starts quickly with a discussion of the splice function. The first mention of splice is on page 355, which I certainly don't define as 'quickly'....Others say that there are no examples, or they are not explained clearly, but there's a short sample program right on page 18, and then 4 pages are devoted to analyzing the program and how it works. Further review through the book shows many small examples, especially in the sections that outline the core functions of Perl, and the core modules of Perl. Others come here and criticize Perl the language, and use this as a platform for their own advocacy of other languages. This is just silly. If you're interested in Perl, or you've been using Perl and you want to know more, buy this book. In the universe of computer programming, every language choice you make is controversial, and subject to debate, and just because some reviewers do not like Perl the language, it does not mitigate the quality of this book. That all being said, and debunking the frankly lousy reviews, I'll caution that this is NOT for beginning programmers, or people with limited technical knowledge. O'Reilly knows this, and anyone who has read this book should know this too. There is a book called 'Beginning Perl', also from O'Reilly, and written by one of the other top minds in Perl.

I grew up teething on the trusty C=64, then went on to Q-Basic, Fortran-77 (I'm a mechanical engineer by schooling), and eventually dabbled quite a bit with ANSI C. Except for a quarter of Fortran in college, I've always been self-taught for computers and programming. I thought that this book would be the place to start my 'career' in Perl. Since it is the 'hot new thing' (although not that new) and I am interested in Linux and the Apache web server, learning Perl seemed to be the natural extension. And on almost every FAQ, web site, etcetera about Perl, all speak of 'THE CAMEL' as being the bible. BOY WAS I WRONG! I am not NEARLY smart enough to learn Perl straight from the Camel's mouth. But that doesn't mean that this is a terrible book by any means, not at all. But I quickly jumped back on line here at and picked up 'the Llama', aka Learning Perl, 2d Edition. Here's my path to success, being that I wasn't smart enough to learn from this book by itself! hahaha...(1) Read 'Learning Perl' straight through at a leisurely pace. Just get a feel for the language and syntax. (2) Download and install Perl... (3) Read 'Learning Perl' a second time, this time not continuing until you successfully complete the exercises at the end of each chapter. (4) Read 'Programming Perl', and when you get to a part that you have trouble with, refer back to the lessons and examples in

theLlama. This worked quite well for me, and using the Llama before ANDin conjunction with the Camel seemed to enhance the meaning for me ofboth. My newest endeavor is to work through 'CGI Programming withPerl', another O'Reilly animal book ('the Mouse'?).Overall, thisis what I would term a 'readable reference'.

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