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## Howto: Write script in Perl

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**Q**. I'm new to Linux and Perl. I've printed perl man page but it is bit confusing and omits a lot of simple things or details. Can you tell me how do I write a perl script? How do I open perl editor?

[1]

**A**. Larry Wall began work on Perl in 1987 and it is a dynamic programming language. Traditionally perl programs are written using text editor such as vi or emacs. The overall structure of Perl derives broadly from C.

Also when you start learning a new programming language, always start with Hello world program.

### Hello world Perl Program

Let us print Hello world from a shell prompt. Type the following command (excluding $ ):

```
$ perl -e 'print "Hello, world!\n"';
```

Output:

```
Hello, world!
```

Let us write hello world program using vi text editor:

```
$ vi hello.pl
```

Append code as follows:

```
#!/usr/bin/perl
print "Hello, world!\n";
```

Save and close the file. Now setup a execute permission:

```
$ chmod +x hello.pl
```

Finally execute perl program:

```
$ ./hello.pl
```

- First, I used the vi command to create a file named hello.pl
- The first line of the script used to specify that the script is to be executed by perl program (#!/usr/bin/perl) and not by a shell.
- Print command prints hello world on screen. Please note that the notation \n which stands for newline i.e. print a newline.

### Further reading

This is just a simple introduction. You should consider following text books & resources for more information and mastering the perl:

- Beginning Perl, Second Edition by James Lee [2]
- Learning Perl - by Randal L. Schwartz, Tom Phoenix, brian d foy. O'Reilly Media, Inc. [3]

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[2] Beginning Perl, Second Edition by James Lee: **http://www.amazon.com/gp/redirect.html?ie=UTF8&location=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.amazon.com%2FBeginning-Perl-Second-James-Lee%2Fdp%2F159059391X%3Fie%3DUTF8%26s%3Dbooks%26qid%3D1184698657%26sr%3D8-4&tag=cyberciti-20&linkCode=ur2&camp=1789&creative=9325**

[3] Learning Perl - by Randal L. Schwartz, Tom Phoenix, brian d foy. O'Reilly Media, Inc.: **http://www.amazon.com/gp/redirect.html?ie=UTF8&location=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.amazon.com%2FLearning-Perl-Fourth-Randal-Schwartz%2Fdp%2F0596101058%3Fie%3DUTF8%26s%3Dbooks%26qid%3D1184698657%26sr%3D8-1&tag=cyberciti-20&linkCode=ur2&camp=1789&creative=9325**