

Perl Executing Browser:
yet another
GUI for scripts and
enhanced web client

Perl Executing Browser

Qt4/5 WebKit browser capable of
executing Perl, Python or PHP scripts
locally without a web server

<https://github.com/ddmitov/perl-executing-browser>

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Perl Executing Browser Motivation

- ◆ Searching for a nice and easy to use and distribute cross-platform GUI for local scripts

Problems with library bindings like PerlTk, gtk2-perl, WxPerl, Perlqt4:
*multiple dependencies to install,
difficult packing and distribution*

Problems with front-ends like Xdialog, Zenity, Yad:
non-flexible set of simple dialogs

Perl Executing Browser Motivation

- ◆ Local web server solution
not desirable for local scripts

Problems:

CGI timeout limitation –
incompatible with long-running scripts,
opening another port –
possible security vulnerability,
administrative privileges may be needed.

Perl Executing Browser Inspiration

- ◆ PHP Desktop, Perl Desktop
<https://code.google.com/p/phpdesktop/>
- ◆ node-webkit
<https://github.com/rogerwang/node-webkit>
- ◆ TideSDK
<http://www.tidesdk.org/>
- ◆ Diogenes (software for classicists)
<https://community.dur.ac.uk/p.j.heslin/>

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Main features

- ◆ CGI scripts can be executed locally in serverless mode, feeding them from HTML forms using CGI protocol GET and POST methods.
- ◆ Long-running scripts can also be executed locally in serverless mode.
- ◆ (Limited) interaction with the built-in Perl debugger.

Perl Executing Browser Security

- ◆ Locally scripts are executed with only few necessary environment variables, but have the same privileges as the user, who started the browser.
- ◆ Browser does not download locally executed scripts from remote locations due to the huge security risks involved!
- ◆ Local execution of scripts is not mixed with the traditional browser access to local or remote web servers.

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Possible applications

- ◆ Perl, Python or PHP desktop applications with HTML4/5 & CSS2/3 GUI
- ◆ Web clients with scripting capabilities based on Perl, Python, PHP & JavaScript
- ◆ GUI for existing local scripts
- ◆ (Limited) GUI for the Perl debugger

Thank you!

