

Perl Calendar

Nov. 12, 2004

Perl 5.8.6 RC1 Available

Oct. 17, 2004

Perl 5's 10th Birthday

(Perl was first released in 1987.)

Nov. 22, 2004

Randal Schwartz's Birthday

(Randal was first released in 1961.)

Oct. 12, 1994

DBI's 10th Birthday

<http://dbi.perl.org>

Dec. 1–3, 2004

Open Source Developer's Conference

(formerly YAPC::AU::2004)

Monash Caulfield

<http://www.osdc.com.au/>

Dec. 11, 2004

London Perl Workshop

Imperial College Student Union

<http://london.pm.org/lpw/>

Feb. 9–11, 2005

German Perl Workshop

Dresden, Germany

<http://www.perl-workshop.de/2005/>

Feb. 25, 2005

Dutch Perl Workshop

<http://workshop.perlpromo.nl/>

March 14–17, 2005

O'Reilly Emerging Technology Conference

San Diego, CA

<http://conferences.oreillynnet.com/etech/>

March 26–27, 2005

YAPC::Taipei—Perl in the Enterprise

<http://taipei.pm.org/>

Aug 31 – Sept. 2, 2005

YAPC::EU::2005—Perl Everywhere

University of Minho, Braga, Portugal

<http://braga.yapceurope.org/>

Perl News

BBEdit 8.0 released

Bare Bones released a major upgrade to their popular Mac text editor. It integrates with Affrus, a new Mac Perl debugger.

<http://www.barebones.com/products/bbedit/>

Komodo 3.0 released

ActiveState released another version of their integrated development environment. It supports many languages besides Perl and runs on Linux, Solaris, and Windows.

<http://www.activestate.com/Products/Komodo/>

DBI Call for Funding

<http://dbi.perl.org/donate/>

Support the continued development of the DBI project with a monetary donation.

Apress LP Sneak Peeks

<http://www.apress.com/betabooks/>

Can't wait for a book to come out? Apress LP now gives you sneak peeks of upcoming titles in its "Alpha and Beta Books" program.

You can view HTML or PDF versions of developing parts of books as well as post comments on the previews.

Book Review**Mastering Perl for Bioinformatics***Reviewed by Eli Bendersky*

James D. Tisdall
 O'Reilly Media
 ISBN 0-596-00307-2
 396 pages

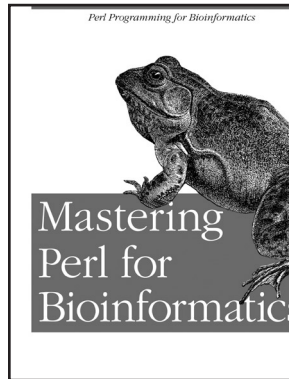
Mastering Perl for Bioinformatics is written well, but beware, it might not be what you are looking for. It is not a book for the general Perl folk eager to learn bioinformatics. It is a book about Perl, with some detours into other topics of computer science. A book “for programmers who want to learn more about bioinformatics” (as the back cover says) should include theoretical background, descriptions of the problems bioinformaticians are trying to solve, etc. None of this is present.

The treatment of Perl object-oriented programming is clear and detailed, and dives into the advanced topics like attribute lists, inheritance, and `AUTOLOAD`. The discussion of relational databases in the 6th chapter is also very nice and gives a good start for Perl programmers who want to use of the `DBI` modules. I utterly enjoyed the explanation of the Edit Distance algorithm with a reference to Dynamic Programming in the 2nd chapter.

If you're a beginning Perl bioinformatics programmer, interested in OOP, databases, web, graphics and the Bioperl library, you may find this book useful. If you want to learn bioinformatics, you'll have to find something else.

Online: <http://www.oreilly.com/catalog/mpperlbio/>

Eli is a programmer in IBM's Haifa Research Lab, using Perl extensively both for work and for personal pet projects.

**In Brief****Joel On Software**

by Joel Spolsky
 Apress LP, ISBN 1-59059-389-8

This book has nothing to do with Perl, and as little to do with open source. It is all about common sense though. Every essay on the practice of writing software as a vocation has several points that will make you reconsider some aspect of how you do things (or don't do things). I couldn't put the book down before I finished it.

SpamAssassin

by Alan Schwartz
 O'Reilly Media, ISBN 0-596-00707-8

Just what I needed: a paper guide for SpamAssassin, a great spam filtering tool written in Perl. I still hate reading a computer screen, and this thin book (200 pages not counting the index) is the perfect size to keep near my desk. It covers SpamAssassin 3.0.

Beginning Perl

by James Lee, with Simon Cozens and Peter Wainwright
 Apress LP, ISBN 1-59059-391-X

Although this edition is a lot thinner than the first, it's still pretty thick and suffers from too much non-Perl detail in a lot of places.

It's also hard to look at since the the code sections aren't clearly separated from the text. Maybe the next edition will start from scratch.

Perl Library**Understanding Open Source and Free Software Licensing**

Andrew M. St. Laurent
 O'Reilly Media, ISBN 0-596-00581-4, 208 pp.

XML Hacks

Michael Fitzgerald
 O'Reilly Media, ISBN 0-596-00711-6, 478 pp.

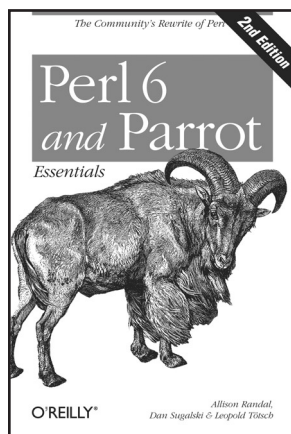
Beginning Perl, Second Edition

James Lee
 Apress LP, ISBN 1-59059-391-X, 464 pp.

Book Review**Perl 6 and Parrot Essentials
2nd Edition**

by Allison Randal,
Dan Sugalski, Leopold
Tötsch
O'Reilly Media
ISBN 0-596-00737-X

This editions updates last year's Perl 6 Essentials and promotes Parrot to the title. You could read all of Larry Wall's Apocalypses and Damian Conway's Exegeses (<http://dev.perl.org/perl6/>) to get the plan for Perl 6, but you could also go crazy doing it. The authors, all Perl 6 developers, digest most of the those, along with other sources, to give a short, 300 page summary of it all.



The first half of the book covers most of the new language features of Perl 6 and the new syntax. Even in this summary, there is a lot of stuff to cover, and the authors do a great job of putting everything into place. The second half of the book covers the Parrot engine that runs Perl 6. I'm not an internals person, but I still found it interesting. Just don't ask me to remember the details.

If you want to learn to program in Perl 6, this probably isn't the book for you (and there isn't a Perl 6 update to Learning Perl yet), but if you want to read the blueprints and plans, this is the best place to get those.

Online: <http://www.oreilly.com/catalog/059600737X/>

Perl Mongers News

by Dave Adler

To start things off, we have two brand new groups of Mongers: Aarau.pm in Switzerland and Cascais.pm in Portugal. Also, ThousandOaks.pm is resuming regular monthly meetings as of December and Jacksonville.pm has requested that I tell you that they're still there.

A number of Perl Monger groups are getting Perl workshops up and running in their area. London and Melbourne are having theirs in December while Israel, Holland and Germany each have one scheduled for February. Thomas Klausner is keeping up with these—or at least trying to, as more keep popping up all the time—at <http://www.yapceurope.org/-workshops.html>

Perl Seminar New York (aka perlsemny) will work on testing **Text::Template**, joining Chicago.pm, SouthFlorida.pm and London.pm in working on the Phalanx testing project. Details on the Phalanx Kwiki at <http://phalanx.kwiki.org/>

On the international relations front, Paris.pm seems to be having a large number of foreign visitors, SaoPaulo.pm is entertaining a member of Rio.pm for the bulk of November and NY.pm may be getting a brief visit from London.

Finally, Mark Jason Dominus' long-awaited book is almost in physical form, and Philadelphia.pm is going to be helping him put together a book signing. No details yet, but when they arrive, phl.pm will surely announce them.

Happy Mongering.

Dave Adler is a Perl Mongers Charter Member and is the leader of NY.pm (<http://ny.pm.org>). He is perhaps the nation's leading authority on Monty Python.

Forthcoming Titles:

Randal Schwartz's Perls of Wisdom
Randal Schwartz
Apress LP, ISBN 1-59059-323-5, 375 pp.

Perl 6 Now: The Core Ideas Illustrated with Perl 5
Scott Walters
Apress LP, ISBN 1-59059-395-2, 400 pp.

Pro Perl: From Professional to Expert
Peter Wainwright
Apress LP, ISBN 1-59059-438-X, 1100 pp.

Pro Perl Debugging
Richard Foley, Joe McMahon
Apress LP, ISBN 1-59059-454-1, 300 pp.