The Perl Foundation

The Perl Foundation
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Board of Directors

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This packet includes information about:

The Perl Foundation
Perl Development Grants
Grant Recipients
Yet Another Perl Conference
Perl Community Groups
TPF Board of Directors

www.PerlFoundation.org

Supporting Perl Development

Founded in 2000, The Perl Foundation (TPF) is a non-profit 501(c)(3) corporation established to advance the use and development of the Perl programming language. To support this mission, TPF carries out the following activities:

- ➢ Collection and distribution of Perl Development Grants
- ➢ Organization and facilitation of YAPC international grassroots Perl conferences
- ➢ Management of the intellectual property for Perl 6
- ➢ Centralized support for community-based Web sites and user groups, including Perl Mongers, Perl Monks, and Perl.org

What is Perl?

Perl is a stable, cross-platform programming language with cutting-edge features for application development. It is used for mission critical projects in the public and private sectors and is widely used to program web applications of all needs.

Perl 6, the next release of Perl, is designed to deliver more speed and power while still providing continuity with the current version, Perl 5.

Perl technologies provide:

- ➢ Database Interaction
- ➢ Web application programming and optimization
- ➢ Graphical user interfaces
- ➢ Tools for bioinformatics

Perl Development Grants

Through its grant program, the Perl Foundation awards a stipend to leading Perl developers, thus allowing them focus on their contributions to Perl. By funding critical areas of Perl development, The Perl Foundation insures the continued growth and innovation of the language.

In 2001, The Perl Foundation raised over $75,000 in contributions from individuals and corporations. Building on the success of the 2001 grant program, grants in 2002 totaled over $180,000. This amount funded three individual grants.

Although the precise purpose and goals for each individual grant are determined with each grant recipient, common goals include:

➢ 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
➢ Speaking to Perl and Open Source user groups
➢ Other activities that benefit the Perl community

"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

Grant Recipients

Dr. Damian Conway, the recipient of the 2001 Perl Development Grant, used his grant to expand his already prolific contributions to the Perl community. The grant provided him with the funds for one year's worth of research and travel expenses. Over the course of 2001, Dr. Conway was able to collaborate on a wide variety of open source projects, facilitate discussion about his work, and share his extensive knowledge about programming with audiences around the world.

For 2002, The Perl Foundation funded Dr. Conway to continue the work he began in 2001. Two more grants were awarded to Larry Wall, the creator of Perl, and Dan Sugalski. With these two additional grants, The Perl Foundation has advanced Wall's work on the design of Perl6, and Sugalski's work on the implementation of Perl6.

"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

Yet Another Perl Conference

Yet Another Perl Conference (YAPC) began as a single grassroots conference organized by Perl users who had the goal of bringing together the Perl community for a reasonably priced conference. 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 under the auspices of TPF, held in multiple areas of the globe, including Montréal, London, and Amsterdam.

To this day, YAPC events provide an inexpensive alternative to other conferences with prohibitive registration fees. Registration fees at YAPC average less than $100. YAPC events provide attendees with a friendly venue for sharing research, learning new techniques, and talking with leading developers.

A YAPC session at McGill University

Photo by Nathaniel Haas

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.

"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

Photo by Randal Schwartz

Larry Wall signs a book at a TPF event

TPF Board of Directors

Kevin Lenzo, president and co-founder, is the CEO of Cepstral, LLC, a leading provider of cutting-edge speech synthesis software and services. He is on leave from a faculty position in the Institute for Software Research International at Carnegie Mellon.

Kurt DeMaagd, secretary and treasurer, co-founded Yet Another Society in 2000. When not taking care of TPF business, Kurt is an MSI student at the University of Michigan School of Information, studying information economics, management, and policy. He also specializes in the development and maintenance of online communities. Prior to his enrollment at U of M, he was a co-founder and the treasurer of Blockstackers, Inc.

Nathan Torkington, a TPF Director, is a "web and scripting languages" editor for O'Reilly and Associates, where he plans the content for the O'Reilly Open Source Convention (which includes The Perl Conference). He cowrote the Perl Cookbook, and has been an editor for the Perl Journal and maintainer of the Perl FAQ.