WIKIPEDIA

There's more than one way to do it

There's more than one way to do it (**TMTOWTDI** or **TIMTOWTDI**, pronounced *Tim Toady*) is a Perl programming motto. The language was designed with this idea in mind, in that it "doesn't try to tell the programmer how to program." As proponents of this motto argue, this philosophy makes it easy to write concise statements like

```perl
print if 1..3 or /match/
```

or the more traditional

```perl
if (1..3 or /match/) { print }
```

or even the more verbose:

```perl
use English;
if ($INPUT_LINE_NUMBER >= 1 and $INPUT_LINE_NUMBER <= 3 or $ARG =~ m/match/) {
    print $ARG;
}
```

This motto has been very much discussed in the Perl community, and eventually extended to **There's more than one way to do it, but sometimes consistency is not a bad thing either** (**TIMTOWTDIBSCINABTE**, pronounced *Tim Toady Bicarbonate*).[1]

In contrast, part of the Zen of Python is, "There should be one — and preferably only one — obvious way to do it."[2]

See also

- Extensible programming
- Don't repeat yourself
- You aren't gonna need it

References

1. "Can EPO (or TPF) tame TIMTOWTDI?" (http://www.dev411.com/blog/2009/01/24/can-epo-or-tpf-tame-timtowtdi). dev411.com. 2009-01-24.
2. https://www.python.org/dev/peps/pep-0020/

External links

- Perl, the first postmodern computer language (http://www.perl.com/pub/a/1999/03/pm.html) by Larry Wall
- There Is More Than One Way To Do It (http://c2.com/cgi/wiki?ThereIsMoreThanOneWayToDoIt) on the WikiWikiWeb
- Perl 6, the little sister of Perl 5 (https://perl6.org) released on Christmas Day, 2015, by Larry Wall and the Perl 6 community.