

New features: "each for at least N CPU seconds...", "wallclock secs", and the "@ operations/CPU second (n=operations)".

timethese() now returns a reference to a hash of Benchmark objects containing the test results, keyed on the names of the tests.

timethis() now returns the iterations field in the Benchmark result object instead of 0.

timethese(), timethis(), and the new cmpthese() (see below) can also take a format specifier of 'none' to suppress output.

A new function countit() is just like timeit() except that it takes a TIME instead of a COUNT.

A new function cmpthese() prints a chart comparing the results of each test returned from a timethese() call. For each possible pair of tests, the percentage speed difference (iters/sec or seconds/iter) is shown.

For other details, see *Benchmark*.

ByteLoader

The ByteLoader is a dedicated extension to generate and run Perl bytecode. See *ByteLoader*.

constant

References can now be used.

The new version also allows a leading underscore in constant names, but disallows a double leading underscore (as in "__LINE__"). Some other names are disallowed or warned against, including BEGIN, END, etc. Some names which were forced into main:: used to fail silently in some cases; now they're fatal (outside of main::) and an optional warning (inside of main::). The ability to detect whether a constant had been set with a given name has been added.

See *constant*.

charnames

This pragma implements the \N string escape. See *charnames*.

Data::Dumper

A Maxdepth setting can be specified to avoid venturing too deeply into deep data structures. See *Data::Dumper*.

The XSUB implementation of Dump() is now automatically called if the Useqq setting is not in use.

Dumping qr// objects works correctly.

DB

DB is an experimental module that exposes a clean abstraction to Perl's debugging API.

DB_File

DB_File can now be built with Berkeley DB versions 1, 2 or 3. See *ext/DB_File/Changes*.

Devel::DProf

Devel::DProf, a Perl source code profiler has been added. See *Devel::DProf* and *dprofpp*.

Devel::Peek

The Devel::Peek module provides access to the internal representation of Perl variables and data. It is a data debugging tool for the XS programmer.

Dumpvalue

The Dumpvalue module provides screen dumps of Perl data.

DynaLoader

DynaLoader now supports a dl_unload_file() function on platforms that support unloading shared objects using dlclose().

Perl can also optionally arrange to unload all extension shared objects loaded by Perl. To enable this, build Perl with the Configure option -Accflags=-DDL_UNLOAD_ALL_AT_EXIT. (This maybe useful if you are using Apache with mod_perl.)