

Chapter 84

perl582delta

What is new for perl v5.8.2

84.1 DESCRIPTION

This document describes differences between the 5.8.1 release and the 5.8.2 release.

If you are upgrading from an earlier release such as 5.6.1, first read the *perl58delta*, which describes differences between 5.6.0 and 5.8.0, and the *perl581delta*, which describes differences between 5.8.0 and 5.8.1.

84.2 Incompatible Changes

For threaded builds for modules calling certain re-entrant system calls, binary compatibility was accidentally lost between 5.8.0 and 5.8.1. Binary compatibility with 5.8.0 has been restored in 5.8.2, which necessitates breaking compatibility with 5.8.1. We see this as the lesser of two evils.

This will only affect people who have a threaded perl 5.8.1, and compiled modules which use these calls, and now attempt to run the compiled modules with 5.8.2. The fix is to re-compile and re-install the modules using 5.8.2.

84.3 Core Enhancements

84.3.1 Hash Randomisation

The hash randomisation introduced with 5.8.1 has been amended. It transpired that although the implementation introduced in 5.8.1 was source compatible with 5.8.0, it was not binary compatible in certain cases. 5.8.2 contains an improved implementation which is both source and binary compatible with both 5.8.0 and 5.8.1, and remains robust against the form of attack which prompted the change for 5.8.1.

We are grateful to the Debian project for their input in this area. See Algorithmic Complexity Attacks in *perlsec* for the original rationale behind this change.

84.3.2 Threading

Several memory leaks associated with variables shared between threads have been fixed.