

Chapter 18

perlfaq2

Obtaining and Learning about Perl (\$Revision: 1.25 \$, \$Date: 2003/10/16 04:57:38 \$)

18.1 DESCRIPTION

This section of the FAQ answers questions about where to find source and documentation for Perl, support, and related matters.

18.1.1 What machines support Perl? Where do I get it?

The standard release of Perl (the one maintained by the perl development team) is distributed only in source code form. You can find this at <http://www.cpan.org/src/latest.tar.gz> , which is in a standard Internet format (a gzipped archive in POSIX tar format).

Perl builds and runs on a bewildering number of platforms. Virtually all known and current Unix derivatives are supported (Perl's native platform), as are other systems like VMS, DOS, OS/2, Windows, QNX, BeOS, OS X, MPE/iX and the Amiga.

Binary distributions for some proprietary platforms, including Apple systems, can be found <http://www.cpan.org/ports/> directory. Because these are not part of the standard distribution, they may and in fact do differ from the base Perl port in a variety of ways. You'll have to check their respective release notes to see just what the differences are. These differences can be either positive (e.g. extensions for the features of the particular platform that are not supported in the source release of perl) or negative (e.g. might be based upon a less current source release of perl).

18.1.2 How can I get a binary version of Perl?

If you don't have a C compiler because your vendor for whatever reasons did not include one with your system, the best thing to do is grab a binary version of gcc from the net and use that to compile perl with. CPAN only has binaries for systems that are terribly hard to get free compilers for, not for Unix systems.

Some URLs that might help you are:

<http://www.cpan.org/ports/>
<http://www.perl.com/pub/language/info/software.html>

Someone looking for a Perl for Win16 might look to Laszlo Molnar's djgpp port in <http://www.cpan.org/ports/#msdos> , which comes with clear installation instructions. A simple installation guide for MS-DOS using Ilya Zakharevich's OS/2 port is available at <http://www.cs.ruu.nl/%7Epiet/perl5dos.html> and similarly for Windows 3.1 at <http://www.cs.ruu.nl/%7Epiet/perlwin3.html> .