

94.4 Support for More Operating Systems

Support for the following operating systems is new in Perl 5.004.

94.4.1 Win32

Perl 5.004 now includes support for building a "native" perl under Windows NT, using the Microsoft Visual C++ compiler (versions 2.0 and above) or the Borland C++ compiler (versions 5.02 and above). The resulting perl can be used under Windows 95 (if it is installed in the same directory locations as it got installed in Windows NT). This port includes support for perl extension building tools like *MakeMaker* and *h2xs*, so that many extensions available on the Comprehensive Perl Archive Network (CPAN) can now be readily built under Windows NT. See <http://www.perl.com/> for more information on CPAN and *README.win32* in the perl distribution for more details on how to get started with building this port.

There is also support for building perl under the Cygwin32 environment. Cygwin32 is a set of GNU tools that make it possible to compile and run many Unix programs under Windows NT by providing a mostly Unix-like interface for compilation and execution. See *README.cygwin32* in the perl distribution for more details on this port and how to obtain the Cygwin32 toolkit.

94.4.2 Plan 9

See *README.plan9* in the perl distribution.

94.4.3 QNX

See *README.qnx* in the perl distribution.

94.4.4 AmigaOS

See *README.amigaos* in the perl distribution.

94.5 Pragmata

Six new pragmatic modules exist:

use autouse MODULE => qw(sub1 sub2 sub3)

Defers **require** MODULE until someone calls one of the specified subroutines (which must be exported by MODULE). This pragma should be used with caution, and only when necessary.

use blib

use blib 'dir'

Looks for MakeMaker-like '*blib*' directory structure starting in *dir* (or current directory) and working back up to five levels of parent directories.

Intended for use on command line with **-M** option as a way of testing arbitrary scripts against an uninstalled version of a package.

use constant NAME => VALUE

Provides a convenient interface for creating compile-time constants, See Constant Functions in *perlsub*.