33.1.6 Embedding Pods in Perl Modules

You can embed Pod documentation in your Perl modules and scripts. Start your documentation with an empty line, a "=head1" command at the beginning, and end it with a "=cut" command and an empty line. Perl will ignore the Pod text. See any of the supplied library modules for examples. If you're going to put your Pod at the end of the file, and you're using an __END__ or __DATA__ cut mark, make sure to put an empty line there before the first Pod command.

```
__END__

=head1 NAME

Time::Local - efficiently compute time from local and GMT time
```

Without that empty line before the "=head1", many translators wouldn't have recognized the "=head1" as starting a Pod block.

33.1.7 Hints for Writing Pod

- The **podchecker** command is provided for checking Pod syntax for errors and warnings. For example, it checks for completely blank lines in Pod blocks and for unknown commands and formatting codes. You should still also pass your document through one or more translators and proofread the result, or print out the result and proofread that. Some of the problems found may be bugs in the translators, which you may or may not wish to work around.

- If you're more familiar with writing in HTML than with writing in Pod, you can try your hand at writing documentation in simple HTML, and converting it to Pod with the experimental Pod::HTML2Pod module, (available in CPAN), and looking at the resulting code. The experimental Pod::PXML module in CPAN might also be useful.

- Many older Pod translators require the lines before every Pod command and after every Pod command (including "=cut"!) to be a blank line. Having something like this:

```
# - - - - - - - - - - - -
=item $firecracker->boom()

This noisily detonates the firecracker object.
=cut
sub boom {
...
```

  ...will make such Pod translators completely fail to see the Pod block at all.

  Instead, have it like this:

```
# - - - - - - - - - - - -

=item $firecracker->boom()

This noisily detonates the firecracker object.

=cut

sub boom {
...
```

- Some older Pod translators require paragraphs (including command paragraphs like "=head2 Functions") to be separated by *completely* empty lines. If you have an apparently empty line with some spaces on it, this might not count as a separator for those translators, and that could cause odd formatting.

- Older translators might add wording around an L<> link, so that L<Foo::Bar> may become "the Foo::Bar manpage", for example. So you shouldn't write things like the L<foo> documentation, if you want the translated document to read sensibly – instead write the L<Foo::Bar|Foo::Bar> documentation or L<the Foo::Bar documentation|Foo::Bar>, to control how the link comes out.

- Going past the 70th column in a verbatim block might be ungracefully wrapped by some formatters.