

# X shell

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## **Part I**

# **Bootstrap implementation**

# Chapter 1

## Self-replication

Listing 1.1 boot/xh-header

```
1  #!/usr/bin/env perl
2  BEGIN {eval(our $xh_bootstrap = q{
3  # xh: the X shell | https://github.com/spencertipping/xh
4  # Copyright (C) 2014, Spencer Tipping
5  # Licensed under the terms of the MIT source code license
6
7  # For the benefit of HTML viewers (long story):
8  # <body style='display:none'>
9  # <script src='http://spencertipping.com/xh/page.js'></script>
10 use 5.014;
11 package xh;
12 our %modules;
13 our @module_ordering;
14
15 our %compilers = (pl => sub {
16     my $package = $_[0] =~ s/\./::/gr;
17     eval "{package ::$package;\n$_[1]\n}";
18     die "error compiling module $_[0]: $_" if $@;
19 });
20
21 sub defmodule {
22     my ($name, $code, @args) = @_;
23     chomp($modules{$name} = $code);
24     push @module_ordering, $name;
25     my ($base, $extension) = split /\.(\\w+)/, $name;
26     die "undefined module extension '$extension' for $name"
27         unless exists $compilers{$extension};
28     $compilers{$extension}->($base, $code, @args);
29 }
```

```

30
31 chomp($modules{bootstrap} = $::xh_bootstrap);
32 undef $::xh_bootstrap;

```

At this point we need a way to reproduce the image. Since the bootstrap code is already stored, we can just wrap it and each defined module into an appropriate BEGIN block.

**Listing 1.2** boot/xh-header (continued)

```

1 sub image {
2   my @pieces = "#!/usr/bin/env perl";
3   push @pieces, "BEGIN {eval(our \$xh_bootstrap = <<'_' )}",
4               $modules{bootstrap},
5               '_';
6   push @pieces, "BEGIN {xh::defmodule('$_', <<'_' )}",
7               $modules{$_},
8               '_ ' for @module_ordering;
9   push @pieces, "xh::main::main;\n__DATA__";
10  join "\n", @pieces;
11 }
12 }

```

## Chapter 2

# Data structures

All values in `xh` have the same type, which provides a bunch of operations suited to different purposes. This implementation is based on strings and, as a result, has egregious performance appropriate only for bootstrapping the self-hosting compiler.

Listing 2.1 `modules/v.pl`

```
1 BEGIN {xh::defmodule('xh::v.pl', <<'_'')}
2 sub parse_with_quoted {
3   my ($events_to_split, $split_sublists, $s) = @_;
4   my @result;
5   my $current_item = '';
6   my $sublist_depth = 0;
7
8   for my $piece (split /\v+|\s+|\V|\\.|[\\[\]O{}]/, $s) {
9     next unless length $piece;
10    my $depth_before_piece = $sublist_depth;
11    $sublist_depth += $piece =~ /\[({)/;
12    $sublist_depth -= $piece =~ /\]}/;
13
14    if ($split_sublists && !$sublist_depth != !$depth_before_piece) {
15      # Two possibilities. One is that we just closed an item, in which
16      # case we take the piece, concatenate it to the item, and continue.
17      # The other is that we just opened one, in which case we emit what we
18      # have and start a new item with the piece.
19      if ($sublist_depth) {
20        # Just opened one; kick out current item and start a new one.
21        push @result, $current_item if length $current_item;
22        $current_item = $piece;
23      } else {
24        # Just closed a list; concat and kick out the full item.
25        push @result, "$current_item$piece";
```

```

26     $current_item = '';
27 }
28 } elseif (!$sublist_depth && $piece =~ /$events_to_split/) {
29     # If the match produces a group, then treat it as a part of the next
30     # item. Otherwise throw it away.
31     push @result, $current_item if length $current_item;
32     $current_item = $1;
33 } else {
34     $current_item .= $piece;
35 }
36 }
37
38 push @result, $current_item if length $current_item;
39 @result;
40 }
41
42 sub parse_lines {parse_with_quoted '\v+', 0, @_}
43 sub parse_words {parse_with_quoted '\s+', 0, @_}
44 sub parse_path {parse_with_quoted '(/)', 1, @_}
45
46 sub brace_balance {my $without_escapes = $_[0] =~ s/\\./gr;
47     length($without_escapes =~ s/^[{]/gr) -
48     length($without_escapes =~ s/^}]/gr)}
49
50 sub escape_braces_in {$_[0] =~ s/([\\\[\\]{}])/\$1/gr}
51
52 sub brace_wrap {
53     "{ " . (brace_balance($_[0]) ? escape_braces_in($_[0]) : $_[0]) . " }"
54 }
55
56 sub quote_as_line {parse_lines(@_) > 1 ? brace_wrap $_[0] : $_[0]}
57 sub quote_as_word {parse_words(@_) > 1 ? brace_wrap $_[0] : $_[0]}
58 sub quote_as_path {parse_path(@_) > 1 ? brace_wrap $_[0] : $_[0]}
59
60 sub split_by_interpolation {
61     # Splits a value into constant and interpolated pieces, where
62     # interpolated pieces always begin with $. Adjacent constant pieces may
63     # be split across items. Any active backslash-escapes will be placed on
64     # their own.
65
66     my @result;
67     my $current_item      = '';
68     my $sublist_depth     = 0;
69     my $blocker_count     = 0;          # number of open-braces
70     my $interpolating     = 0;
71     my $interpolating_depth = 0;

```

```

72
73 for my $piece (split /([\[\]\(\)\{\}\|\.\|\/[!@#]|\\/|\$|\s+)/, $_[0]) {
74     $sublist_depth += $piece =~ /\[\[({}]/;
75     $sublist_depth -= $piece =~ /\[\]\]}]/;
76     $blocker_count += $piece eq '{';
77     $blocker_count -= $piece eq '}';
78
79     if (!$interpolating) {
80         # Not yet interpolating, but see if we can find a reason to change
81         # that.
82         if (!$blocker_count && $piece eq '$') {
83             # Emit current item and start interpolating.
84             push @result, $current_item if length $current_item;
85             $current_item = $piece;
86             $interpolating = 1;
87             $interpolating_depth = $sublist_depth;
88         } elsif (!$blocker_count && $piece =~ /\[/) {
89             # The backslash should be interpreted, so emit it as its own piece.
90             push @result, $current_item if length $current_item;
91             push @result, $piece;
92             $current_item = '';
93         } else {
94             # Collect the piece and continue.
95             $current_item .= $piece;
96         }
97     } else {
98         # We're inside an interpolated quantity, so scan forwards collecting
99         # pieces until one of a few things happens:
100         #
101         # 1. We close the list in which the interpolation is happening.
102         # 2. We hit a / not immediately followed by an interpolation sigil.
103         # 3. We hit whitespace not inside a sublist.
104         #
105         # Cases (2) and (3) apply only if we're not inside a sublist.
106
107         if ($sublist_depth < $interpolating_depth
108             or $sublist_depth == $interpolating_depth
109             and $piece eq '/' || $piece =~ /\s/) {
110             # No longer interpolating because of what we just saw, so emit
111             # current item and start a new constant piece.
112             push @result, $current_item if length $current_item;
113             $current_item = $piece;
114             $interpolating = 0;
115         } else {
116             # Still interpolating, so collect piece.
117             $current_item .= $piece;

```



```

118         }
119     }
120 }
121
122     push @result, $current_item if length $current_item;
123     @result;
124 }
125
126 sub undo_backslash_escape {
127     return "\n" if $_[0] eq '\n';
128     return "\t" if $_[0] eq '\t';
129     return "\\" if $_[0] eq '\\\\';
130     substr $_[0], 1;
131 }
132 _

```