

20.7.3 How do I keep persistent data across program calls?

For some specific applications, you can use one of the DBM modules. See `AnyDBM_File`. More generically, you should consult the `FreezeThaw` or `Storable` modules from CPAN. Starting from Perl 5.8 `Storable` is part of the standard distribution. Here's one example using `Storable`'s `store` and `retrieve` functions:

```
use Storable;
store(\%hash, "filename");

# later on...
$href = retrieve("filename");      # by ref
%hash = %{ retrieve("filename") }; # direct to hash
```

20.7.4 How do I print out or copy a recursive data structure?

The `Data::Dumper` module on CPAN (or the 5.005 release of Perl) is great for printing out data structures. The `Storable` module on CPAN (or the 5.8 release of Perl), provides a function called `dclone` that recursively copies its argument.

```
use Storable qw(dclone);
$r2 = dclone($r1);
```

Where `$r1` can be a reference to any kind of data structure you'd like. It will be deeply copied. Because `dclone` takes and returns references, you'd have to add extra punctuation if you had a hash of arrays that you wanted to copy.

```
%newhash = %{ dclone(\%oldhash) };
```

20.7.5 How do I define methods for every class/object?

Use the `UNIVERSAL` class (see *UNIVERSAL*).

20.7.6 How do I verify a credit card checksum?

Get the `Business::CreditCard` module from CPAN.

20.7.7 How do I pack arrays of doubles or floats for XS code?

The `kgbpack.c` code in the `PGPLOT` module on CPAN does just this. If you're doing a lot of float or double processing, consider using the `PDL` module from CPAN instead—it makes number-crunching easy.

20.8 AUTHOR AND COPYRIGHT

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