

RE: Perl Programming within Debian

Source: <http://linux.derkeiler.com/Mailing-Lists/Debian/2006-12/msg03019.html>

- *From:* "David Christensen" <dpchrist@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>
 - *Date:* Sat, 30 Dec 2006 10:04:58 -0800
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rocky wrote:

I'm thinking of learning Perl Programming.

Get this book first, read it, and do all of the exercises:

<http://www.oreilly.com/catalog/learnperl4/index.html>

After that, get these books as references:

<http://www.oreilly.com/catalog/ppperl3/index.html>

<http://www.oreilly.com/catalog/perlckbk2/index.html>

For CGI scripting, this is the classic:

<http://www.wiley.com/legacy/compbooks/stein/>

but it is dated. I'm working through it and writing updated scripts:

<http://apache.holgerdanske.com/cgi-pm-book/>

I have some others, but haven't studied them in a while.

Can any of you help me get started on how to programming Perl in Debian?

Install these Debian packages (as root):

```
# apt-get perl-doc  
# apt-get perlindex
```

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Then use the perlindex program to browse the documentation (as a user):

```
$ perlindex learn
```

I mean what is the file extension for the perl? Is it .cgi?

For command-line scripts, I don't use any extension so that they are invoked just like any other command-line program.

For CGI scripts, I use .cgi for CGI scripts that run in the traditional CGI way and .pl for CGI scripts run with mod_perl Apache::Registry acceleration (the later is 10x faster, but there are subtle differences that break some scripts and I haven't figure out all the details yet).

Do I need to use any compiler for perl? what is the best choice?

A standard Debian installation includes the Perl interpreter:

```
2006-12-30 09:32:09 dpchrist@p3600 ~  
$ perl -v
```

```
This is perl, v5.8.4 built for i386-linux-thread-multi  
...
```

which includes the Perl debugger (-d command line option).

How can I test my work(For instance in PHP programming I can use Firefox browse to the file I want to see the output)?

For command-line scripts, you can run them from the command line with or without the debugger.

For CGI scripts, you can run them as above and/or have your web server run them. The web server can either call the command-line Perl interpreter, load a Perl interpreter module (mod_perl), or have a Perl interpreter already compiled in. I prefer the last choice:

```
apt-get apache-perl
```

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I was trying to search on the net and it did give me lots of results.

Yup. I'd recommend starting here:

<http://www.perl.org/>

FYI the best place for asking Perl language questions is the usenet newsgroup:

comp.lang.perl.misc

and for Perl CGI questions:

comp.infosystems.www.authoring.cgi

HTH,

David

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