

NAME

AnyDBM_File - provide framework for multiple DBMs

NDBM_File, DB_File, GDBM_File, SDBM_File, ODBM_File - various DBM implementations

SYNOPSIS

```
use AnyDBM_File;
```

DESCRIPTION

This module is a "pure virtual base class"--it has nothing of its own. It's just there to inherit from one of the various DBM packages. It prefers ndbm for compatibility reasons with Perl 4, then Berkeley DB (See *DB_File*), GDBM, SDBM (which is always there--it comes with Perl), and finally ODBM. This way old programs that used to use NDBM via dbmopen() can still do so, but new ones can reorder @ISA:

```
BEGIN { @AnyDBM_File::ISA = qw(DB_File GDBM_File NDBM_File) }
use AnyDBM_File;
```

Having multiple DBM implementations makes it trivial to copy database formats:

```
use POSIX; use NDBM_File; use DB_File;
tie %newhash, 'DB_File', $new_filename, O_CREAT|O_RDWR;
tie %oldhash, 'NDBM_File', $old_filename, 1, 0;
%newhash = %oldhash;
```

DBM Comparisons

Here's a partial table of features the different packages offer:

odbm	ndbm	sdbm	gdbm	bsd-db
yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
no	no	yes	no	no
yes	yes[0]	no	no	no
?	?	yes	yes	?
?	?	small	big	big
?	?	small	big?	ok[1]
?	?	slow	ok	fast
no	no	yes	yes	yes
N/A	N/A	yes	yes	ok[2]
1k	4k	1k[3]	none	none
no	no	no	no	yes
?	?	no	yes	no
	yes no yes ? ? no N/A 1k no	yes yes no no yes yes[0]???????????	yes yes yes no no yes yes yes yes[0] no ? ? yes ? small ? ? slow no no yes N/A N/A yes 1k 4k 1k[3] no no no	yes yes yes yes no no yes no no yes yes[0] no no yes yes ? yes yes ? small big? ? small big? ? slow ok no no yes yes yes N/A N/A yes yes 1k 4k 1k[3] none no no no no

[0] on mixed universe machines, may be in the bsd compat library, which is often shunned.

[1] Can be trimmed if you compile for one access method.

[2] See *DB_File*. Requires symbolic links.

[3] By default, but can be redefined.



dbm(3), ndbm(3), DB_File(3), perldbmfilter