NAME

README.freebsd - Perl version 5 on FreeBSD systems

DESCRIPTION

This document describes various features of FreeBSD that will affect how Perl version 5 (hereafter just Perl) is compiled and/or runs.

FreeBSD core dumps from readdir_r with ithreads

When perl is configured to use ithreads, it will use re-entrant library calls in preference to non-re-entrant versions. There is a bug in FreeBSD's `readdir_r` function in versions 4.5 and earlier that can cause a SEGV when reading large directories. A patch for FreeBSD libc is available (see http://www.freebsd.org/cgi/query-pr.cgi?pr=misc/30631) which has been integrated into FreeBSD 4.6.

$^X doesn't always contain a full path in FreeBSD

perl 5.8.0 sets `$^X` where possible to a full path by asking the operating system. On FreeBSD the full path of the perl interpreter is found by reading the symlink */proc/curproc/file*. FreeBSD has a bug where reading this symlink sometimes returns an incorrect value (see http://www.freebsd.org/cgi/query-pr.cgi?pr=35703). In these cases perl will fall back to the old behaviour of using C's argv[0] value for `$^X`.

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Please report any errors, updates, or suggestions to *perlbug@perl.org*.