NAME

Tie::Handle - base class definitions for tied handles

SYNOPSIS

```
package NewHandle;
require Tie::Handle;


@ISA = qw(Tie::Handle);


sub READ { ... }  # Provide a needed method
sub TIEHANDLE { ... } # Overrides inherited method


package main;


tie *FH, 'NewHandle';
```

DESCRIPTION

This module provides some skeletal methods for handle-tying classes. See *perltie* for a list of the functions required in tying a handle to a package. The basic **Tie::Handle** package provides a `new` method, as well as methods `TIEHANDLE`, `PRINT`, `PRINTF` and `GETC`.

For developers wishing to write their own tied-handle classes, the methods are summarized below. The *perltie* section not only documents these, but has sample code as well:

TIEHANDLE classname, LIST

> The method invoked by the command `tie *glob, classname`. Associates a new glob instance with the specified class. `LIST` would represent additional arguments (along the lines of *AnyDBM_File* and compatriots) needed to complete the association.

WRITE this, scalar, length, offset

> Write *length* bytes of data from *scalar* starting at *offset*.

PRINT this, LIST

> Print the values in *LIST*

PRINTF this, format, LIST

> Print the values in *LIST* using *format*

READ this, scalar, length, offset

> Read *length* bytes of data into *scalar* starting at *offset*.

READLINE this

> Read a single line

GETC this

> Get a single character

CLOSE this

> Close the handle

OPEN this, filename

> (Re-)open the handle

BINMODE this

Specify content is binary

EOF this

Test for end of file.

TELL this

Return position in the file.

SEEK this, offset, whence

Position the file.

Test for end of file.

DESTROY this

Free the storage associated with the tied handle referenced by *this*. This is rarely needed, as Perl manages its memory quite well. But the option exists, should a class wish to perform specific actions upon the destruction of an instance.

MORE INFORMATION

The *perltie* section contains an example of tying handles.

COMPATIBILITY

This version of Tie::Handle is neither related to nor compatible with the Tie::Handle (3.0) module available on CPAN. It was due to an accident that two modules with the same name appeared. The namespace clash has been cleared in favor of this module that comes with the perl core in September 2000 and accordingly the version number has been bumped up to 4.0.