NAME

prove -- A command-line tool for running tests against Test::Harness

SYNOPSIS

prove [options] [files/directories]

Options:

```
    -b, --blib     Adds blib/lib to the path for your tests, a la "use
blib".
    -d, --debug    Includes extra debugging information.
    -D, --dry      Dry run: Show the tests to run, but don't run them.
        --ext=x    Extensions (defaults to .t)
    -h, --help     Display this help
    -H, --man      Longer manpage for prove
    -I            Add libraries to @INC, as Perl's -I
    -l, --lib      Add lib to the path for your tests.
    -r, --recurse  Recursively descend into directories.
    -s, --shuffle  Run the tests in a random order.
    -T            Enable tainting checks
    -t            Enable tainting warnings
        --timer    Print elapsed time after each test file
    -v, --verbose  Display standard output of test scripts while running
them.
    -V, --version  Display version info
```

Single-character options may be stacked. Default options may be set by specifying the PROVE_SWITCHES environment variable.

OVERVIEW

prove is a command-line interface to the test-running functionality of `Test::Harness`. With no arguments, it will run all tests in the current directory.

Shell metacharacters may be used with command lines options and will be exanded via `glob`.

PROVE VS. "MAKE TEST"

prove has a number of advantages over `make test` when doing development.

* *prove* is designed as a development tool

> Perl users typically run the test harness through a makefile via `make test`. That's fine for module distributions, but it's suboptimal for a test/code/debug development cycle.

* *prove* is granular

> *prove* lets your run against only the files you want to check. Running `prove t/live/ t/master.t` checks every **.t* in *t/live*, plus *t/master.t*.

* *prove* has an easy verbose mode

> *prove* has a `-v` option to see the raw output from the tests. To do this with `make test`, you must set `HARNESS_VERBOSE=1` in the environment.

* *prove* can run under taint mode

> *prove*'s `-T` runs your tests under `perl -T`, and `-t` runs them under `perl -t`.

* *prove* can shuffle tests

> You can use *prove*'s `--shuffle` option to try to excite problems that don't show up when tests are run in the same order every time.

* *prove* doesn't rely on a make tool

Not everyone wants to write a makefile, or use *ExtUtils::MakeMaker* to do so. *prove* has no external dependencies.

* Not everything is a module

More and more users are using Perl's testing tools outside the context of a module distribution, and may not even use a makefile at all.

COMMAND LINE OPTIONS

-b, --blib

Adds blib/lib to the path for your tests, a la "use blib".

-d, --debug

Include debug information about how *prove* is being run. This option doesn't show the output from the test scripts. That's handled by -v,--verbose.

-D, --dry

Dry run: Show the tests to run, but don't run them.

--ext=extension

Specify extensions of the test files to run. By default, these are .t, but you may have other non-.t test files, most likely .sh shell scripts. The --ext is repeatable.

-I

Add libraries to @INC, as Perl's -I.

-l, --lib

Add `lib` to @INC. Equivalent to `-Ilib`.

-r, --recurse

Descends into subdirectories of any directories specified, looking for tests.

-s, --shuffle

Sometimes tests are accidentally dependent on tests that have been run before. This switch will shuffle the tests to be run prior to running them, thus ensuring that hidden dependencies in the test order are likely to be revealed. The author hopes the run the algorithm on the preceding sentence to see if he can produce something slightly less awkward.

-t

Runs test programs under perl's -t taint warning mode.

-T

Runs test programs under perl's -T taint mode.

--timer

Print elapsed time after each test file

-v, --verbose

Display standard output of test scripts while running them. Also sets TEST_VERBOSE in case your tests rely on them.

-V, --version

Display version info.

BUGS

Please use the CPAN bug ticketing system at *http://rt.cpan.org/*. You can also mail bugs, fixes and enhancements to `<bug-test-harness@rt.cpan.org>`.

TODO

- Shuffled tests must be recreatable

AUTHORS

Andy Lester `<andy@petdance.com>`

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See *http://www.perl.com/perl/misc/Artistic.html*.