

NAME

perlmodlib - constructing new Perl modules and finding existing ones

THE PERL MODULE LIBRARY

Many modules are included in the Perl distribution. These are described below, and all end in *.pm*. You may discover compiled library files (usually ending in *.so*) or small pieces of modules to be autoloaded (ending in *.al*); these were automatically generated by the installation process. You may also discover files in the library directory that end in either *.pl* or *.ph*. These are old libraries supplied so that old programs that use them still run. The *.pl* files will all eventually be converted into standard modules, and the *.ph* files made by **h2ph** will probably end up as extension modules made by **h2xs**. (Some *.ph* values may already be available through the POSIX, Errno, or Fcntl modules.) The **pl2pm** file in the distribution may help in your conversion, but it's just a mechanical process and therefore far from bulletproof.

Pragmatic Modules

They work somewhat like compiler directives (pragmata) in that they tend to affect the compilation of your program, and thus will usually work well only when used within a `use`, or `no`. Most of these are lexically scoped, so an inner BLOCK may countermand them by saying:

```
no integer;
no strict 'refs';
no warnings;
```

which lasts until the end of that BLOCK.

Some pragmas are lexically scoped--typically those that affect the `%^H` hints variable. Others affect the current package instead, like `use vars` and `use subs`, which allow you to predeclare a variables or subroutines within a particular *file* rather than just a block. Such declarations are effective for the entire file for which they were declared. You cannot rescind them with `no vars` or `no subs`.

The following pragmas are defined (and have their own documentation).

attributes	Get/set subroutine or variable attributes
attrs	Set/get attributes of a subroutine (deprecated)
autouse	Postpone load of modules until a function is used
base	Establish IS-A relationship with base classes at compile time
bigint	Transparent BigInteger support for Perl
bignum	Transparent BigNumber support for Perl
bigrat	Transparent BigNumber/BigRational support for Perl
blib	Use MakeMaker's uninstalled version of a package
bytes	

	Force byte semantics rather than character semantics
chardnames	Define character names for <code>\N{named}</code> string literal escapes
constant	Declare constants
diagnostics	Produce verbose warning diagnostics
encoding	Allows you to write your script in non-ascii or non-utf8
fields	Compile-time class fields
filetest	Control the filetest permission operators
if	use a Perl module if a condition holds
integer	Use integer arithmetic instead of floating point
less	Request less of something from the compiler
lib	Manipulate <code>@INC</code> at compile time
locale	Use and avoid POSIX locales for built-in operations
open	Set default PerlIO layers for input and output
ops	Restrict unsafe operations when compiling
overload	Package for overloading Perl operations
re	Alter regular expression behaviour
sigtrap	Enable simple signal handling
sort	Control <code>sort()</code> behaviour
strict	Restrict unsafe constructs

subs	Predeclare sub names
threads	Perl extension allowing use of interpreter based threads from perl
threads::shared	Perl extension for sharing data structures between threads
utf8	Enable/disable UTF-8 (or UTF-EBCDIC) in source code
vars	Predeclare global variable names (obsolete)
vmsish	Control VMS-specific language features
warnings	Control optional warnings
warnings::register	Warnings import function

Standard Modules

Standard, bundled modules are all expected to behave in a well-defined manner with respect to namespace pollution because they use the Exporter module. See their own documentation for details.

It's possible that not all modules listed below are installed on your system. For example, the GDBM_File module will not be installed if you don't have the gdbm library.

AnyDBM_File	Provide framework for multiple DBMs
Attribute::Handlers	Simpler definition of attribute handlers
AutoLoader	Load subroutines only on demand
AutoSplit	Split a package for autoloading
B	The Perl Compiler
B::Asmdata	Autogenerated data about Perl ops, used to generate bytecode
B::Assembler	Assemble Perl bytecode
B::Bblock	Walk basic blocks
B::Bytecode	

	Perl compiler's bytecode backend
B::C	Perl compiler's C backend
B::CC	Perl compiler's optimized C translation backend
B::Concise	Walk Perl syntax tree, printing concise info about ops
B::Debug	Walk Perl syntax tree, printing debug info about ops
B::Deparse	Perl compiler backend to produce perl code
B::Disassembler	Disassemble Perl bytecode
B::Lint	Perl lint
B::Showlex	Show lexical variables used in functions or files
B::Stackobj	Helper module for CC backend
B::Stash	Show what stashes are loaded
B::Terse	Walk Perl syntax tree, printing terse info about ops
B::Xref	Generates cross reference reports for Perl programs
Benchmark	Benchmark running times of Perl code
ByteLoader	Load byte compiled perl code
CGI	Simple Common Gateway Interface Class
CGI::Apache	Backward compatibility module for CGI.pm
CGI::Carp	CGI routines for writing to the HTTPD (or other) error log
CGI::Cookie	Interface to Netscape Cookies

CGI::Fast	CGI Interface for Fast CGI
CGI::Pretty	Module to produce nicely formatted HTML code
CGI::Push	Simple Interface to Server Push
CGI::Switch	Backward compatibility module for defunct CGI::Switch
CGI::Util	Internal utilities used by CGI module
CPAN	Query, download and build perl modules from CPAN sites
CPAN::FirstTime	Utility for CPAN::Config file Initialization
CPAN::Nox	Wrapper around CPAN.pm without using any XS module
CPAN::Version	Utility functions to compare CPAN versions
Carp	Warn of errors (from perspective of caller)
Carp::Heavy	Heavy machinery, no user serviceable parts inside
Class::ISA	Report the search path for a class's ISA tree
Class::Struct	Declare struct-like datatypes as Perl classes
Config	Access Perl configuration information
Cwd	Get pathname of current working directory
DB	Programmatic interface to the Perl debugging API (draft, subject to
DBM_Filter	Filter DBM keys/values
DB_File	Perl5 access to Berkeley DB version 1.x
Data::Dumper	Stringified perl data structures, suitable for both printing and eval

Devel::DProf	A Perl code profiler
Devel::PPPport	Perl/Pollution/Portability
Devel::Peek	A data debugging tool for the XS programmer
Devel::SelfStubber	Generate stubs for a SelfLoading module
Digest	Modules that calculate message digests
Digest::MD5	Perl interface to the MD5 Algorithm
Digest::base	Digest base class
Digest::file	Calculate digests of files
DirHandle	Supply object methods for directory handles
Dumpvalue	Provides screen dump of Perl data.
DynaLoader	Dynamically load C libraries into Perl code
Encode	Character encodings
Encode::Alias	Alias definitions to encodings
Encode::Byte	Single Byte Encodings
Encode::CJKConstants	Internally used by Encode::???:ISO_2022_*
Encode::CN	China-based Chinese Encodings
Encode::CN::HZ	Internally used by Encode::CN
Encode::Config	Internally used by Encode
Encode::EBCDIC	EBCDIC Encodings

Encode::Encoder	Object Oriented Encoder
Encode::Encoding	Encode Implementation Base Class
Encode::Guess	Guesses encoding from data
Encode::JP	Japanese Encodings
Encode::JP::H2Z	Internally used by Encode::JP::2022_JP*
Encode::JP::JIS7	Internally used by Encode::JP
Encode::KR	Korean Encodings
Encode::KR::2022_KR	Internally used by Encode::KR
Encode::MIME::Header	MIME 'B' and 'Q' header encoding
Encode::PerIO	A detailed document on Encode and PerIO
Encode::Supported	Encodings supported by Encode
Encode::Symbol	Symbol Encodings
Encode::TW	Taiwan-based Chinese Encodings
Encode::Unicode	Various Unicode Transformation Formats
Encode::Unicode::UTF7	UTF-7 encoding
English	Use nice English (or awk) names for ugly punctuation variables
Env	Perl module that imports environment variables as scalars or arrays
Errno	System errno constants
Exporter	Implements default import method for modules

Exporter::Heavy	Exporter guts
ExtUtils::Command	Utilities to replace common UNIX commands in Makefiles etc.
ExtUtils::Command::MM	Commands for the MM's to use in Makefiles
ExtUtils::Constant	Generate XS code to import C header constants
ExtUtils::Constant::Base	Base class for ExtUtils::Constant objects
ExtUtils::Constant::Utils	Helper functions for ExtUtils::Constant
ExtUtils::Constant::XS	Base class for ExtUtils::Constant objects
ExtUtils::Embed	Utilities for embedding Perl in C/C++ applications
ExtUtils::Install	Install files from here to there
ExtUtils::Installed	Inventory management of installed modules
ExtUtils::Liblist	Determine libraries to use and how to use them
ExtUtils::MM	OS adjusted ExtUtils::MakeMaker subclass
ExtUtils::MM_AIX	AIX specific subclass of ExtUtils::MM_Unix
ExtUtils::MM_Any	Platform-agnostic MM methods
ExtUtils::MM_BeOS	Methods to override UN*X behaviour in ExtUtils::MakeMaker
ExtUtils::MM_Cygwin	Methods to override UN*X behaviour in ExtUtils::MakeMaker
ExtUtils::MM_DOS	DOS specific subclass of ExtUtils::MM_Unix
ExtUtils::MM_MacOS	Once produced Makefiles for MacOS Classic
ExtUtils::MM_NW5	Methods to override UN*X behaviour in ExtUtils::MakeMaker

ExtUtils::MM_OS2	Methods to override UN*X behaviour in ExtUtils::MakeMaker
ExtUtils::MM_QNX	QNX specific subclass of ExtUtils::MM_Unix
ExtUtils::MM_UWIN	U/WIN specific subclass of ExtUtils::MM_Unix
ExtUtils::MM_Unix	Methods used by ExtUtils::MakeMaker
ExtUtils::MM_VMS	Methods to override UN*X behaviour in ExtUtils::MakeMaker
ExtUtils::MM_VOS	VOS specific subclass of ExtUtils::MM_Unix
ExtUtils::MM_Win32	Methods to override UN*X behaviour in ExtUtils::MakeMaker
ExtUtils::MM_Win95	Method to customize MakeMaker for Win9X
ExtUtils::MY	ExtUtils::MakeMaker subclass for customization
ExtUtils::MakeMaker	Create a module Makefile
ExtUtils::MakeMaker::Config	Wrapper around Config.pm
ExtUtils::MakeMaker::FAQ	Frequently Asked Questions About MakeMaker
ExtUtils::MakeMaker::Tutorial	Writing a module with MakeMaker
ExtUtils::MakeMaker::bytes	Version-agnostic bytes.pm
ExtUtils::MakeMaker::vmsish	Platform-agnostic vmsish.pm
ExtUtils::Manifest	Utilities to write and check a MANIFEST file
ExtUtils::Mkbootstrap	Make a bootstrap file for use by DynaLoader
ExtUtils::Mksymlists	Write linker options files for dynamic extension
ExtUtils::Packlist	Manage .packlist files

ExtUtils::testlib	Add blib/* directories to @INC
Fatal	Replace functions with equivalents which succeed or die
Fcntl	Load the C Fcntl.h defines
File::Basename	Parse file paths into directory, filename and suffix.
File::CheckTree	Run many filetest checks on a tree
File::Compare	Compare files or filehandles
File::Copy	Copy files or filehandles
File::DosGlob	DOS like globbing and then some
File::Find	Traverse a directory tree.
File::Glob	Perl extension for BSD glob routine
File::Path	Create or remove directory trees
File::Spec	Portably perform operations on file names
File::Spec::Cygwin	Methods for Cygwin file specs
File::Spec::EpoC	Methods for EPOC file specs
File::Spec::Functions	Portably perform operations on file names
File::Spec::Mac	File::Spec for Mac OS (Classic)
File::Spec::OS2	Methods for OS/2 file specs
File::Spec::Unix	File::Spec for Unix, base for other File::Spec modules
File::Spec::VMS	Methods for VMS file specs

File::Spec::Win32	Methods for Win32 file specs
File::Temp	Return name and handle of a temporary file safely
File::stat	By-name interface to Perl's built-in stat() functions
FileCache	Keep more files open than the system permits
FileHandle	Supply object methods for filehandles
Filter::Simple	Simplified source filtering
Filter::Util::Call	Perl Source Filter Utility Module
FindBin	Locate directory of original perl script
GDBM_File	Perl5 access to the gdbm library.
Getopt::Long	Extended processing of command line options
Getopt::Std	Process single-character switches with switch clustering
Hash::Util	A selection of general-utility hash subroutines
I18N::Collate	Compare 8-bit scalar data according to the current locale
I18N::LangTags	Functions for dealing with RFC3066-style language tags
I18N::LangTags::Detect	Detect the user's language preferences
I18N::LangTags::List	Tags and names for human languages
I18N::Langinfo	Query locale information
IO	Load various IO modules
IO::Dir	Supply object methods for directory handles

IO::File	Supply object methods for filehandles
IO::Handle	Supply object methods for I/O handles
IO::Pipe	Supply object methods for pipes
IO::Poll	Object interface to system poll call
IO::Seekable	Supply seek based methods for I/O objects
IO::Select	OO interface to the select system call
IO::Socket	Object interface to socket communications
IO::Socket::INET	Object interface for AF_INET domain sockets
IO::Socket::UNIX	Object interface for AF_UNIX domain sockets
IPC::Open2	Open a process for both reading and writing
IPC::Open3	Open a process for reading, writing, and error handling
IPC::SysV	SysV IPC constants
IPC::SysV::Msg	SysV Msg IPC object class
IPC::SysV::Semaphore	SysV Semaphore IPC object class
List::Util	A selection of general-utility list subroutines
Locale::Constants	Constants for Locale codes
Locale::Country	ISO codes for country identification (ISO 3166)
Locale::Currency	ISO three letter codes for currency identification (ISO 4217)
Locale::Language	ISO two letter codes for language identification (ISO 639)

Locale::Maketext	Framework for localization
Locale::Maketext::TPJ13	Article about software localization
Locale::Script	ISO codes for script identification (ISO 15924)
MIME::Base64	Encoding and decoding of base64 strings
MIME::Base64::QuotedPrint	Encoding and decoding of quoted-printable strings
Math::BigFloat	Arbitrary size floating point math package
Math::BigInt	Arbitrary size integer/float math package
Math::BigInt::Calc	Pure Perl module to support Math::BigInt
Math::BigInt::CalcEmu	Emulate low-level math with BigInt code
Math::BigRat	Arbitrary big rational numbers
Math::Complex	Complex numbers and associated mathematical functions
Math::Trig	Trigonometric functions
Memoize	Make functions faster by trading space for time
Memoize::AnyDBM_File	Glue to provide EXISTS for AnyDBM_File for Storable use
Memoize::Expire	Plug-in module for automatic expiration of memoized values
Memoize::ExpireFile	Test for Memoize expiration semantics
Memoize::ExpireTest	Test for Memoize expiration semantics
Memoize::NDBM_File	Glue to provide EXISTS for NDBM_File for Storable use
Memoize::SDBM_File	Glue to provide EXISTS for SDBM_File for Storable use

Memoize::Storable	Store Memoized data in Storable database
NDBM_File	Tied access to ndbm files
NEXT	Provide a pseudo-class NEXT (et al) that allows method redispach
Net::Cmd	Network Command class (as used by FTP, SMTP etc)
Net::Config	Local configuration data for libnet
Net::Domain	Attempt to evaluate the current host's internet name and domain
Net::FTP	FTP Client class
Net::NNTP	NNTP Client class
Net::Netrc	OO interface to users netrc file
Net::POP3	Post Office Protocol 3 Client class (RFC1939)
Net::Ping	Check a remote host for reachability
Net::SMTP	Simple Mail Transfer Protocol Client
Net::Time	Time and daytime network client interface
Net::hostent	By-name interface to Perl's built-in gethost*() functions
Net::libnetFAQ	Libnet Frequently Asked Questions
Net::netent	By-name interface to Perl's built-in getnet*() functions
Net::protoent	By-name interface to Perl's built-in getproto*() functions
Net::servent	By-name interface to Perl's built-in getserv*() functions
O	Generic interface to Perl Compiler backends

ODBM_File	Tied access to odbm files
Opcode	Disable named opcodes when compiling perl code
POSIX	Perl interface to IEEE Std 1003.1
PerlIO	On demand loader for PerlIO layers and root of PerlIO::* name space
PerlIO::encoding	Encoding layer
PerlIO::scalar	In-memory IO, scalar IO
PerlIO::via	Helper class for PerlIO layers implemented in perl
PerlIO::via::QuotedPrint	PerlIO layer for quoted-printable strings
Pod::Checker	Check pod documents for syntax errors
Pod::Find	Find POD documents in directory trees
Pod::Functions	Group Perl's functions a la perlfunc.pod
Pod::Html	Module to convert pod files to HTML
Pod::InputObjects	Objects representing POD input paragraphs, commands, etc.
Pod::LaTeX	Convert Pod data to formatted Latex
Pod::Man	Convert POD data to formatted *roff input
Pod::ParseLink	Parse an L<> formatting code in POD text
Pod::ParseUtils	Helpers for POD parsing and conversion
Pod::Parser	Base class for creating POD filters and translators
Pod::Perldoc::ToChecker	Let Perldoc check Pod for errors

Pod::Perldoc::ToMan	Let Perldoc render Pod as man pages
Pod::Perldoc::ToNroff	Let Perldoc convert Pod to nroff
Pod::Perldoc::ToPod	Let Perldoc render Pod as ... Pod!
Pod::Perldoc::ToRtf	Let Perldoc render Pod as RTF
Pod::Perldoc::ToText	Let Perldoc render Pod as plaintext
Pod::Perldoc::ToTk	Let Perldoc use Tk::Pod to render Pod
Pod::Perldoc::ToXml	Let Perldoc render Pod as XML
Pod::PlainText	Convert POD data to formatted ASCII text
Pod::Plainer	Perl extension for converting Pod to old style Pod.
Pod::Select	Extract selected sections of POD from input
Pod::Text	Convert POD data to formatted ASCII text
Pod::Text::Color	Convert POD data to formatted color ASCII text
Pod::Text::Overstrike	Convert POD data to formatted overstrike text
Pod::Text::Termcap	Convert POD data to ASCII text with format escapes
Pod::Usage	Print a usage message from embedded pod documentation
SDBM_File	Tied access to sdbm files
Safe	Compile and execute code in restricted compartments
Scalar::Util	A selection of general-utility scalar subroutines
Search::Dict	Search for key in dictionary file

SelectSaver	Save and restore selected file handle
SelfLoader	Load functions only on demand
Shell	Run shell commands transparently within perl
Socket	Load the C socket.h defines and structure manipulators
Storable	Persistence for Perl data structures
Switch	A switch statement for Perl
Symbol	Manipulate Perl symbols and their names
Sys::Hostname	Try every conceivable way to get hostname
Sys::Syslog	Perl interface to the UNIX syslog(3) calls
Term::ANSIColor	Color screen output using ANSI escape sequences
Term::Cap	Perl termcap interface
Term::Complete	Perl word completion module
Term::ReadLine	Perl interface to various <code>readline</code> packages.
Test	Provides a simple framework for writing test scripts
Test::Builder	Backend for building test libraries
Test::Builder::Module	Base class for test modules
Test::Builder::Tester	Test testsuites that have been built with
Test::Builder::Tester::Color	Turn on colour in Test::Builder::Tester
Test::Harness	Run Perl standard test scripts with statistics

Test::Harness::Assert	Simple assert
Test::Harness::Iterator	Internal Test::Harness Iterator
Test::Harness::Point	Object for tracking a single test point
Test::Harness::Straps	Detailed analysis of test results
Test::Harness::TAP	Documentation for the TAP format
Test::More	Yet another framework for writing test scripts
Test::Simple	Basic utilities for writing tests.
Test::Tutorial	A tutorial about writing really basic tests
Text::Abbrev	Create an abbreviation table from a list
Text::Balanced	Extract delimited text sequences from strings.
Text::ParseWords	Parse text into an array of tokens or array of arrays
Text::Soundex	Implementation of the Soundex Algorithm as Described by Knuth
Text::Tabs	Expand and unexpand tabs per the unix expand(1) and unexpand(1)
Text::Wrap	Line wrapping to form simple paragraphs
Thread	Manipulate threads in Perl (for old code only)
Thread::Queue	Thread-safe queues
Thread::Semaphore	Thread-safe semaphores
Thread::Signal	Start a thread which runs signal handlers reliably (for old code)
Thread::Specific	Thread-specific keys

Tie::Array	Base class for tied arrays
Tie::File	Access the lines of a disk file via a Perl array
Tie::Handle	Base class definitions for tied handles
Tie::Hash	Base class definitions for tied hashes
Tie::Memoize	Add data to hash when needed
Tie::RefHash	Use references as hash keys
Tie::Scalar	Base class definitions for tied scalars
Tie::SubstrHash	Fixed-table-size, fixed-key-length hashing
Time::HiRes	High resolution alarm, sleep, gettimeofday, interval timers
Time::Local	Efficiently compute time from local and GMT time
Time::gmtime	By-name interface to Perl's built-in gmtime() function
Time::localtime	By-name interface to Perl's built-in localtime() function
Time::tm	Internal object used by Time::gmtime and Time::localtime
UNIVERSAL	Base class for ALL classes (blessed references)
Unicode::Collate	Unicode Collation Algorithm
Unicode::Normalize	Unicode Normalization Forms
Unicode::UCD	Unicode character database
User::grent	By-name interface to Perl's built-in getgr*() functions
User::pwent	By-name interface to Perl's built-in getpw*() functions

XS::APITest

Test the perl C API

XS::Typemap

Module to test the XS typemaps distributed with perl

XSLoader

Dynamically load C libraries into Perl code

To find out *all* modules installed on your system, including those without documentation or outside the standard release, just use the following command (under the default win32 shell, double quotes should be used instead of single quotes).

```
% perl -MFile::Find=find -MFile::Spec::Functions -Tlwe \  
  'find { wanted => sub { print canonpath $_ if /\.pm\z/ }, \  
  no_chdir => 1 }, @INC'
```

(The -T is here to prevent '.' from being listed in @INC.) They should all have their own documentation installed and accessible via your system man(1) command. If you do not have a **find** program, you can use the Perl **find2perl** program instead, which generates Perl code as output you can run through perl. If you have a **man** program but it doesn't find your modules, you'll have to fix your manpath. See *perl* for details. If you have no system **man** command, you might try the **perldoc** program.

Note also that the command `perldoc perllocal` gives you a (possibly incomplete) list of the modules that have been further installed on your system. (The `perllocal.pod` file is updated by the standard MakeMaker install process.)

Extension Modules

Extension modules are written in C (or a mix of Perl and C). They are usually dynamically loaded into Perl if and when you need them, but may also be linked in statically. Supported extension modules include Socket, Fcntl, and POSIX.

Many popular C extension modules do not come bundled (at least, not completely) due to their sizes, volatility, or simply lack of time for adequate testing and configuration across the multitude of platforms on which Perl was beta-tested. You are encouraged to look for them on CPAN (described below), or using web search engines like Alta Vista or Google.

CPAN

CPAN stands for Comprehensive Perl Archive Network; it's a globally replicated trove of Perl materials, including documentation, style guides, tricks and traps, alternate ports to non-Unix systems and occasional binary distributions for these. Search engines for CPAN can be found at <http://www.cpan.org/>

Most importantly, CPAN includes around a thousand unbundled modules, some of which require a C compiler to build. Major categories of modules are:

- Language Extensions and Documentation Tools
- Development Support
- Operating System Interfaces
- Networking, Device Control (modems) and InterProcess Communication
- Data Types and Data Type Utilities
- Database Interfaces

- User Interfaces
- Interfaces to / Emulations of Other Programming Languages
- File Names, File Systems and File Locking (see also File Handles)
- String Processing, Language Text Processing, Parsing, and Searching
- Option, Argument, Parameter, and Configuration File Processing
- Internationalization and Locale
- Authentication, Security, and Encryption
- World Wide Web, HTML, HTTP, CGI, MIME
- Server and Daemon Utilities
- Archiving and Compression
- Images, Pixmap and Bitmap Manipulation, Drawing, and Graphing
- Mail and Usenet News
- Control Flow Utilities (callbacks and exceptions etc)
- File Handle and Input/Output Stream Utilities
- Miscellaneous Modules

The list of the registered CPAN sites as of this writing follows. Please note that the sorting order is alphabetical on fields:

Continent | |-->Country | |-->[state/province] | |-->ftp | |-->[http]

and thus the North American servers happen to be listed between the European and the South American sites.

You should try to choose one close to you.

Africa

South Africa

```
http://ftp.rucus.ru.ac.za/pub/perl/CPAN/  
ftp://ftp.rucus.ru.ac.za/pub/perl/CPAN/  
ftp://ftp.is.co.za/programming/perl/CPAN/  
ftp://ftp.saix.net/pub/CPAN/  
ftp://ftp.sun.ac.za/CPAN/CPAN/
```

Asia

China

```
http://cpan.linuxforum.net/  
http://cpan.shellhung.org/  
ftp://ftp.shellhung.org/pub/CPAN  
ftp://mirrors.hknet.com/CPAN
```

Indonesia

```
http://mirrors.tf.itb.ac.id/cpan/  
http://cpan.cbn.net.id/  
ftp://ftp.cbn.net.id/mirror/CPAN
```

Israel

<ftp://ftp.iglu.org.il/pub/CPAN/>
<http://cpan.lerner.co.il/>

<http://bioinfo.weizmann.ac.il/pub/software/perl/CPAN/>

<ftp://bioinfo.weizmann.ac.il/pub/software/perl/CPAN/>

Japan

<ftp://ftp.u-aizu.ac.jp/pub/CPAN/>
<ftp://ftp.kddlabs.co.jp/CPAN/>
<ftp://ftp.ayamura.org/pub/CPAN/>
<ftp://ftp.jaist.ac.jp/pub/lang/perl/CPAN/>
<http://ftp.cpan.jp/>
<ftp://ftp.cpan.jp/CPAN/>
<ftp://ftp.dti.ad.jp/pub/lang/CPAN/>
<ftp://ftp.ring.gr.jp/pub/lang/perl/CPAN/>

Malaysia

<http://cpan.MyBSD.org.my>
<http://mirror.leafbug.org/pub/CPAN>
<http://ossig.mncc.com.my/mirror/pub/CPAN>

Russian Federation

<http://cpan.tomsk.ru>
<ftp://cpan.tomsk.ru/>

Saudi Arabia

<ftp://ftp.isu.net.sa/pub/CPAN/>

Singapore

<http://CPAN.en.com.sg/>
<ftp://cpan.en.com.sg/>
<http://mirror.averse.net/pub/CPAN>
<ftp://mirror.averse.net/pub/CPAN>
<http://cpan.oss.eznetsols.org>
<ftp://ftp.oss.eznetsols.org/cpan>

South Korea

<http://CPAN.bora.net/>
<ftp://ftp.bora.net/pub/CPAN/>
<http://mirror.kr.FreeBSD.org/CPAN>
<ftp://ftp.kr.FreeBSD.org/pub/CPAN>

Taiwan

<ftp://ftp.nctu.edu.tw/UNIX/perl/CPAN>
<http://cpan.cdpa.nsysu.edu.tw/>
<ftp://cpan.cdpa.nsysu.edu.tw/pub/CPAN>
<http://ftp.isu.edu.tw/pub/CPAN>
<ftp://ftp.isu.edu.tw/pub/CPAN>
<ftp://ftp1.sinica.edu.tw/pub1/perl/CPAN/>

<http://ftp.tku.edu.tw/pub/CPAN/>
<ftp://ftp.tku.edu.tw/pub/CPAN/>

Thailand

<ftp://ftp.loxinfo.co.th/pub/cpan/>
<ftp://ftp.cs.riubon.ac.th/pub/mirrors/CPAN/>

Central America

Costa Rica

<http://ftp.ucr.ac.cr/Unix/CPAN/>
<ftp://ftp.ucr.ac.cr/pub/Unix/CPAN/>

Europe

Austria

<http://cpan.inode.at/>
<ftp://cpan.inode.at>
<ftp://ftp.tuwien.ac.at/pub/CPAN/>

Belgium

<http://ftp.easynet.be/pub/CPAN/>
<ftp://ftp.easynet.be/pub/CPAN/>
<http://cpan.skynet.be>
<ftp://ftp.cpan.skynet.be/pub/CPAN/>

<ftp://ftp.kulnet.kuleuven.ac.be/pub/mirror/CPAN/>

Bosnia and Herzegovina

<http://cpan.blic.net/>

Bulgaria

<http://cpan.online.bg>
<ftp://cpan.online.bg/cpan>
<http://cpan.zadnik.org>
<ftp://ftp.zadnik.org/mirrors/CPAN/>
<http://cpan.lirex.net/>
<ftp://ftp.lirex.net/pub/mirrors/CPAN/>

Croatia

<http://ftp.linux.hr/pub/CPAN/>
<ftp://ftp.linux.hr/pub/CPAN/>

Czech Republic

<ftp://ftp.fi.muni.cz/pub/CPAN/>

<ftp://sunsite.mff.cuni.cz/MIRRORS/ftp.funet.fi/pub/languages/perl/CPAN/>

Denmark

<http://mirrors.sunsite.dk/cpan/>

```
ftp://sunsite.dk/mirrors/cpan/  
http://cpan.cybercity.dk  
http://www.cpan.dk/CPAN/  
ftp://www.cpan.dk/ftp.cpan.org/CPAN/
```

Estonia

```
ftp://ftp.ut.ee/pub/languages/perl/CPAN/
```

Finland

```
ftp://ftp.funet.fi/pub/languages/perl/CPAN/  
http://mirror.eunet.fi/CPAN
```

France

```
http://www.enstimac.fr/Perl/CPAN  
http://ftp.u-paris10.fr/perl/CPAN  
ftp://ftp.u-paris10.fr/perl/CPAN  
http://cpan.mirrors.easynet.fr/  
ftp://cpan.mirrors.easynet.fr/pub/ftp.cpan.org/  
ftp://ftp.club-internet.fr/pub/perl/CPAN/  
http://fr.cpan.org/  
ftp://ftp.lip6.fr/pub/perl/CPAN/  
ftp://ftp.oleane.net/pub/mirrors/CPAN/  
ftp://ftp.pasteur.fr/pub/computing/CPAN/  
http://mir2.ovh.net/ftp.cpan.org  
ftp://mir1.ovh.net/ftp.cpan.org  
http://ftp.crihan.fr/mirrors/ftp.cpan.org/  
ftp://ftp.crihan.fr/mirrors/ftp.cpan.org/  
http://ftp.u-strasbg.fr/CPAN  
ftp://ftp.u-strasbg.fr/CPAN  
ftp://cpan.cict.fr/pub/CPAN/  
ftp://ftp.uvsq.fr/pub/perl/CPAN/
```

Germany

```
ftp://ftp.rub.de/pub/CPAN/  
ftp://ftp.freenet.de/pub/ftp.cpan.org/pub/CPAN/  
ftp://ftp.uni-erlangen.de/pub/source/CPAN/
```

```
ftp://ftp-stud.fht-esslingen.de/pub/Mirrors/CPAN  
http://pandemonium.tiscali.de/pub/CPAN/  
ftp://pandemonium.tiscali.de/pub/CPAN/  
http://ftp.gwdg.de/pub/languages/perl/CPAN/  
ftp://ftp.gwdg.de/pub/languages/perl/CPAN/
```

```
ftp://ftp.uni-hamburg.de/pub/soft/lang/perl/CPAN/  
ftp://ftp.leo.org/pub/CPAN/  
http://cpan.noris.de/  
ftp://cpan.noris.de/pub/CPAN/  
ftp://ftp.mpi-sb.mpg.de/pub/perl/CPAN/  
ftp://ftp.gmd.de/mirrors/CPAN/
```

Greece

```
ftp://ftp.acn.gr/pub/lang/perl  
ftp://ftp.forthnet.gr/pub/languages/perl/CPAN
```

<ftp://ftp.ntua.gr/pub/lang/perl/>

Hungary

<http://ftp.kfki.hu/packages/perl/CPAN/>
<ftp://ftp.kfki.hu/pub/packages/perl/CPAN/>

Iceland

<http://ftp.rhnet.is/pub/CPAN/>
<ftp://ftp.rhnet.is/pub/CPAN/>

Ireland

<http://cpan.indigo.ie/>
<ftp://cpan.indigo.ie/pub/CPAN/>

<http://ftp.heanet.ie/mirrors/ftp.perl.org/pub/CPAN>

<ftp://ftp.heanet.ie/mirrors/ftp.perl.org/pub/CPAN>
<http://sunsite.compapp.dcu.ie/pub/perl/>
<ftp://sunsite.compapp.dcu.ie/pub/perl/>

Italy

<http://cpan.nettuno.it/>
<http://gusp.dyndns.org/CPAN/>
<ftp://gusp.dyndns.org/pub/CPAN>
<http://softcity.iol.it/cpan>
<ftp://softcity.iol.it/pub/cpan>
<ftp://ftp.unina.it/pub/Other/CPAN/CPAN/>
<ftp://ftp.unipi.it/pub/mirror/perl/CPAN/>
<ftp://cis.uniroma2.it/CPAN/>
ftp://ftp.edisontel.it/pub/CPAN_Mirror/
<http://cpan.flashnet.it/>
<ftp://ftp.flashnet.it/pub/CPAN/>

Latvia

<http://kvin.lv/pub/CPAN/>

Lithuania

<ftp://ftp.unix.lt/pub/CPAN/>

Netherlands

<ftp://download.xs4all.nl/pub/mirror/CPAN/>
<ftp://ftp.nl.uu.net/pub/CPAN/>
<ftp://ftp.nluug.nl/pub/languages/perl/CPAN/>
<http://cpan.cybercomm.nl/>
<ftp://mirror.cybercomm.nl/pub/CPAN>
<ftp://mirror.vuurwerk.nl/pub/CPAN/>
<ftp://ftp.cpan.nl/pub/CPAN/>
<http://ftp.easynet.nl/mirror/CPAN>
<ftp://ftp.easynet.nl/mirror/CPAN>
<http://archive.cs.uu.nl/mirror/CPAN/>
<ftp://ftp.cs.uu.nl/mirror/CPAN/>

Norway

```
ftp://ftp.uninett.no/pub/languages/perl/CPAN
ftp://ftp.uit.no/pub/languages/perl/cpan/
```

Poland

```
ftp://ftp.mega.net.pl/CPAN
ftp://ftp.man.torun.pl/pub/doc/CPAN/
ftp://sunsite.icm.edu.pl/pub/CPAN/
```

Portugal

```
ftp://ftp.ua.pt/pub/CPAN/
ftp://perl.di.uminho.pt/pub/CPAN/
http://cpan.dei.uc.pt/
ftp://ftp.dei.uc.pt/pub/CPAN
ftp://ftp.nfsi.pt/pub/CPAN
http://ftp.linux.pt/pub/mirrors/CPAN
ftp://ftp.linux.pt/pub/mirrors/CPAN
http://cpan.ip.pt/
ftp://cpan.ip.pt/pub/cpan/
http://cpan.telepac.pt/
ftp://ftp.telepac.pt/pub/cpan/
```

Romania

```
ftp://ftp.bio-net.ro/pub/CPAN

ftp://ftp.kappa.ro/pub/mirrors/ftp.perl.org/pub/CPAN/
ftp://ftp.lug.ro/CPAN
ftp://ftp.roedu.net/pub/CPAN/
ftp://ftp.dntis.ro/pub/cpan/

ftp://ftp.iasi.roedu.net/pub/mirrors/ftp.cpan.org/
http://cpan.ambra.ro/
ftp://ftp.ambra.ro/pub/CPAN
ftp://ftp.dnttm.ro/pub/CPAN/
ftp://ftp.lasting.ro/pub/CPAN
ftp://ftp.timisoara.roedu.net/mirrors/CPAN/
```

Russia

```
ftp://ftp.chg.ru/pub/lang/perl/CPAN/
http://cpan.rinet.ru/
ftp://cpan.rinet.ru/pub/mirror/CPAN/
ftp://ftp.aha.ru/pub/CPAN/
ftp://ftp.corbina.ru/pub/CPAN/
http://cpan.sai.msu.ru/
ftp://ftp.sai.msu.ru/pub/lang/perl/CPAN/
```

Slovakia

```
ftp://ftp.cvt.stuba.sk/pub/CPAN/
```

Slovenia

```
ftp://ftp.arnes.si/software/perl/CPAN/
```

Spain

```
http://cpan.imasd.elmundo.es/  
ftp://ftp.rediris.es/mirror/CPAN/  
ftp://ftp.ri.telefonica-data.net/CPAN  
ftp://ftp.etse.urv.es/pub/perl/
```

Sweden

```
http://ftp.du.se/CPAN/  
ftp://ftp.du.se/pub/CPAN/  
http://mirror.dataphone.se/CPAN  
ftp://mirror.dataphone.se/pub/CPAN  
ftp://ftp.sunet.se/pub/lang/perl/CPAN/
```

Switzerland

```
http://cpan.mirror.solnet.ch/  
ftp://ftp.solnet.ch/mirror/CPAN/  
ftp://ftp.danyk.ch/CPAN/  
ftp://sunsite.cnlab-switch.ch/mirror/CPAN/
```

Turkey

```
http://ftp.ulak.net.tr/perl/CPAN/  
ftp://ftp.ulak.net.tr/perl/CPAN
```

```
ftp://sunsite.bilkent.edu.tr/pub/languages/CPAN/
```

Ukraine

```
http://cpan.org.ua/  
ftp://cpan.org.ua/  
ftp://ftp.perl.org.ua/pub/CPAN/  
http://no-more.kiev.ua/CPAN/  
ftp://no-more.kiev.ua/pub/CPAN/
```

United Kingdom

```
http://www.mirror.ac.uk/sites/ftp.funet.fi/pub/languages/perl/CPAN
```

```
ftp://ftp.mirror.ac.uk/sites/ftp.funet.fi/pub/languages/perl/CPAN/  
http://cpan.teleglobe.net/  
ftp://cpan.teleglobe.net/pub/CPAN  
http://cpan.mirror.anlx.net/  
ftp://ftp.mirror.anlx.net/CPAN/  
http://cpan.etla.org/  
ftp://cpan.etla.org/pub/CPAN  
ftp://ftp.demon.co.uk/pub/CPAN/  
http://cpan.m.flirble.org/  
ftp://ftp.flirble.org/pub/languages/perl/CPAN/  
ftp://ftp.plig.org/pub/CPAN/  
http://cpan.hambule.co.uk/  
http://cpan.mirrors.clockerz.net/  
ftp://ftp.clockerz.net/pub/CPAN/  
ftp://usit.shef.ac.uk/pub/packages/CPAN/
```

North America

Canada

Alberta

<http://cpan.sunsite.ualberta.ca/>

<ftp://cpan.sunsite.ualberta.ca/pub/CPAN/>

Manitoba

<http://theoryx5.uwinnipeg.ca/pub/CPAN/>

<ftp://theoryx5.uwinnipeg.ca/pub/CPAN/>

Nova Scotia

<ftp://cpan.chebucto.ns.ca/pub/CPAN/>

Ontario

<ftp://ftp.nrc.ca/pub/CPAN/>

Mexico

<http://cpan.azc.uam.mx>

<ftp://cpan.azc.uam.mx/mirrors/CPAN>

<http://www.cpan.unam.mx/>

<ftp://ftp.unam.mx/pub/CPAN>

<http://www.msg.com.mx/CPAN/>

<ftp://ftp.msg.com.mx/pub/CPAN/>

United States

Alabama

<http://mirror.hiwaay.net/CPAN/>

<ftp://mirror.hiwaay.net/CPAN/>

California

<http://cpan.developer.com/>

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

<ftp://cpan.valueclick.com/pub/CPAN/>

<http://www.mednor.net/ftp/pub/mirrors/CPAN/>

<ftp://ftp.mednor.net/pub/mirrors/CPAN/>

<http://mirrors.gossamer-threads.com/CPAN>

<ftp://cpan.nas.nasa.gov/pub/perl/CPAN/>

<http://mirrors.kernel.org/cpan/>

<ftp://mirrors.kernel.org/pub/CPAN>

<http://cpan-sj.viaverio.com/>

<ftp://cpan-sj.viaverio.com/pub/CPAN/>

<http://cpan.digisle.net/>

<ftp://cpan.digisle.net/pub/CPAN>

<http://www.perl.com/CPAN/>

<http://www.uberlan.net/CPAN>

Colorado

<ftp://ftp.cs.colorado.edu/pub/perl/CPAN/>
<http://cpan.four10.com>

Delaware

<http://ftp.lug.udel.edu/pub/CPAN>
<ftp://ftp.lug.udel.edu/pub/CPAN>

District of Columbia

<ftp://ftp.dc.aleron.net/pub/CPAN/>

Florida

<ftp://ftp.cise.ufl.edu/pub/mirrors/CPAN/>
<http://mirror.csit.fsu.edu/pub/CPAN/>
<ftp://mirror.csit.fsu.edu/pub/CPAN/>
<http://cpan.mirrors.nks.net/>

Indiana

<ftp://ftp.uwsg.iu.edu/pub/perl/CPAN/>
<http://cpan.netnitco.net/>

<ftp://cpan.netnitco.net/pub/mirrors/CPAN/>
<http://archive.progeny.com/CPAN/>
<ftp://archive.progeny.com/CPAN/>
<http://fx.saintjoe.edu/pub/CPAN>
<ftp://ftp.saintjoe.edu/pub/CPAN>

<http://csociety-ftp.ecn.purdue.edu/pub/CPAN>

<ftp://csociety-ftp.ecn.purdue.edu/pub/CPAN>

Kentucky

<http://cpan.uky.edu/>
<ftp://cpan.uky.edu/pub/CPAN/>
<http://slugsite.louisville.edu/cpan>
<ftp://slugsite.louisville.edu/CPAN>

Massachusetts

<http://mirrors.towardex.com/CPAN>
<ftp://mirrors.towardex.com/pub/CPAN>

<ftp://ftp.ccs.neu.edu/net/mirrors/ftp.funet.fi/pub/languages/perl/CPAN/>

Michigan

<ftp://cpan.cse.msu.edu/>
<http://cpan.calvin.edu/pub/CPAN>

<ftp://cpan.calvin.edu/pub/CPAN>

Nevada

<http://www.oss.redundant.com/pub/CPAN>

<ftp://www.oss.redundant.com/pub/CPAN>

New Jersey

<http://ftp.cpanel.net/pub/CPAN/>

<ftp://ftp.cpanel.net/pub/CPAN/>

<http://cpan.teleglobe.net/>

<ftp://cpan.teleglobe.net/pub/CPAN/>

New York

<http://cpan.belfry.net/>

<http://cpan.erlbaum.net/>

<ftp://cpan.erlbaum.net/>

<http://cpan.thepirtgroup.com/>

<ftp://cpan.thepirtgroup.com/>

<ftp://ftp.stealth.net/pub/CPAN/>

<http://www.rge.com/pub/languages/perl/>

<ftp://ftp.rge.com/pub/languages/perl/>

North Carolina

<http://www.ibiblio.org/pub/languages/perl/CPAN>

<ftp://ftp.ibiblio.org/pub/languages/perl/CPAN>

<ftp://ftp.duke.edu/pub/perl/>

<ftp://ftp.ncsu.edu/pub/mirror/CPAN/>

Oklahoma

<ftp://ftp.ou.edu/mirrors/CPAN/>

Oregon

<ftp://ftp.orst.edu/pub/CPAN>

Pennsylvania

<http://ftp.epix.net/CPAN/>

<ftp://ftp.epix.net/pub/languages/perl/>

<http://mirrors.phenominet.com/pub/CPAN/>

<ftp://mirrors.phenominet.com/pub/CPAN/>

<http://cpan.pair.com/>

<ftp://cpan.pair.com/pub/CPAN/>

<ftp://carroll.cac.psu.edu/pub/CPAN/>

Tennessee

<ftp://ftp.sunsite.utk.edu/pub/CPAN/>

Texas

<http://ftp.sedl.org/pub/mirrors/CPAN/>

<http://www.binarycode.org/cpan>

<ftp://mirror.telentente.com/pub/CPAN>

<http://mirrors.theonlinerecordstore.com/CPAN>

Utah

<ftp://mirror.xmission.com/CPAN/>

Virginia

<http://cpan-du.viaverio.com/>

<ftp://cpan-du.viaverio.com/pub/CPAN/>

<http://mirrors.rcn.net/pub/lang/CPAN/>

<ftp://mirrors.rcn.net/pub/lang/CPAN/>

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

<ftp://perl.secsup.org/pub/perl/>

<http://noc.cvaix.com/mirrors/CPAN/>

Washington

<http://cpan.llarian.net/>

<ftp://cpan.llarian.net/pub/CPAN/>

<http://cpan.mirrorcentral.com/>

<ftp://ftp.mirrorcentral.com/pub/CPAN/>

<ftp://ftp-mirror.internap.com/pub/CPAN/>

Wisconsin

<http://mirror.sit.wisc.edu/pub/CPAN/>

<ftp://mirror.sit.wisc.edu/pub/CPAN/>

<http://mirror.aphix.com/CPAN>

<ftp://mirror.aphix.com/pub/CPAN>

Oceania

Australia

<http://ftp.planetmirror.com/pub/CPAN/>

<ftp://ftp.planetmirror.com/pub/CPAN/>

<ftp://mirror.aarnet.edu.au/pub/perl/CPAN/>

<ftp://cpan.topend.com.au/pub/CPAN/>

<http://cpan.mirrors.ilisys.com.au>

New Zealand

<ftp://ftp.auckland.ac.nz/pub/perl/CPAN/>

United States

```
http://aniani.ifa.hawaii.edu/CPAN/  
ftp://aniani.ifa.hawaii.edu/CPAN/
```

South America

Argentina

```
ftp://mirrors.bannerlandia.com.ar/mirrors/CPAN/  
http://www.linux.org.ar/mirrors/cpan  
ftp://ftp.linux.org.ar/mirrors/cpan
```

Brazil

```
ftp://cpan.pop-mg.com.br/pub/CPAN/  
ftp://ftp.matrix.com.br/pub/perl/CPAN/  
http://cpan.hostsul.com.br/  
ftp://cpan.hostsul.com.br/
```

Chile

```
http://cpan.netglobalis.net/  
ftp://cpan.netglobalis.net/pub/CPAN/
```

RSYNC Mirrors

```
www.linux.org.ar::cpan  
theoryx5.uwinnipeg.ca::CPAN  
ftp.shellhung.org::CPAN  
rsync.nic.funet.fi::CPAN  
ftp.u-paris10.fr::CPAN  
mir1.ovh.net::CPAN  
rsync://ftp.crihan.fr::CPAN  
ftp.gwdg.de::FTP/languages/perl/CPAN/  
ftp.leo.org::CPAN  
ftp.cbn.net.id::CPAN  
rsync://ftp.heanet.ie/mirrors/ftp.perl.org/pub/CPAN  
ftp.iglu.org.il::CPAN  
gusp.dyndns.org::cpan  
ftp.kddlabs.co.jp::cpan  
ftp.ayamura.org::pub/CPAN/  
mirror.leafbug.org::CPAN  
rsync.en.com.sg::CPAN  
mirror.averse.net::cpan  
rsync.oss.eznetsols.org  
ftp.kr.FreeBSD.org::CPAN  
ftp.solnet.ch::CPAN  
cpan.cdpa.nsysu.edu.tw::CPAN  
cpan.teleglobe.net::CPAN  
rsync://rsync.mirror.anlx.net::CPAN  
ftp.sedl.org::cpan  
ibiblio.org::CPAN  
cpan-du.viaverio.com::CPAN  
aniani.ifa.hawaii.edu::CPAN  
archive.progeny.com::CPAN  
rsync://slugsite.louisville.edu::CPAN  
mirror.aphix.com::CPAN  
cpan.teleglobe.net::CPAN
```

```
ftp.lug.udel.edu::cpan
mirrors.kernel.org::mirrors/CPAN
mirrors.phenominet.com::CPAN
cpan.pair.com::CPAN
cpan-sj.viaverio.com::CPAN
mirror.csit.fsu.edu::CPAN
csociety-ftp.ecn.purdue.edu::CPAN
```

For an up-to-date listing of CPAN sites, see <http://www.cpan.org/SITES> or <ftp://www.cpan.org/SITES>.

Modules: Creation, Use, and Abuse

(The following section is borrowed directly from Tim Bunce's modules file, available at your nearest CPAN site.)

Perl implements a class using a package, but the presence of a package doesn't imply the presence of a class. A package is just a namespace. A class is a package that provides subroutines that can be used as methods. A method is just a subroutine that expects, as its first argument, either the name of a package (for "static" methods), or a reference to something (for "virtual" methods).

A module is a file that (by convention) provides a class of the same name (sans the .pm), plus an import method in that class that can be called to fetch exported symbols. This module may implement some of its methods by loading dynamic C or C++ objects, but that should be totally transparent to the user of the module. Likewise, the module might set up an AUTOLOAD function to slurp in subroutine definitions on demand, but this is also transparent. Only the .pm file is required to exist. See *perlsub*, *perltoot*, and *AutoLoader* for details about the AUTOLOAD mechanism.

Guidelines for Module Creation

- Do similar modules already exist in some form?

If so, please try to reuse the existing modules either in whole or by inheriting useful features into a new class. If this is not practical try to get together with the module authors to work on extending or enhancing the functionality of the existing modules. A perfect example is the plethora of packages in *perl4* for dealing with command line options.

If you are writing a module to expand an already existing set of modules, please coordinate with the author of the package. It helps if you follow the same naming scheme and module interaction scheme as the original author.

- Try to design the new module to be easy to extend and reuse.

Try to use `warnings;` (or use `warnings qw(...);`). Remember that you can add `no warnings qw(...);` to individual blocks of code that need less warnings.

Use blessed references. Use the two argument form of `bless` to bless into the class name given as the first parameter of the constructor, e.g.,:

```
sub new {
    my $class = shift;
    return bless {}, $class;
}
```

or even this if you'd like it to be used as either a static or a virtual method.

```
sub new {
    my $self = shift;
    my $class = ref($self) || $self;
    return bless {}, $class;
}
```

Pass arrays as references so more parameters can be added later (it's also faster). Convert functions into methods where appropriate. Split large methods into smaller more flexible ones.

Inherit methods from other modules if appropriate.

Avoid class name tests like: `die "Invalid" unless ref $ref eq 'FOO'`. Generally you can delete the `eq 'FOO'` part with no harm at all. Let the objects look after themselves! Generally, avoid hard-wired class names as far as possible.

Avoid `$r->Class::func()` where using `@ISA=qw(... Class ...)` and `$r->func()` would work (see *perlbot* for more details).

Use `autosplit` so little used or newly added functions won't be a burden to programs that don't use them. Add test functions to the module after `__END__` either using `AutoSplit` or by saying:

```
eval join(' ', <main::DATA>) || die $@ unless caller();
```

Does your module pass the 'empty subclass' test? If you say `@SUBCLASS::ISA = qw(YOURCLASS);` your applications should be able to use `SUBCLASS` in exactly the same way as `YOURCLASS`. For example, does your application still work if you change: `$obj = new YOURCLASS;` into: `$obj = new SUBCLASS;` ?

Avoid keeping any state information in your packages. It makes it difficult for multiple other packages to use yours. Keep state information in objects.

Always use **-w**.

Try to use `strict;` (or use `strict qw(...);`). Remember that you can add `no strict qw(...);` to individual blocks of code that need less strictness.

Always use **-w**.

Follow the guidelines in the `perlstyle(1)` manual.

Always use **-w**.

- Some simple style guidelines

The `perlstyle` manual supplied with Perl has many helpful points.

Coding style is a matter of personal taste. Many people evolve their style over several years as they learn what helps them write and maintain good code. Here's one set of assorted suggestions that seem to be widely used by experienced developers:

Use underscores to separate words. It is generally easier to read `$var_names_like_this` than `$VarNamesLikeThis`, especially for non-native speakers of English. It's also a simple rule that works consistently with `VAR_NAMES_LIKE_THIS`.

Package/Module names are an exception to this rule. Perl informally reserves lowercase module names for 'pragma' modules like `integer` and `strict`. Other modules normally begin with a capital letter and use mixed case with no underscores (need to be short and portable).

You may find it helpful to use letter case to indicate the scope or nature of a variable. For example:

```
$ALL_CAPS_HERE    constants only (beware clashes with Perl vars)
$Some_Caps_Here  package-wide global/static
$no_caps_here     function scope my() or local() variables
```

Function and method names seem to work best as all lowercase. e.g., `$obj->as_string()`.

You can use a leading underscore to indicate that a variable or function should not be used outside the package that defined it.

- Select what to export.

Do NOT export method names!

Do NOT export anything else by default without a good reason!

Exports pollute the namespace of the module user. If you must export try to use `@EXPORT_OK` in preference to `@EXPORT` and avoid short or common names to reduce the risk of name clashes.

Generally anything not exported is still accessible from outside the module using the `ModuleName::item_name` (or `$blessed_ref->method`) syntax. By convention you can use a leading underscore on names to indicate informally that they are 'internal' and not for public use.

(It is actually possible to get private functions by saying: `my $subref = sub { ... }; &$subref;` But there's no way to call that directly as a method, because a method must have a name in the symbol table.)

As a general rule, if the module is trying to be object oriented then export nothing. If it's just a collection of functions then `@EXPORT_OK` anything but use `@EXPORT` with caution.

- Select a name for the module.

This name should be as descriptive, accurate, and complete as possible. Avoid any risk of ambiguity. Always try to use two or more whole words. Generally the name should reflect what is special about what the module does rather than how it does it. Please use nested module names to group informally or categorize a module. There should be a very good reason for a module not to have a nested name. Module names should begin with a capital letter.

Having 57 modules all called `Sort` will not make life easy for anyone (though having 23 called `Sort::Quick` is only marginally better :-). Imagine someone trying to install your module alongside many others. If in any doubt ask for suggestions in `comp.lang.perl.misc`.

If you are developing a suite of related modules/classes it's good practice to use nested classes with a common prefix as this will avoid namespace clashes. For example: `Xyz::Control`, `Xyz::View`, `Xyz::Model` etc. Use the modules in this list as a naming guide.

If adding a new module to a set, follow the original author's standards for naming modules and the interface to methods in those modules.

If developing modules for private internal or project specific use, that will never be released to the public, then you should ensure that their names will not clash with any future public module. You can do this either by using the reserved `Local::*` category or by using a category name that includes an underscore like `Foo_Corp::*`.

To be portable each component of a module name should be limited to 11 characters. If it might be used on MS-DOS then try to ensure each is unique in the first 8 characters. Nested modules make this easier.

- Have you got it right?

How do you know that you've made the right decisions? Have you picked an interface design that will cause problems later? Have you picked the most appropriate name? Do you have any questions?

The best way to know for sure, and pick up many helpful suggestions, is to ask someone who knows. `Comp.lang.perl.misc` is read by just about all the people who develop modules and it's the best place to ask.

All you need to do is post a short summary of the module, its purpose and interfaces. A few lines on each of the main methods is probably enough. (If you post the whole module it might be ignored by busy people - generally the very people you want to read it!)

Don't worry about posting if you can't say when the module will be ready - just say so in the message. It might be worth inviting others to help you, they may be able to complete it for you!

- README and other Additional Files.

It's well known that software developers usually fully document the software they write. If, however, the world is in urgent need of your software and there is not enough time to write the full documentation please at least provide a README file containing:

- A description of the module/package/extension etc.
- A copyright notice - see below.

- Prerequisites - what else you may need to have.
- How to build it - possible changes to Makefile.PL etc.
- How to install it.
- Recent changes in this release, especially incompatibilities
- Changes / enhancements you plan to make in the future.

If the README file seems to be getting too large you may wish to split out some of the sections into separate files: INSTALL, Copying, ToDo etc.

- Adding a Copyright Notice.

How you choose to license your work is a personal decision. The general mechanism is to assert your Copyright and then make a declaration of how others may copy/use/modify your work.

Perl, for example, is supplied with two types of licence: The GNU GPL and The Artistic Licence (see the files README, Copying, and Artistic, or *perlgpl* and *perlartistic*). Larry has good reasons for NOT just using the GNU GPL.

My personal recommendation, out of respect for Larry, Perl, and the Perl community at large is to state something simply like:

```
Copyright (c) 1995 Your Name. All rights reserved.  
This program is free software; you can redistribute it and/or  
modify it under the same terms as Perl itself.
```

This statement should at least appear in the README file. You may also wish to include it in a Copying file and your source files. Remember to include the other words in addition to the Copyright.

- Give the module a version/issue/release number.

To be fully compatible with the Exporter and MakeMaker modules you should store your module's version number in a non-my package variable called \$VERSION. This should be a floating point number with at least two digits after the decimal (i.e., hundredths, e.g. \$VERSION = "0.01"). Don't use a "1.3.2" style version. See *Exporter* for details.

It may be handy to add a function or method to retrieve the number. Use the number in announcements and archive file names when releasing the module (ModuleName-1.02.tar.Z). See *perldoc ExtUtils::MakeMaker.pm* for details.

- How to release and distribute a module.

It's good idea to post an announcement of the availability of your module (or the module itself if small) to the comp.lang.perl.announce Usenet newsgroup. This will at least ensure very wide once-off distribution.

If possible, register the module with CPAN. You should include details of its location in your announcement.

Some notes about ftp archives: Please use a long descriptive file name that includes the version number. Most incoming directories will not be readable/listable, i.e., you won't be able to see your file after uploading it. Remember to send your email notification message as soon as possible after uploading else your file may get deleted automatically. Allow time for the file to be processed and/or check the file has been processed before announcing its location.

FTP Archives for Perl Modules:

Follow the instructions and links on:

<http://www.cpan.org/modules/00modlist.long.html>

<http://www.cpan.org/modules/04pause.html>

or upload to one of these sites:

<https://pause.kbx.de/pause/>
<http://pause.perl.org/pause/>

and notify <modules@perl.org>.

By using the WWW interface you can ask the Upload Server to mirror your modules from your ftp or WWW site into your own directory on CPAN!

Please remember to send me an updated entry for the Module list!

- Take care when changing a released module.
Always strive to remain compatible with previous released versions. Otherwise try to add a mechanism to revert to the old behavior if people rely on it. Document incompatible changes.

Guidelines for Converting Perl 4 Library Scripts into Modules

- There is no requirement to convert anything.
If it ain't broke, don't fix it! Perl 4 library scripts should continue to work with no problems. You may need to make some minor changes (like escaping non-array @'s in double quoted strings) but there is no need to convert a .pl file into a Module for just that.
- Consider the implications.
All Perl applications that make use of the script will need to be changed (slightly) if the script is converted into a module. Is it worth it unless you plan to make other changes at the same time?
- Make the most of the opportunity.
If you are going to convert the script to a module you can use the opportunity to redesign the interface. The guidelines for module creation above include many of the issues you should consider.
- The pl2pm utility will get you started.
This utility will read *.pl files (given as parameters) and write corresponding *.pm files. The pl2pm utilities does the following:
 - Adds the standard Module prologue lines
 - Converts package specifiers from ' to ::
 - Converts die(...) to croak(...)
 - Several other minor changes

Being a mechanical process pl2pm is not bullet proof. The converted code will need careful checking, especially any package statements. Don't delete the original .pl file till the new .pm one works!

Guidelines for Reusing Application Code

- Complete applications rarely belong in the Perl Module Library.
- Many applications contain some Perl code that could be reused.
Help save the world! Share your code in a form that makes it easy to reuse.
- Break-out the reusable code into one or more separate module files.
- Take the opportunity to reconsider and redesign the interfaces.

- In some cases the 'application' can then be reduced to a small fragment of code built on top of the reusable modules. In these cases the application could be invoked as:

```
% perl -e 'use Module::Name; method(@ARGV)' ...  
or  
% perl -mModule::Name ... (in perl5.002 or higher)
```

NOTE

Perl does not enforce private and public parts of its modules as you may have been used to in other languages like C++, Ada, or Modula-17. Perl doesn't have an infatuation with enforced privacy. It would prefer that you stayed out of its living room because you weren't invited, not because it has a shotgun.

The module and its user have a contract, part of which is common law, and part of which is "written". Part of the common law contract is that a module doesn't pollute any namespace it wasn't asked to. The written contract for the module (A.K.A. documentation) may make other provisions. But then you know when you use `RedefineTheWorld` that you're redefining the world and willing to take the consequences.