

## CS306: Introduction to Perl

### Strings

U. of Alabama at Birmingham  
Dept. of Computer & Information Sciences

Slide 1

## length()

- `my $string = "Hello there";`  
`print length($string); # 11`

Slide 2

## index()

- `index()` locates substrings within strings and returns the index of the start of the substring
- `my $string = "Hello there";`  
`print index($string, "there"); # 6`
- Optional 3<sup>rd</sup> argument to tell it where to start looking
- `my $str = "to be or not to be";`  
`print index($str, "be", 8); # 16`

Slide 3

## rindex()

- `rindex()` performs the same function as `index()` but looking from left to right
- `my $string = "Hello there";`  
`print rindex($string, "lo"); # 3`
- Optional 3<sup>rd</sup> argument to tell it where to start looking
- `my $str = "to be or not to be";`  
`print index($str, "be", 8); # 3`

Slide 4

## substr()

- Extract a substring from a larger string
- my \$str = "This is a sample sentence";  
print substr(\$str,10,6); # "sample"
- Can also be used on left side of assignment  
substr(\$str,10,6) = "better";  
print \$str; "This is a better sentence"

Slide 5

## transliteration

- Syntax is tr/// but note that the tr operator has nothing to do with regular expressions!
- my \$str = "Doe, a deer, a female deer...";  
\$str =~ tr/abcde/12345/;  
print \$str; "Do5, 1 455r, 1 f5m115 455r...";
- Just takes the character on the left and replaces it with the character on the right.

Slide 6

## Common uses of transliteration

- \$swaps = \$str =~ tr/abc/def/;  
# \$swaps gets the number of characters that  
# were transliterated
- tr/a-z/A-Z/ - uppercase all letters
- \$vowel = \$str =~ tr/aeiou// - no replacement  
chars on right; just counts the number of vowels
- tr//d; - d modifier deletes all matched chars (so  
this strips out all spaces)

Slide 7