

CS306: Introduction to Perl

I/O

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I/O

Standard input and output

<> operator

Formatted output

Working with files

Working with directories

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STDIN

- STDIN is Perl's handle for standard input (usually the keyboard)
- `chomp($line = <STDIN>);`
 - Read one line from keyboard, remove `\n` character
- `chomp(@array = <STDIN>);`
 - Read all lines up to EOF and chomp them all

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STDIN in loops

- `while ($line = <STDIN>) { ... }`
- `while (chomp($line = <STDIN>)) # BROKEN`
 - Doesn't work because you'll end up trying to chomp `undef`, which will throw an error. Chomp in the loop.

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The diamond operator <>

- <STDIN> is just an example of the <> operator
- Use the <> operator to make your programs more flexible
- while (\$line = <>) { ... }
 - # ./myprogram file1 file2
 - Will read each line from file1, then file2, etc...
 - # ./myprogram
 - Will use STDIN

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The <> operator

- Suppose I write a script to delete users from the account database. Sometimes I just want to delete one user, sometimes a long list of them in a text file....
- while (\$user = <>) {
 chomp \$user;
 deleteUser(\$user);
}

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STDOUT

- print "\$diskusage{fran}"; #goes to STDOUT
- print "@array\n";
- print <>; # Print every line of input – i.e. “cat”
- print sort <>; # Unix sort, anyone?

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Formatted output with printf

- printf "%s is using %d MB of space.", \$user, \$disk{\$user};
 - The % placeholders are called *conversions*
- %10s – A 10 character string (will pad with spaces if necessary, but not truncate)

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Sample Conversions

- `printf "%8d", 16;` # " 16"
- `printf "%-8s", "foo";` # "foo "
- `printf "%8.3f", 3.1415926;` # " 3.142"
- `printf "Rate: %.2f%%", 6.273;` # "Rate: 6.27%"

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Creating and Using Filehandles

- `open IN, "</some/filename";`
`while ($line = <IN>) { ... };`
`close IN;`
- The IN is called a filehandle. You can name it anything you'd like
- The `close()` is optional but good practice. Perl will close all filehandles on exit, or when they are reopened.

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Creating and Using Filehandles

- `open IN, "<filename";` # or `open IN, "filename"`
- `open OUT, ">filename";`
`print OUT "Write this to the file.\n";`
- `open APPEND, ">>filename";`
`print APPEND "Goes on end of file.\n";`
- `$success = open LOG, ">>access_log";`
`if (! $success) { print "Can't open file.\n"; exit; }`

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Standard Filehandles

- STDIN – The standard input, usually but not always the keyboard
- STDOUT – The standard output, often but not always the screen. In a pipeline, STDOUT becomes the next program's STDIN
- STDERR – The standard error, usually the screen

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Understanding STDIN and STDOUT

- Perl trusts that the user has done the right thing with STDIN and STDOUT
- # ./myprogram.pl <datafile >output.txt
 - Perl will use datafile as STDIN and output.txt as STDOUT.
 - STDIN is no longer the keyboard, and STDOUT is no longer the screen. But the program doesn't have to change.

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The Pipeline Model

- # cat "datafile" | ./yourprogram.pl | lpr
 - Stringing together UNIX utilities using the pipe
 - Your perl program's STDIN is the output of 'cat "datafile"'
 - Your program's STDOUT becomes the input to lpr (the UNIX command line print utility)
- STDIN and STDOUT are really an OS/Shell function and Perl just trusts it

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When STDERR Is Used

- If you are pipelining, you don't want error messages to get sucked up into the input of the next program
- cat "datafile" | myprogram.pl | lpr
- while (\$line = <>) {
 if (length(\$line) == 0) {
 print STDERR "Empty line!!\n";
 }
 ...
}

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File Tests

- print "What's the filename? ";
 chomp(\$fname = <STDIN>);
 unless (-e \$filename) {
 print "File doesn't exist!\n";
 exit;
 }
 open IN, "<\$fname";
- -e is a *file test* – it checks for existence of the file or directory name

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Common File Tests

- -r File is readable
- -w File is writable
- -e File or directory name exists
- -f Is a file
- -d Is a directory
- -T Appears to be a text file
- -B Appears to be a binary file
- Many more! See Programming Perl

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Working With Directories

- opendir DIR, "/home/fran";
 foreach \$file (readdir DIR) {
 print "Filename is \$file\n";
 }
 close DIR;

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Eliminating . and ..

- Each directory on UNIX includes two special files, . (itself) and .. (parent directory). You usually don't want to process these.
 - while (\$file = readdir DIR) {
 next if \$file eq "." or \$file eq "..";
 ...
}

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The End

- Any questions on I/O?

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