

Perl Best Practices

Reference Guide

Code Layout

1. Brace and parenthesize in RAR style.
2. Separate your control keywords from the following opening bracket.
3. Don't separate subroutines or variable names from the following opening bracket.
4. Don't use unnecessary parentheses for routine and temporary handles.
5. Separate complex keys or indices from their surrounding brackets.
6. Use whitespace to help binary operators stand out from their operands.
7. Place a semicolon after every statement.
8. Place a comma after every value in a multiline list.
9. Use 78-column lines.
10. Use four-column indentation levels.
11. Indent with spaces, not tabs.
12. Never place two statements on the same line.
13. Code in paragraphs.
14. Don't clobber an `else`.
15. Align corresponding items vertically.
16. Break long expressions before an operator.
17. Factor out long expressions in the middle of statements.
18. Always break a long expression at the opening of the lowest possible precedence.
19. Break long assignments before the assignment operator.
20. Format cascaded ternary operators in columns.
21. Parenthesize long lists.
22. Enforce your chosen layout style mechanically.

Naming Conventions

23. Use grammatical templates when naming identifiers.
24. Name handles after their associated box.
25. Mark variables that store references with a `_ref` suffix.
26. Name arrays in the plural and handles in the singular.
27. Use underscores to separate words in multimed identifiers.
28. Distinguish different program components by case.
29. Note where the prefix.
30. Abbreviate only when the meaning remains unambiguous.
31. Avoid using referentially ambiguous words in names.
32. Prefix for internal use only subroutines with an underscore.

Values and Expressions

33. Use interpolating string delimiters only for strings that actually interpolate.
34. Don't use `""` or `''` for an empty string.
35. Don't write one-character strings in visually ambiguous ways.
36. Use named character escapes instead of numeric escapes.
37. Use named constants, but don't use `constant`.
38. Don't pad decimal numbers with leading zeros.

39. Use underscores to improve the readability of long numbers.
40. Lay out multiline strings over multiple lines.
41. Use a heredoc when a multiline string exceeds two lines.
42. Use a `delimiter` when a heredoc would compromise your indentation.
43. Make every heredoc terminate a single uppercase identifier with a standard prefix.
44. When introducing a heredoc, quote the terminator.
45. Don't use backslashes.
46. Reserve `or` for pairs.
47. Don't use commas to sequence statements.
48. Don't mix high- and low-prioridade handles.
49. Parenthesize every `or` list.
50. Use table-lookup to test for membership in lists of strings, not `any` or for membership of lists of anything else.

Variables

51. Avoid using mathematical variables.
52. Don't use package variables in your own development.
53. If you're forced to modify a package variable, *localize* it.
54. Initialize any variable you *localize*.
55. *use English* for the few familiar punctuation variables.
56. If you're forced to modify a punctuation variable, *localize* it.
57. Don't use the same magic variable.
58. Beware of any modification via `$_`.
59. Use negative indices when counting from the end of an array.
60. Take advantage of lists and some slicing.
61. Use a tabular layout for slices.
62. Factor large key or index lists out of their slices.

Control Structures

63. Use block `if`, not prefix `if`.
64. Reserve prefix `if` for flow-of-control statements.
65. Don't use prefix `unless`, `for`, `while`, or `until`.
66. Don't use `unless` or `until` at all.
67. Avoid C-style `for` statements.
68. Avoid subscripting arrays or hashes within loops.
69. Never subscript more than once in a loop.
70. Use named literals as explicit `for` loop iterators.
71. Always declare a `for` loop iterator variable with `my`.
72. Use `map` instead of `for` when generating new lists from old.
73. Use `grep` and `first` instead of `for` when searching for values in a list.
74. Use `for` instead of `map` when transforming a list in place.
75. Use a subroutine call to factor out complex list transformations.
76. Never modify `$_` in a list function.
77. Avoid cascading `if`.
78. Use table-lookup in preference to cascaded equality tests.
79. When producing a value, use tabular constructs.
80. Don't use `do`, `while` loops.
81. Repeat as many iterations as possible, as early as possible.
82. Don't control loop structures just to simulate control.
83. Use `for` and `redo` instead of an irregularly created `while`.
84. Label every loop that is exited explicitly, and use the label with `next`, `last`, or `redo`.

Documentation

85. Distinguish user documentation from technical documentation.
86. Create standard POD templates for modules and applications.
87. Extend and customize your standard POD templates.
88. Put user documentation in source files.
89. Keep all user documentation in a single place within your source file.
90. Place POD as close as possible to the end of the file.
91. Subdivide your technical documentation appropriately.
92. Use block comments for major comments.
93. Use full-line comments to explain the algorithm.
94. Use end-of-line comments to point out subtleties and addenda.
95. Comment anything that has puzzled or misled you.
96. Consider whether it's better to write than to comment.
97. Use `ivariable` POD sections for longer technical discussions.
98. Check the spelling, syntax, and sanity of your documentation.

Built-in Functions

99. Don't recompute sort keys inside a `sort`.
100. Use `reverse` to reverse a list.
101. Use scalar `reverse` to reverse a scalar.
102. Use `unpack` to extract fixed-width fields.
103. Use `split` to extract simple variable-width fields.
104. Use `unpack` to extract complex variable-width fields.
105. Avoid string `eval`.
106. Consider building your sorting routines with `sort` + `block`.
107. Use `long` `subshift` instead of `scalar` `subshift`.
108. Make appropriate use of brace values.
109. Use `glob`, not `q *`.
110. Avoid a raw `select` for non-integer sleeps.
111. Always use a block with a `map` and `grep`.
112. Use the `from-handle` handle.

Subroutines

113. Call subroutines with parentheses but without a leading `&`.
114. Don't give subroutines the same names as built-in functions.
115. Always inspect `$_` first.
116. Use a block of nested arguments for any subroutine that has more than three parameters.
117. Use `definedness` or `existence` tests for missing arguments.
118. Resolve any default argument values as soon as `$_` is inspected.
119. Always return scalar in scalar returns.
120. Make list-returning subroutines return the 'ritualist' value in scalar context.
121. When there is no 'ritualist' scalar context return value, consider `undef` or `chance` instead.
122. Don't use subroutines prototypes.
123. Always return via an explicit `return`.
124. Use a bare `return` to return failure.

IO

125. Don't use `foreach` filehandles.
126. Use indirect filehandles.
127. If you have to use a package filehandle, *localize* it first.

Perl Best Practices

Minjie Lin



Perl Best Practices:

Perl Best Practices Book Review: Unveiling the Magic of Language

In an electronic digital era where connections and knowledge reign supreme, the enchanting power of language has become apparent than ever. Its power to stir emotions, provoke thought, and instigate transformation is actually remarkable. This extraordinary book, aptly titled "**Perl Best Practices**," compiled by a highly acclaimed author, immerses readers in a captivating exploration of the significance of language and its profound impact on our existence. Throughout this critique, we will delve into the book's central themes, evaluate its unique writing style, and assess its overall influence on its readership.

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Table of Contents Perl Best Practices

1. Understanding the eBook Perl Best Practices
 - The Rise of Digital Reading Perl Best Practices
 - Advantages of eBooks Over Traditional Books
2. Identifying Perl Best Practices
 - Exploring Different Genres
 - Considering Fiction vs. Non-Fiction
 - Determining Your Reading Goals
3. Choosing the Right eBook Platform
 - Popular eBook Platforms
 - Features to Look for in an Perl Best Practices
 - User-Friendly Interface
4. Exploring eBook Recommendations from Perl Best Practices
 - Personalized Recommendations
 - Perl Best Practices User Reviews and Ratings
 - Perl Best Practices and Bestseller Lists
5. Accessing Perl Best Practices Free and Paid eBooks

- Perl Best Practices Public Domain eBooks
 - Perl Best Practices eBook Subscription Services
 - Perl Best Practices Budget-Friendly Options
6. Navigating Perl Best Practices eBook Formats
 - ePub, PDF, MOBI, and More
 - Perl Best Practices Compatibility with Devices
 - Perl Best Practices Enhanced eBook Features
 7. Enhancing Your Reading Experience
 - Adjustable Fonts and Text Sizes of Perl Best Practices
 - Highlighting and Note-Taking Perl Best Practices
 - Interactive Elements Perl Best Practices
 8. Staying Engaged with Perl Best Practices
 - Joining Online Reading Communities
 - Participating in Virtual Book Clubs
 - Following Authors and Publishers Perl Best Practices
 9. Balancing eBooks and Physical Books Perl Best Practices
 - Benefits of a Digital Library
 - Creating a Diverse Reading Collection Perl Best Practices
 10. Overcoming Reading Challenges
 - Dealing with Digital Eye Strain
 - Minimizing Distractions
 - Managing Screen Time
 11. Cultivating a Reading Routine Perl Best Practices
 - Setting Reading Goals Perl Best Practices
 - Carving Out Dedicated Reading Time
 12. Sourcing Reliable Information of Perl Best Practices
 - Fact-Checking eBook Content of Perl Best Practices
 - Distinguishing Credible Sources
 13. Promoting Lifelong Learning
 - Utilizing eBooks for Skill Development

- Exploring Educational eBooks

14. Embracing eBook Trends

- Integration of Multimedia Elements
- Interactive and Gamified eBooks

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