BATKY HOWELL

Beginning Perl

Perl is a simple, yet powerful, scripting language that can be very useful for automating repetitive tasks, processing text and acting as a glue between other programs. This 3-day class introduces Perl to both new programmers and experienced ones who want to learn a new language. It provides a host of real-world applications for today's environments so readers can get started immediately.

Course Objectives:

- Describe the fundamental data types for Perl
- Create and access arrays
- Program with branching and looping constructs
- Create and access hashes
- Input from the keyboard and output from the screen
- Utilize regular expressions with Perl
- Create and use functions

Audience: Programmers and/or system administrators.

Prerequisites: Programming experience in a structured language, such as C, C++, Java, or COBOL, is recommended.

Number of Days: 3 days

1 Introduction – Meet Perl
- Origin of Perl
- Perl Versions
- Invoking Perl
- Perl Documentation
- Perl Resources

2 Scalar Variables
- Numeric Literals
- Manipulating Numbers
- String Literals
- Manipulating Strings
- Single vs. Double Quotes
- Scalars Variables
- Undefined Variables
- Auto increment and decrement
- Reading data from the user
- Chomp & Chop
- Curly Braces
- Additional Resources

3 Array Variables
- Referencing Array Elements
- Adding & Removing Elements
- The Splice Function
- Using for Loops
- The Reverse Statement
- The Sort Operator
- The qw & qq statements
- Arrays used in scalar context
- Additional Resources

4 Associate Array Variables
- Crating Associate Arrays
- The Values Statement
- Reverse searching an associative array
- exists vs. defined
- Special Variables
- The Environment Variables
- The Argument Variable
- Additional Resources

5 Flow Control
- Blocks
- The `if` Statement
- The `unless` Statement
- The `switch` Statement
- The `given` Statement