



Perl by Example (4th Edition)

Ellie Quigley

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“I picked up a copy of *JavaScript by Example* over the weekend and wanted to thank you for putting out a book that makes JavaScript easy to understand. I’ve been a developer for several years now and JS has always been the “monster under the bed,” so to speak. Your book has answered a lot of questions I’ve had about the inner workings of JS but was afraid to ask. Now all I need is a book that covers Ajax and Coldfusion. Thanks again for putting together an outstanding book.”

–Chris Gomez, *Web services manager, Zunch Worldwide, Inc.*

“I have been reading your *UNIX® Shells by Example* book, and I must say, it is brilliant. Most other books do not cover all the shells, and when you have to constantly work in an organization that uses tcsh, bash, and korn, it can become very difficult. However, your book has been indispensable to me in learning the various shells and the differences between them...so I thought I’d email you, just to let you know what a great job you have done!”

–Farogh-Ahmed Usmani, *B.Sc. (Honors), M.Sc., DIC, project consultant (Billing Solutions), Comverse*

“I have been learning Perl for about two months now; I have a little shell scripting experience but that is it. I first started with *Learning Perl* by O’Reilly. Good book but lacking on the examples. I then went to *Programming Perl* by Larry Wall, a great book for intermediate to advanced, didn’t help me much beginning Perl. I then picked up *Perl by Example, Third Edition*—this book is a superb, well-written programming book. I have read many computer books and this definitely ranks in the top two, in my opinion. The examples are excellent. The author shows you the code, the output of each line, and then explains each line in every example.”

–Dan Patterson, *software engineer, GuideWorks, LLC*

“Ellie Quigley has written an outstanding introduction to Perl, which I used to learn the language from scratch. All one has to do is work through her examples, putz around with them, and before long, you’re relatively proficient at using the language. Even though I’ve graduated to using *Programming Perl* by Wall et al., I still find Quigley’s book a most useful reference.”

–Casey Machula, *support systems analyst, Northern Arizona University, College of Health and Human Services*

“When I look at my bookshelf, I see eleven books on Perl programming. *Perl by Example, Third Edition*, isn’t on the shelf; it sits on my desk, where I use it almost daily. When I bought my copy I had not programmed in several years and my programming was mostly in COBOL so I was a rank beginner at Perl. I had at that time purchased several popular books on Perl but nothing that really put it together for me. I am still no pro, but my book has many dog-eared pages and each one is a lesson I have learned and will certainly remember. “I still think it is the best Perl book on the market for anyone from a beginner to a seasoned programmer using Perl almost daily.”

–Bill Maples, *network design tools and automations analyst, Fidelity National Information Services*

“We are rewriting our intro to OS scripting course and selected your text for the course. It’s an exceptional book. The last time we considered it was a few years ago (second edition). The debugging and system administrator chapters at the end nailed it for us.”

–Jim Leone, *Ph.D., professor and chair, Information Technology, Rochester Institute of Technology*

“Quigley’s book acknowledges a major usage of PHP. To write some kind of front end user interface program that hooks to a back end MySQL database. Both are free and open source, and the combination has proved popular. Especially where the front end involves making an HTML web page with embedded PHP commands. “Not every example involves both PHP and MySQL. Though all examples have PHP. Many demonstrate how to use PHP inside an HTML file. Like writing user-defined functions, or nesting functions. Or making or using function libraries. The functions are a key idea in PHP, that take you beyond the elementary syntax. Functions also let you gainfully use code by other PHP programmers. Important if you are part of a coding group that has to divide up the programming effort in some manner.”

–Dr. Wes Boudville, CTO, Metaswarm Inc.

The World’s Easiest Perl Tutorial–Fully Updated!

Perl by Example, Fourth Edition, is the easiest, most hands-on way to learn Perl. Legendary Silicon Valley programming instructor Ellie Quigley has thoroughly updated her classic to deliver the skills and information today’s Perl users need most—including all-new coverage of MySQL database programming and a Perl QuickStart designed to get experienced users up and running fast.

Quigley illuminates every technique with focused, classroom-tested code examples, detailed line-by-line explanations, and real program output. This exceptionally clear, easy-to-understand book takes you from your first Perl script to database-driven applications. It’s the only Perl book you’ll ever need!

New in this edition:

- Perl programming QuickStart: makes first-time Perl programmers productive in just twenty pages
- All-new chapter on using the Perl DBI with the MySQL database—plus an easy SQL primer to quickly get you started programming any database
- New introductions to Perl in biology (bioinformatics) and to mod_perl, a Perl interpreter embedded in the Apache server, which allows you to create fast, dynamic content; manage the Apache server; authenticate users; and much more

Completely updated:

- Includes many new and completely rewritten code examples
- Contains fully revised CGI coverage for building dynamic Web sites with Perl
- Covers modern Perl 5.8 concepts and principles—and provides a great foundation for Perl 6

More than 30,000 sysadmins, power users, and developers have used previous editions of *Perl by Example* to become expert Perl programmers. With ***Perl by Example, Fourth Edition***, you can, too—even if you’re completely new to Perl. After you’ve become an expert, you’ll turn to this book constantly as the best source for reliable answers, solutions, and code.

About the CD-ROM:

The CD-ROM includes all code and files for this book’s hundreds of example scripts.



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