Perl by Example (5th Edition)

By Ellie Quigley

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The World's Easiest Perl 5 Tutorial—Updated for Today's Applications and "Modern Perl" Best Practices

"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. I still think it is the best Perl book on the market for anyone—beginner or seasoned programmer—who uses Perl daily."
—Bill Maples, Enterprise Network Support, Fidelity National Information Services

Perl by Example, Fifth Edition, is the proven, easy way to master Perl 5 programming. Legendary Silicon Valley programming instructor Ellie Quigley has fully updated and focused her classic text on today's key Perl applications, especially automation, testing, data extraction, and legacy code maintenance. She has also revised this edition to reflect "modern Perl" practices that have emerged since Perl 5.10.

Quigley illuminates every technique with focused, classroom-tested code examples. For each example, she shows you code, input, and output, and provides detailed, line-by-line explanations of how the code generates that output. And her coverage is comprehensive, from basic syntax to regular expression handling, files, references, objects, working with databases, and much more…*plus* appendices that contain a complete list of functions and definitions, command-line switches, special variables, and popular modules.

New in This Edition

• Modern Perl approaches to using data types, operators, conditions, subroutines, packages, modules, references, pointers, files, objects, and more
• Many new examples, covering automation, testing, and data extraction
• A tutorial on writing object-oriented Perl with the Moose object system
• An introduction to Dancer, a powerful web application framework designed to replace CGI
• Updated code examples throughout

More than 50,000 sysadmins, power users, and developers have used this book's previous editions to become expert Perl programmers, and you can, too–even if you're completely new to Perl. Then, once you're an expert, you'll routinely return to this practical guide as the best source for reliable answers, solutions, and code. A more focused, quicker read than ever, this clear and practical guide will take you from your first Perl script to advanced applications. It's the only Perl text you'll need.

Ellie Quigley has taught scripting in Silicon Valley for more than twenty-five years. Her Perl and shell programming classes at the University of California, Santa Cruz Extension are part of Silicon Valley lore. Her other best-selling Prentice Hall books include *UNIX® Shells by Example, Fourth Edition*; *PHP and MySQL by Example* (with Marko Gargenta); and *JavaScript by Example*. A major player in developing UCSC's Silicon Valley Extension program, she has created and customized courses for pioneering firms, including Xilinx, NetApp, Yahoo, and Juniper.

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Editorial Review

Review

Praise for Ellie Quigley's Books

"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. [*UNIX® Shells by Example* is] 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 [*PHP and MySQL by Example*] 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.*

About the Author

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Users Review

From reader reviews:

Amanda Despain:

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Roxie Lloyd:

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writing, they also doing some study before they write on their book. One of them is this Perl by Example (5th Edition).

Alberta Jones:

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