NAME

perlexperiment - A listing of experimental features in Perl

DESCRIPTION

This document lists the current and past experimental features in the perl core. Although all of these are documented with their appropriate topics, this succinct listing gives you an overview and basic facts about their status.

So far we've merely tried to find and list the experimental features and infer their inception, versions, etc. There's a lot of speculation here.

Current experiments

Smart match ("~~")

Introduced in Perl 5.10.0

Modified in Perl 5.10.1, 5.12.0

Using this feature triggers warnings in the category "experimental::smartmatch".

The ticket for this experiment is [perl #13173] <https://github.com/Perl/perl5/issues/13173>.

Pluggable keywords

Introduced in Perl 5.11.2

See "PL_keyword_plugin" in perlapi for the mechanism.

The ticket for this experiment is [perl #13199] <https://github.com/Perl/perl5/issues/13199>.

Regular Expression Set Operations

Introduced in Perl 5.18

Using this feature triggers warnings in the category "experimental::regex_sets".

The ticket for this experiment is [perl #13197] <https://github.com/Perl/perl5/issues/13197>.

See also: "Extended Bracketed Character Classes" in perlrecharclass

Subroutine signatures

Introduced in Perl 5.20.0

Using this feature triggers warnings in the category "experimental::signatures".

The ticket for this experiment is [perl #13681] <https://github.com/Perl/perl5/issues/13681>.

Aliasing via reference
>   Introduced in Perl 5.22.0

Using this feature triggers warnings in the category "experimental::refaliasing".

The ticket for this experiment is [perl #14150] <https://github.com/Perl/perl5/issues/14150>.

See also: "Assigning to References" in perlref

The "const" attribute
>   Introduced in Perl 5.22.0

Using this feature triggers warnings in the category "experimental::const_attr".

The ticket for this experiment is [perl #14428] <https://github.com/Perl/perl5/issues/14428>.

See also: "Constant Functions" in perlsub

use re 'strict';
>   Introduced in Perl 5.22.0

Using this feature triggers warnings in the category "experimental::re_strict".

The ticket for this experiment is [perl #18755] <https://github.com/Perl/perl5/issues/18755>

See "'strict' mode" in re

The <:win32> IO pseudolayer
>   Using this feature triggers warnings in the category "experimental::win32_perlio".

The ticket for this experiment is [perl #13198] <https://github.com/Perl/perl5/issues/13198>.

See also "PERLIO" in perlrun

Declaring a reference to a variable
>   Introduced in Perl 5.26.0

Using this feature triggers warnings in the category "experimental::declared_refs".

The ticket for this experiment is [perl #15458] <https://github.com/Perl/perl5/issues/15458>.

See also: "Declaring a Reference to a Variable" in perlref

There is an "installhtml" target in the Makefile.
The ticket for this experiment is [perl #12726] <https://github.com/Perl/perl5/issues/12726>.

(Limited) Variable-length look-behind
Introduced in Perl 5.30.0.

Variability of up to 255 characters is handled.

Using this feature triggers warnings in the category "experimental::vlb".

The ticket for this experiment is [perl #18756] <https://github.com/Perl/perl5/issues/18756>.

See also: "(*positive_lookbehind:*pattern*)" in perlre and "(*negative_lookbehind:*pattern*)" in perlre

Unicode private use character hooks
Introduced in Perl 5.30.0.

This feature is part of an interface intended for internal and experimental use by the perl5 developers. You are unlikely to encounter it in the wild.

Using this feature triggers warnings in the category "experimental::private_use".

The ticket for this experiment is [perl #18758] <https://github.com/Perl/perl5/issues/18758>.

Unicode property wildcards
Introduced in Perl 5.30.0.

This feature allows regular expression matching against Unicode character properties to be expressed more concisely.

Using this feature triggers warnings in the category "experimental::uniprop_wildcards".

The ticket for this experiment is [perl #18759] <https://github.com/Perl/perl5/issues/18759>.

isa infix operator
> Introduced in Perl 5.32.0.
>
> Using this feature triggers warnings in the category "experimental::isa".
>
> The ticket for this experiment is [perl #18754] <https://github.com/Perl/perl5/issues/18754>

try/catch control structure
> Introduced in Perl 5.34.0.
>
> Using this feature triggers warnings in the category "experimental::try".
>
> The ticket for this experiment is [perl #18760] <https://github.com/Perl/perl5/issues/18760>

Accepted features

These features were so wildly successful and played so well with others that we decided to remove their experimental status and admit them as full, stable features in the world of Perl, lavishing all the benefits and luxuries thereof. They are also awarded +5 Stability and +3 Charisma.

64-bit support
> Introduced in Perl 5.005

die accepts a reference
> Introduced in Perl 5.005

DB module
> Introduced in Perl 5.6.0
>
> See also perldebug, perldebtut

Weak references
> Introduced in Perl 5.6.0

Internal file glob
> Introduced in Perl 5.6.0

fork() emulation
> Introduced in Perl 5.6.1
>
> See also perlfork

-Dusemultiplicity -Duseithreads
Introduced in Perl 5.6.0

Accepted in Perl 5.8.0

Support for long doubles
Introduced in Perl 5.6.0

Accepted in Perl 5.8.1

The "\N" regex character class
The "\N" character class, not to be confused with the named character sequence
"\N{NAME}", denotes any non-newline character in a regular expression.

Introduced in Perl 5.12

Exact version of acceptance unclear, but no later than Perl 5.18.

"(?{code})" and "(??{ code })"
Introduced in Perl 5.6.0

Accepted in Perl 5.20.0

See also perlre

Linux abstract Unix domain sockets
Introduced in Perl 5.9.2

Accepted before Perl 5.20.0. The Socket library is now primarily maintained on CPAN,
rather than in the perl core.

See also Socket

Lvalue subroutines
Introduced in Perl 5.6.0

Accepted in Perl 5.20.0

See also perlsub

Backtracking control verbs
          "(*ACCEPT)"

                    Introduced in Perl 5.10

                    Accepted in Perl 5.20.0

The <:pop> IO pseudolayer
          See also "PERLIO" in perlrun

                    Accepted in Perl 5.20.0

"\s" in regexp matches vertical tab
          Accepted in Perl 5.22.0

Postfix dereference syntax
          Introduced in Perl 5.20.0

                    Accepted in Perl 5.24.0

Lexical subroutines
          Introduced in Perl 5.18.0

                    Accepted in Perl 5.26.0

String- and number-specific bitwise operators
          Introduced in Perl 5.22.0

                    Accepted in Perl 5.28.0

Alphabetic assertions
          Introduced in Perl 5.28.0

                    Accepted in Perl 5.32.0

Script runs
          Introduced in Perl 5.28.0

                    Accepted in Perl 5.32.0

Removed features

These features are no longer considered experimental and their functionality has disappeared. It's your own fault if you wrote production programs using these features after we explicitly told you not to (see perlpolicy).

5.005-style threading
          Introduced in Perl 5.005

          Removed in Perl 5.10

perlcc   Introduced in Perl 5.005

          Moved from Perl 5.9.0 to CPAN

The pseudo-hash data type
          Introduced in Perl 5.6.0

          Removed in Perl 5.9.0

GetOpt::Long Options can now take multiple values at once (experimental)
          "Getopt::Long" upgraded to version 2.35

          Removed in Perl 5.8.8

Assertions
          The "-A" command line switch

          Introduced in Perl 5.9.0

          Removed in Perl 5.9.5

Test::Harness::Straps
          Moved from Perl 5.10.1 to CPAN

"legacy" The experimental "legacy" pragma was swallowed by the "feature" pragma.

          Introduced in Perl 5.11.2

          Removed in Perl 5.11.3

Lexical $_
Using this feature triggered warnings in the category "experimental::lexical_topic".

Introduced in Perl 5.10.0

Removed in Perl 5.24.0

Array and hash container functions accept references
Using this feature triggered warnings in the category "experimental::autoderef".

Superseded by "Postfix dereference syntax".

Introduced in Perl 5.14.0

Removed in Perl 5.24.0

"our" can have an experimental optional attribute "unique"
Introduced in Perl 5.8.0

Deprecated in Perl 5.10.0

Removed in Perl 5.28.0

SEE ALSO

For a complete list of features check feature.

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