

# FIVE PERL ONE-LINERS

*Every UNIX/Linux User Should Know*

*(plus one more you shouldn't know, but I'll show you anyway)*



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## perlgrep

# A better **grep** command; benefits from Perl's enhanced regular expressions

```
perl -wnl -e '/RE/ and print;' [ f1 f2 ... ] #RE, f1, and f2 are placeholders
```

```
$ perl -wn -e '/\burgent call/ and print;' todo_list #omits: resurgent calls
```

Make urgent call to you-know-who  
urgent calling card issues need handling

## paragrep

# Better **grep**; benefits from Perl's enhanced REs and display of match context

```
perl -wnl -e 'BEGIN { $/= ""; }; /RE/ and print;' [f1...]
```

```
$ perl -wn -e 'BEGIN { $/= ""; }; /\bBOB\b/ and print;' awards
```

BOB HOPE  
joked about never winning an academy award

## change\_file

# Better **sed** command; uses enhanced REs and actually changes file contents

```
perl -i.bak -wpl -e 's/old/new/g' file #old, new, and file are placeholders
```

```
$ perl -wpi.bak -e 's/4-Hr Sale/3-Hr Sale/g;' *.html
```

## show\_fields

# A better **awk** command; permits field ranges, and variables within DQs

# *A,B* are placeholders for desired field numbers, counting from 0

# *C..D* is a placeholder for desired range of field numbers, counting from 0

```
perl -wl na -e 'print "@F[A,B,C..D]"' file
```

# Use *-wlnaF* followed by character(s) or RE to specify custom field separator

```
$ perl -wlnaF':' -e 'print "@F[0,6]"' /etc/passwd
```

root /bin/sh

## pcalc

# Better expression evaluator than **expr**; floating point and math functions

# *EXPR* is a placeholder for the desired arithmetic expression

```
perl -wl -e 'print EXPR;'
```

```
$ perl -wl -e 'print sqrt(22/7);'
```

1.77281052085584

## lc\_filename

# Uses better **select** loop than shell has, that's portable too

# *Displays numbered menu of files, and renames each one selected*

# **NOTE:** Must first download Tim's **Shell::POSIX::Select** module from CPAN

```
$ perl -wM'Shell::POSIX::Select' -e 'select $N (<*[A-Z]*>) { rename $N, "\L$N"; }'
```

```
1) Memo 2) Image.jpg 3) MyPics
```

Enter number of choice: █

**CONSERVE BRAIN CELLS - DON'T LEARN TOO MUCH !**

Read my book: "[Minimal Perl for UNIX and Linux People](#)"