
A Minimal Perl Dialect

for UNIX & Linux People



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The Land of Perlistan

Perlistan

- is a hub of Central Asia's fabled Silk Road
- founded by refugees from the lands of **UNIX** & **C**
- who were fleeing persecution from the
 - ▶ Shell's incessant tinkering with their commands
 - ▶ **C**'s penchant for shooting them in the foot

A Visit to Perlistan

- **Like other nations settled by refugees,**
 - ▶ Perlistan is linguistically diverse
- **Let's visit the Central Market**
 - ▶ to hear some of the dialects used by food vendors
 - ▶ as they direct assistants in sales transactions

The Dialects of Perlistan

marketplace protocols

"Foreach ginkgo nut in basket, test it for freshness and push it in bag."

- *This speaker is from the land of the UNIX Shell*
-

"Test it for freshness and push it in bag, foreach ginkgo nut in basket."

- *UNIX Shell land from also; dyslexic but*
-

"Bag -- grep ripe -- basket of ginkgo nuts."

- *"Idiomatic" Perl; a native, or naturalized, Perlistani*

Tattooed Perlistanis

To deal with the language barriers, some wear forehead markings to identify their dialects



Idiomatic

Idiomatic

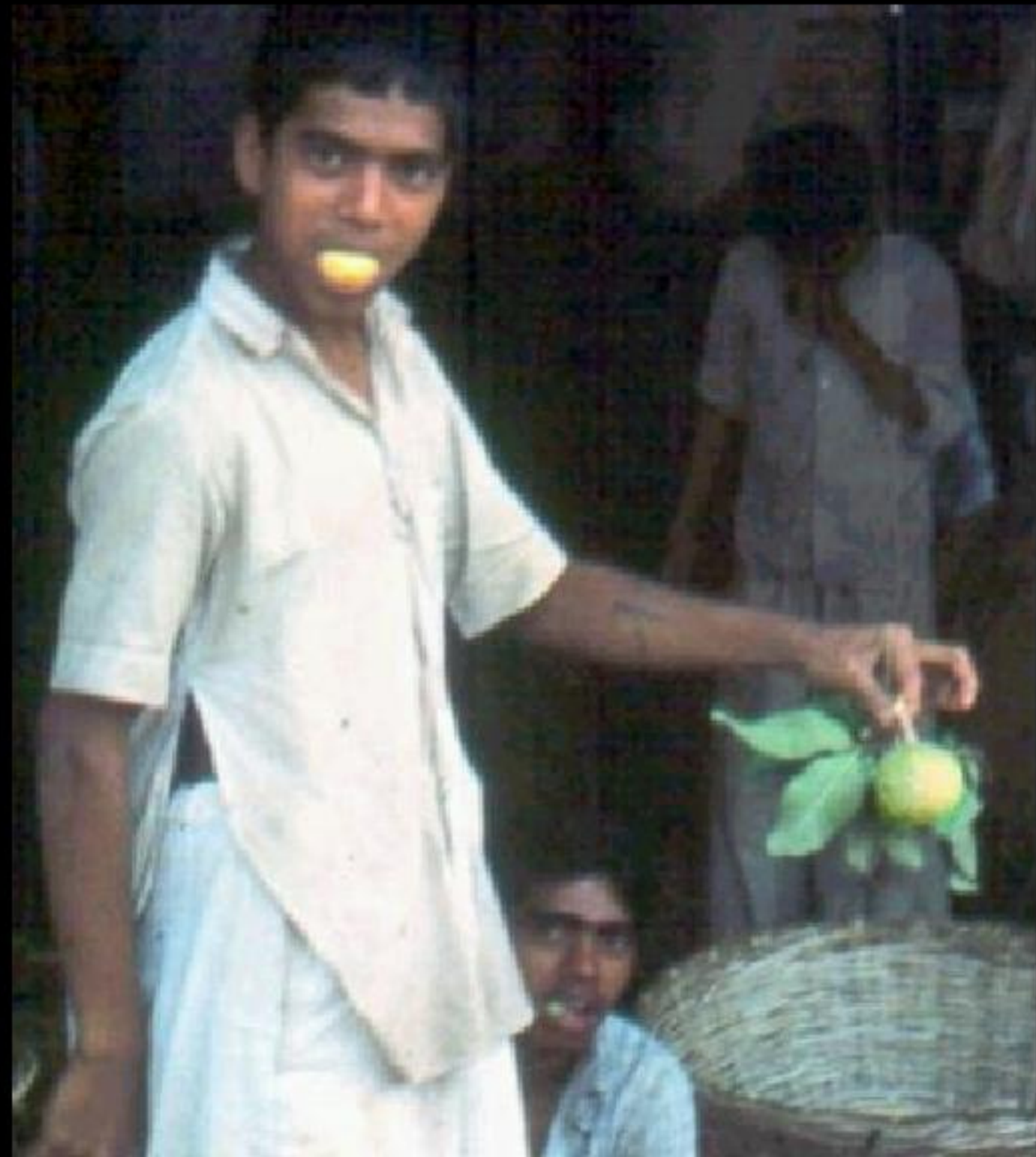
Shellish

Communications in Perlistan

Linguistic Devolution

Others resort to:

- **non-verbal protocols**



Custom Dialects of Perl

Why do the immigrants speak distinctly different dialects?

- because rather than learning *all* of Perl,
 - ▶ each group gravitates to the parts that are *most familiar*
- which works because Perl is derived from Shell, C, AWK, etc.
 - ▶ and incorporates their concepts and syntax

Custom Dialects of Perl (cont.)

Educators can help the refugees apply their strategy, by:

- **Teaching a subset of Perl that lets UNIX/Linux People **capitalize** on their existing knowledge**
 - ▶ so they can learn Perl easily and efficiently
- **Leaving out Perl's more esoteric and redundant bits**
 - ▶ so they won't have to learn too much

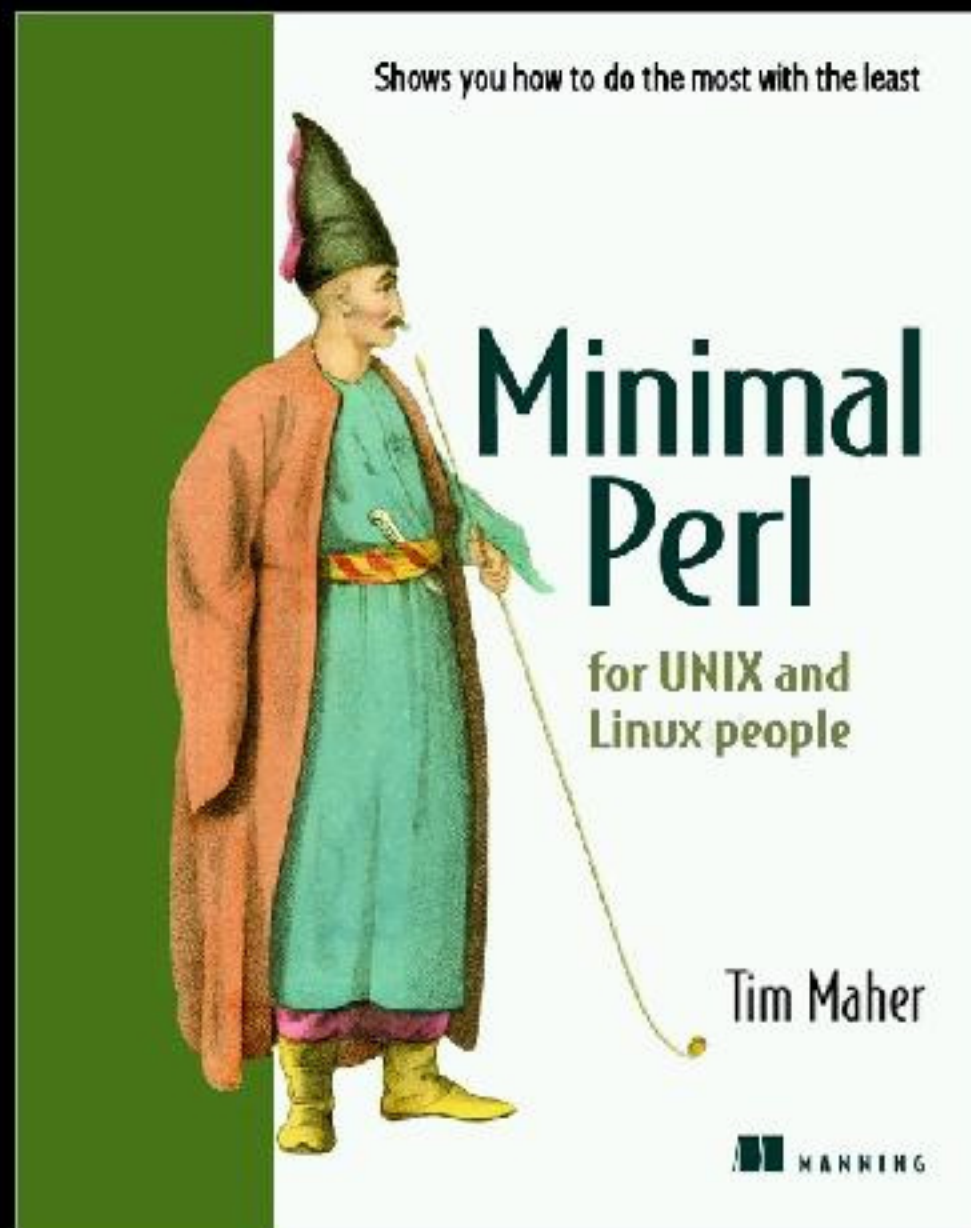
What is Minimal Perl?

Minimal Perl is:

- a subset of standard Perl designed to be easily learned by UNIX/Linux people
- successfully taught to Fortune 500 clients since 2000

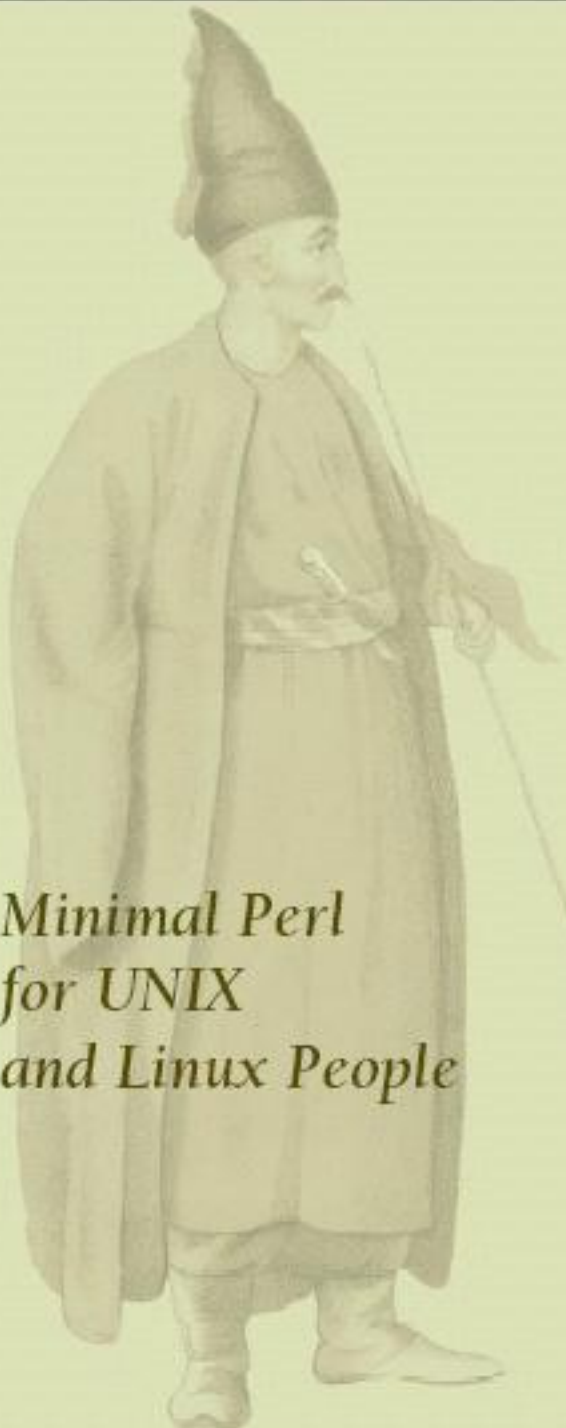
<i>Getty Images</i>	<i>Heath Tecna Aerospace</i>	<i>Hewlett Packard</i>
<i>Hillhaven</i>	<i>Hughes Aircraft</i>	<i>IBM</i>
<i>InfoSpace</i>	<i>Intel</i>	<i>Interactive Systems</i>
<i>Internal Revenue Service</i>	<i>Kaiser Aluminum</i>	<i>King County Government</i>
<i>Lockheed Martin Mission Systems</i>	<i>Malsustrita Avionics</i>	<i>McGraw Cellular Communications</i>
<i>Mentor Graphics</i>	<i>Meml Lynch</i>	<i>Microsoft</i>
<i>Money Tree</i>	<i>Motorola Wireless Data Group</i>	<i>N2112</i>
<i>NASA</i>	<i>NOVA/AFSC</i>	<i>MenPath</i>
<i>Network Appliance</i>	<i>Nordstrom</i>	<i>NorthWest Nexus</i>
<i>Northern Grumman</i>	<i>Northwestern Mutual Life</i>	<i>Oakridge National Laboratory</i>

Coming in Fall, 2005



www.MinimalPerl.com

The Flyer



*Minimal Perl
for UNIX
and Linux People*

Most books make Perl unnecessarily hard to learn by attempting to teach the whole language, including its many redundancies, while ignoring the reader's knowledge of related languages and concepts. Minimal Perl makes Perl easy to learn by teaching a strategically designed subset that's familiar to UNIX/Linux people, and by capitalizing on their existing knowledge rather than ignoring it.

With this book, readers learn a carefully designed subset of the language called "Minimal Perl", which the author developed through five years of training software professionals at major corporations. It makes Perl more accessible to those having UNIX/Linux skill levels ranging from elementary to expert, by capitalizing on their existing knowledge of important utilities (grep, awk), or essential concepts (filters, command substitution, looping). Dozens of detailed programming examples are shown, drawn from contemporary application areas such as system administration, networking, web development, databases, finance, HTML, CGI, and text analysis.

LEARN HOW TO

- Exploit the power of Perl while avoiding its complexities
- Capitalize on your existing UNIX/Linux skills to learn Perl quickly and easily
- Write simple yet powerful programs that do important data processing tasks

*"If you're already fluent in Perl's mother tongue, and want to discover how expressive and poetic Perl itself can be, you could have chosen no better primer than this book and no better guide than Dr Tim Maher, a gifted teacher and a decorated veteran of both the Unix world and the Perl community. So, welcome to Perl! You don't have to come from *nix to work here ... but it certainly helps."*

—From the Foreword by Dr. Damian Conway,
author of Manning's bestselling *Object Oriented Perl*

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A fun book to read!

After 29 years of working

- with UNIX
- and for the Bell System, UC Berkeley, Sun Microsystems, and Consultix

And 23 years of teaching

- UNIX, Linux, or Perl
 - ▶ I've met a lot of zany characters and had a lot of amusing experiences
 - ▶ They are featured in the book's "case studies"!

Minimal Perl

Getting more info

- **See www.MinimalPerl.com**
 - ▶ to read the book's foreword
 - by Damian Conway
 - ▶ for flyer downloads
 - ▶ for advance orders
 - ▶ to be notified when the book ships

Enjoy the conference!



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