

NAME

perl582delta - what is new for perl v5.8.2

DESCRIPTION

This document describes differences between the 5.8.1 release and the 5.8.2 release.

If you are upgrading from an earlier release such as 5.6.1, first read the *perl58delta*, which describes differences between 5.6.0 and 5.8.0, and the *perl581delta*, which describes differences between 5.8.0 and 5.8.1.

Incompatible Changes

For threaded builds for modules calling certain re-entrant system calls, binary compatibility was accidentally lost between 5.8.0 and 5.8.1. Binary compatibility with 5.8.0 has been restored in 5.8.2, which necessitates breaking compatibility with 5.8.1. We see this as the lesser of two evils.

This will only affect people who have a threaded perl 5.8.1, and compiled modules which use these calls, and now attempt to run the compiled modules with 5.8.2. The fix is to re-compile and re-install the modules using 5.8.2.

Core Enhancements

Hash Randomisation

The hash randomisation introduced with 5.8.1 has been amended. It transpired that although the implementation introduced in 5.8.1 was source compatible with 5.8.0, it was not binary compatible in certain cases. 5.8.2 contains an improved implementation which is both source and binary compatible with both 5.8.0 and 5.8.1, and remains robust against the form of attack which prompted the change for 5.8.1.

We are grateful to the Debian project for their input in this area. See *"Algorithmic Complexity Attacks"* in *perlsec* for the original rationale behind this change.

Threading

Several memory leaks associated with variables shared between threads have been fixed.

Modules and Pragmata

Updated Modules And Pragmata

The following modules and pragmata have been updated since Perl 5.8.1:

Devel::PPPort

Digest::MD5

I18N::LangTags

libnet

MIME::Base64

Pod::Perldoc

strict

Documentation improved

Tie::Hash

Documentation improved

Time::HiRes

Unicode::Collate

Unicode::Normalize

UNIVERSAL

Documentation improved

Selected Bug Fixes

Some syntax errors involving unrecognized filetest operators are now handled correctly by the parser.

Changed Internals

Interpreter initialization is more complete when `-DMULTIPLICITY` is off. This should resolve problems with initializing and destroying the Perl interpreter more than once in a single process.

Platform Specific Problems

Dynamic linker flags have been tweaked for Solaris and OS X, which should solve problems seen while building some XS modules.

Bugs in OS/2 sockets and tmpfile have been fixed.

In OS X `setreuid` and friends are troublesome - perl will now work around their problems as best possible.

Future Directions

Starting with 5.8.3 we intend to make more frequent maintenance releases, with a smaller number of changes in each. The intent is to propagate bug fixes out to stable releases more rapidly and make upgrading stable releases less of an upheaval. This should give end users more flexibility in their choice of upgrade timing, and allow them easier assessment of the impact of upgrades. The current plan is for code freezes as follows

- 5.8.3 23:59:59 GMT, Wednesday December 31st 2003
- 5.8.4 23:59:59 GMT, Wednesday March 31st 2004
- 5.8.5 23:59:59 GMT, Wednesday June 30th 2004

with the release following soon after, when testing is complete.

See "*Future Directions*" in *perl581delta* for more soothsaying.

Reporting Bugs

If you find what you think is a bug, you might check the articles recently posted to the `comp.lang.perl.misc` newsgroup and the perl bug database at <http://bugs.perl.org/>. There may also be information at <http://www.perl.com/>, the Perl Home Page.

If you believe you have an unreported bug, please run the **perlbug** program included with your release. Be sure to trim your bug down to a tiny but sufficient test case. Your bug report, along with the output of `perl -v`, will be sent off to `perlbug@perl.org` to be analysed by the Perl porting team. You can browse and search the Perl 5 bugs at <http://bugs.perl.org/>

SEE ALSO

The *Changes* file for exhaustive details on what changed.

The *INSTALL* file for how to build Perl.

The *README* file for general stuff.

The *Artistic* and *Copying* files for copyright information.