

## NAME

perlamiga - Perl under Amiga OS

## NOTE

Perl 5.8.0 cannot be built in AmigaOS. You can use either the maintenance release Perl 5.6.1 or the development release Perl 5.7.2 in AmigaOS. See *PERL 5.8.0 BROKEN IN AMIGAOS* if you want to help fixing this problem.

## SYNOPSIS

One can read this document in the following formats:

```
man perlamiga
multiview perlamiga.guide
```

to list some (not all may be available simultaneously), or it may be read as *is*: either as *README.amiga*, or *pod/perlamiga.pod*.

A recent version of perl for the Amiga can be found at the Geek Gadgets section of the Aminet:

```
http://www.aminet.net/~aminet/dev/gg
```

## DESCRIPTION

### Prerequisites for Compiling Perl on AmigaOS

#### Unix emulation for AmigaOS: ixemul.library

You need the Unix emulation for AmigaOS, whose most important part is **ixemul.library**. For a minimum setup, get the latest versions of the following packages from the Aminet archives ( <http://www.aminet.net/~aminet/> ):

```
ixemul-bin
ixemul-env-bin
pdksh-bin
```

Note also that this is a minimum setup; you might want to add other packages of **ADE** (the *Amiga Developers Environment*).

#### Version of Amiga OS

You need at the very least AmigaOS version 2.0. Recommended is version 3.1.

### Starting Perl programs under AmigaOS

Start your Perl program *foo* with arguments *arg1 arg2 arg3* the same way as on any other platform, by

```
perl foo arg1 arg2 arg3
```

If you want to specify perl options *-my\_opts* to the perl itself (as opposed to your program), use

```
perl -my_opts foo arg1 arg2 arg3
```

Alternately, you can try to get a replacement for the system's **Execute** command that honors the `#!/usr/bin/perl` syntax in scripts and set the s-Bit of your scripts. Then you can invoke your scripts like under UNIX with

```
foo arg1 arg2 arg3
```

(Note that having \*nixish full path to perl `/usr/bin/perl` is not necessary, *perl* would be enough, but having full path would make it easier to use your script under \*nix.)

## Shortcomings of Perl under AmigaOS

Perl under AmigaOS lacks some features of perl under UNIX because of deficiencies in the UNIX-emulation, most notably:

- `fork()`
- some features of the UNIX filesystem regarding link count and file dates
- inplace operation (the `-i` switch) without backup file
- `umask()` works, but the correct permissions are only set when the file is finally `close()`d

## INSTALLATION

Change to the installation directory (most probably ADE:), and extract the binary distribution:

```
lha -mraxe x perl-$VERSION-bin.lha
```

or

```
tar xvzpf perl-$VERSION-bin.tgz
```

(Of course you need `lha` or `tar` and `gunzip` for this.)

For installation of the Unix emulation, read the appropriate docs.

## Accessing documentation

### Manpages for Perl on AmigaOS

If you have `man` installed on your system, and you installed perl manpages, use something like this:

```
man perlfunc
man less
man ExtUtils.MakeMaker
```

to access documentation for different components of Perl. Start with

```
man perl
```

Note: You have to modify your `man.conf` file to search for manpages in the `/ade/lib/perl5/man/man3` directory, or the man pages for the perl library will not be found.

Note that dot (`.`) is used as a package separator for documentation for packages, and as usual, sometimes you need to give the section - 3 above - to avoid shadowing by the *less(1) manpage*.

## Perl HTML Documentation on AmigaOS

If you have some WWW browser available, you can build **HTML** docs. Cd to directory with `.pod` files, and do like this

```
cd /ade/lib/perl5/pod
pod2html
```

After this you can direct your browser the file *perl.html* in this directory, and go ahead with reading docs.

Alternatively you may be able to get these docs prebuilt from CPAN.

## Perl GNU Info Files on AmigaOS

Users of Emacs would appreciate it very much, especially with CPerl mode loaded. You need to get latest `pod2info` from CPAN, or, alternately, prebuilt info pages.

## Perl LaTeX Documentation on AmigaOS

Can be constructed using `pod2latex`.

## BUILDING PERL ON AMIGAOS

Here we discuss how to build Perl under AmigaOS.

### Build Prerequisites for Perl on AmigaOS

You need to have the latest **ixemul** (Unix emulation for Amiga) from Aminet.

### Getting the Perl Source for AmigaOS

You can either get the latest perl-for-amiga source from Ninemoons and extract it with:

```
tar xvzpf perl-$VERSION-src.tgz
```

or get the official source from CPAN:

```
http://www.cpan.org/src/5.0
```

Extract it like this

```
tar xvzpf perl-$VERSION.tar.gz
```

You will see a message about errors while extracting *Configure*. This is normal and expected. (There is a conflict with a similarly-named file *configure*, but it causes no harm.)

### Making Perl on AmigaOS

Remember to use a hefty wad of stack (I use 2000000)

```
sh configure.gnu --prefix=/gg
```

Now type

```
make depend
```

Now!

```
make
```

### Testing Perl on AmigaOS

Now run

```
make test
```

Some tests will be skipped because they need the `fork()` function:

```
io/pipe.t, op/fork.t, lib/filehand.t, lib/open2.t, lib/open3.t, lib/io_pipe.t, lib/io_sock.t
```

### Installing the built Perl on AmigaOS

Run

```
make install
```

## PERL 5.8.0 BROKEN IN AMIGAOS

As told above, Perl 5.6.1 was still good in AmigaOS, as was 5.7.2. After Perl 5.7.2 (change #11423, see the Changes file, and the file `pod/perlhack.pod` for how to get the individual changes) Perl

dropped its internal support for `vfork()`, and that was very probably the step that broke AmigaOS (since the `ixemul` library has only `vfork`). The build finally fails when the `ext/DynaLoader` is being built, and PERL ends up as `"0"` in the produced `Makefile`, trying to run `"0"` does not quite work. Also, executing `miniperl` in backticks seems to generate nothing: very probably related to the (v)fork problems. **Fixing the breakage requires someone quite familiar with the `ixemul` library, and how one is supposed to run external commands in AmigaOS without `fork()`.**

## AUTHORS

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## SEE ALSO

`perl(1)`.