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# Using Perl with MySQL

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Originally written by Larry Wall as a supplement to the USENET reader, Perl (“Practical Extraction and Report Language”) is used widely for scripts that run from operating system prompts, that send and receive email, and that generate dynamic web pages. It combines the syntax of many traditional command-line languages—C, C++, sed, awk, grep, sh, and csh—into a tool that is famously flexible and compact or even terse. It is useful especially for list processing.

If you are new to Perl, you might want to supplement reading this chapter with working through an *introductory tutorial*. Perl scripts that generate web content require a web server, of course. If you have not yet *installed Apache*, now is the time. And if you have not yet *created the tracker database*, do it before trying this chapter’s examples.

To read the rest of this and other chapters, *buy a copy of the book*

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