

2024

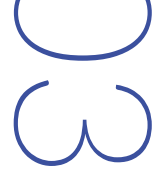
# Prospectus

Support future development of  
Perl and Raku



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# A Brief Introduction to Perl and Raku: A call for support

Every day, businesses and governments around the world serve their customers and employees with systems built on the Perl language.

Perl is a critical part of many digital applications and is available for almost every computing platform. Its emphasis on flexibility, pragmatism, and commitment to responsibly managing linguistic stability is valued by users.

Most Linux & BSD operating systems rely on Perl to operate, and its ecosystem of libraries and applications continues to evolve thanks to volunteers and funding provided by donors.

Raku is a modern language built for ease of use and computing demands of today and tomorrow - it was designed by Larry Wall as a 'hundred-year language', powerful and flexible enough to be used for decades to come.

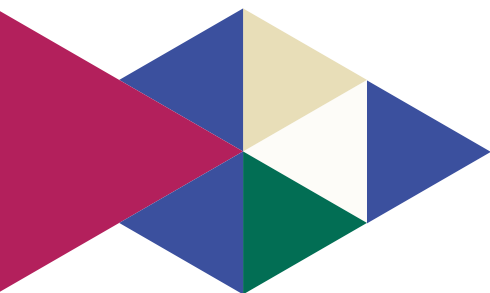
## Reasons to Support

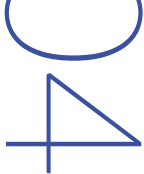
With your support the Foundation has the resources to support the sustainability and development of the communities, the Perl and Raku languages and the applications that rely on them.

The foundation has resources to sustain operations for some years ahead however to enable us to issue more grants and invest in systems, security and modernization, we rely on volunteers and donations - every contribution matters.

There are many areas where we could do with extra help, these include: coordination, grants committee, fund raising, legal and commercial, technical infrastructure as well as others. Where do you feel we need help? Let us know by email to [hello@perlfoundation.org](mailto:hello@perlfoundation.org).

Does your organization rely on our work (it probably does at some level), or do you have the financial resources to donate? If so, please make a donation via the Foundation website [perlfoundation.org/donate](https://perlfoundation.org/donate) or get in touch at [hello@perlfoundation.org](mailto:hello@perlfoundation.org).





## A Letter from the President

Following a year of accelerating change in the Open Source and wider digital ecosystems, the Foundation continues to develop and build momentum. We have continued the monthly community meetings and are pleased to see new faces throughout.

2024 will mark the publication of the third TPRF prospectus. This provides a valuable tool to share the aims and activities of the Foundation.

This year, we are likely to see a greater shift across the digital world, and the most significant regulatory development our industry has experienced, particularly in the domains of security and sustainability. There is lots to do.

Our continued development is driven by initiatives from the volunteer board supported by a paid administrator and dedicated community.

I would like to express my personal gratitude to my fellow board members as well as the efforts invested by everyone across the Perl and Raku communities.

We must also not forget the wider Open Source and commercial communities and organisations whose work we build on.

Our conferences, administration, operations and support of the maintainers would not be possible without support from our sponsors and for this, we are all grateful.



**Stuart J Mackintosh**  
The Perl Foundation President  
2019-present

[stuart@perlfoundation.org](mailto:stuart@perlfoundation.org)

# 2023 Year in Review

## **We have had a busy year!**

Through our groups and committees, volunteers have issued grants and received sponsorship, supported Outreachy and widened our community. One notable grant developed Perl support for TensorFlow, the market leading Machine Learning / AI library.

The board has benefited from additional capacity and improvements to processes. Feedback on the first draft report following the academic volunteer study has been provided and we hope this fascinating and challenging report will be published soon.

To solidify the relationship between the Perl and Raku communities, a new DBA was registered, being 'The Perl and Raku Foundation'. Custom merchandise to promote both languages has been put on sale, and we continued to maintain and enforce our trademarks.

The White Camel award was reinstated to recognize community members who have demonstrated support for the values of the foundation and communities - details of the awards will be published soon.

## Crucial volunteer community

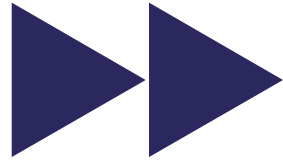
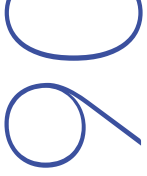
The Foundation relies on volunteers to build support for Perl and Raku. Everyone who sits on the Board, joins the community engagement meeting, or any other Foundation on groups, is giving their personal time free of charge.

Members of the community are dedicated to supporting the promotion of Perl and Raku, organizing conferences, managing the grants and funds we have for special projects, and ensuring the language development progresses. We also have mentors; people dedicated to supporting others learning and developing Perl and Raku.

With support from our volunteers we are able to continue to promote and develop these languages. Can your organization give time to employees to support any of these areas?

- :: Conference planning and promotion
- :: Mentoring
- :: Sharing social media content

- :: Adding blogs to the website
- :: Join a committee!



# Future Plans for Perl

The guiding principles of the Perl Steering Council are:

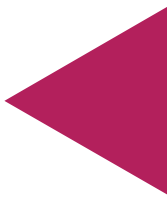
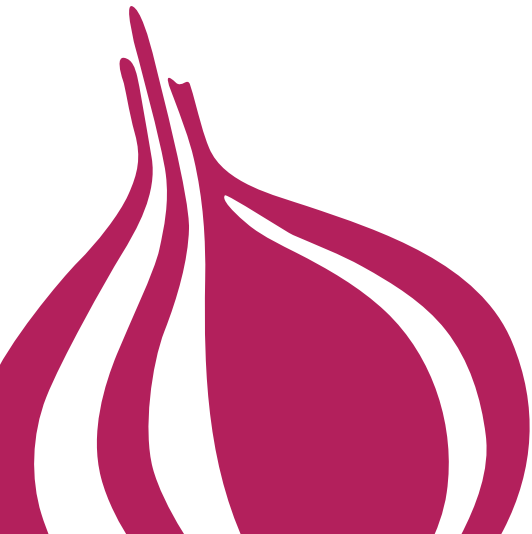
1. Don't break things unnecessarily
2. Ensure that Perl continues to feel like Perl
3. Push the boundaries of the language

Our current strategy for further development of the Perl language is to support and encourage more experimentation of new language ideas as CPAN-based experiments. We want to allow more things to be possible as CPAN experiments, as well as encourage more experiments along the lines of what has already been done. This will accelerate the pace at which development of new ideas can take place, allowing faster iteration than just one core Perl release per year.

We also aim to review what successful features have already been created by such experiments and start to bring them into core. This style of development has already proven successful by enhancing the features available in recent releases of the Perl language, and is a model we wish to encourage and expand upon.

For the next few versions of Perl we have more specific ideas of the kinds of things we would like to explore. Some of these are already possible now, some of these would require creating more abilities in Perl core to even allow such third-party contribution.

These mechanisms potentially enlarge the pool of people who could be involved in designing the ongoing evolution of the language, by allowing CPAN module authors to take more part in it.





# Future plans for Raku development

Raku's development is led and organized by a passionate community of volunteer contributors. The emphasis on widespread and inclusive participation is notable even among other open-source programming languages.

This means the Raku community works proactively to avoid the views of all contributors and donors being dominated by forceful individuals or single companies.

In turn the Road map, priorities and goals remain flexible as the priorities or involvement of different Raku contributors evolve.

Raku developers are currently prioritizing the upgrades to the compiler to make things that are impossible in other languages, possible in Raku.

Specifically, improving introspection of running programs to help with debugging and optimization, enhancing the documentation system to make it even more available to non-English speaking populations, and creating the prerequisites for IDE creations. With that in mind, here are some of the milestones that Raku users can anticipate in the near-to-medium-term future:

**With that in mind, here are some of the milestones that Raku users can anticipate in the near-to-medium-term future:**

**:: Release of version 6e with a new set of features in line with Raku's compatibility promises :: Raku Abstract Syntax Tree, a new compiler front end that will enable:**

- : Natural language localization, including translation between different localization Custom
- : compiler passes
- : Syntactic macros with full support for macro hygiene
- : Slangs (sub-languages with different syntax) based on a stable and documented API
- : Improve introspectability of compiled byte code
- : Improve observability of running processes

- :: Enhanced security/ecosystem coherence by completing the migration to fez ::
- Completing "The Complete Course in Raku" and other Raku learning resources ::
- Continuing the modernization & localization of the Raku documentation system ::
- Additional progress towards filling gaps in the Raku ecosystem
- :: Continued development of the Raku IDE as a community project
- :: Continuing to build out the Raku/Rakudo testing and CI process
- :: Further performance and stability improvements

“The only way you can predict the future is to build it.”

Alan Kay



# Supporting conferences and events

**Corporate support for our conferences pays off in many ways.**

## **Education**

Educating your developers on Perl and Raku helps them create better, more efficient code, and exposes them to modules and techniques that they haven't seen before. And our conferences go beyond Perl and Raku, covering development tools and processes, other languages, and more.

## **Networking**

Conferences let your developers expand their network, providing them with community support when they need technical assistance.

## **Corporate visibility**

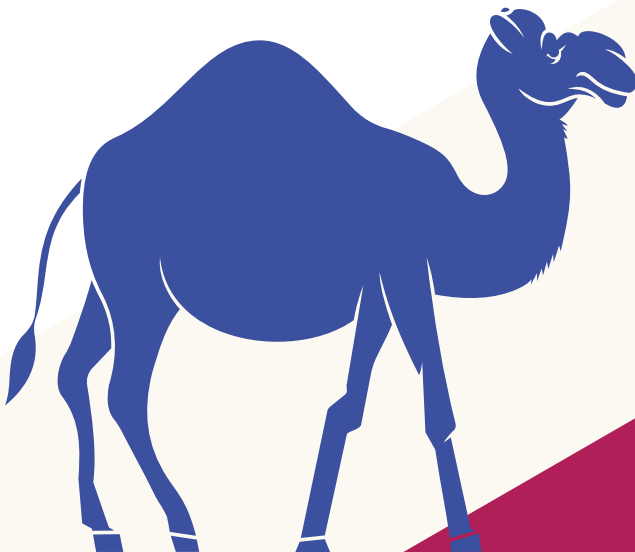
Having your organization's name associated with the conference advertises that your organization uses Perl, identifying you as a potential employer to the conference attendees.

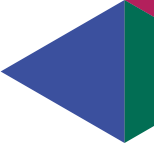
## **Recruiting possibilities**

Sponsors can participate in the conference job fair, a great chance to meet prospective employees and pitch them on the opportunities you have available.

## **Marketing to trade**

Attending conferences also helps with marketing your organization's product or service to people who influence technical choices within their own organization.





## The role of the Foundation

**Yet Another Society** is the official name of The Perl Foundation (TPF), the Raku Foundation (the Foundation), and The Perl/Raku Foundation (TPRF).

The Foundation does the essential but boring work to support Perl and Raku. This includes being the “bank manager”, taking care of intellectual property like trademarks, and providing organizational support to conference organizers and the community as a whole.

The languages themselves are governed separately, having their own technical leadership, roadmaps, and development plans.

The Foundation Board meets every month and also hosts a monthly community engagement meeting which covers various subjects such as marketing, legal, grants, sponsorship and general administration.

### Board members:



**Stuart Mackintosh**  
President



**Peter Krawczyk**  
Treasurer



**Makoto Nozaki**  
Secretary



**Daniel Sockwell**  
Board member at large



**Todd Rinaldo**  
Board member at large



**Ruth Holloway**  
Board member at large



**Bruce Gray**  
Board member at large

# The Perl and Raku Foundation Grants

The Foundation, a 501(c)(3) charity, supports the Perl and Raku Languages and the community in a number of ways, one of them being the use of donations to provide funds for Perl projects. The Perl and Raku languages are supported through “Core Grant” awards, supporting the development of new features, bug fixes, and performance enhancements. This has allowed Perl to be relevant, reliable and robust.

One of the key tenets of Perl development is to maintain as closely as possible, backwards compatibility. While we may become reliant on tools created using these languages, an update in the language may cause these tools to stop working. Not so in Perl, and continued improvements while maintaining functioning of legacy software requires care and hard work which the Foundation funds. We currently support Paul Evans, Dave Mitchel and Tony Cook with their increasingly intensive efforts in the guts of Perl Language. Funding is available for Raku development.

In addition, We support community projects. In the past year the Foundation’s grants committee has processed applications for Raku Persistent Data Structures, TensorFlow API in Perl, Dancer 2 Documentation, Conferences, Raku Infrastructure, Large Language Model for Programming. These applications are reviewed by volunteer community members who scrutinize the applications, approve or reject them, manage the grantee throughout the duration of the project. This activity is only possible through the generous donations of our sponsors and supporters. While new languages have come, each with their own appeal and periodic bursts of popularity, Perl remains relevant, and easily adopts new concepts without ever breaking the old paradigms that made it the best Do-What-I-Mean scripting language.



# How we manage your donations

Donations are added into funds within the Foundation: the General Fund and Specific Funds.

## General Fund

Most donations are directly applied to the General Fund. This is used to support the Foundation's regular activities. Expenditures from the General Fund must be approved by a majority vote of the Board, and are not restricted in purpose.

## Specific Funds

Specific Funds have been created at various times for events and projects that the Foundation has pursued, or at the request of a donor who wished to fund specific initiatives within the community. Some examples of current Specific Funds include:

- :: The Perl & Raku Conference Fund
- :: The Raku Infrastructure Fund
- :: The Google Summer of Code Development Fund

## Donate today

Billions of people around the world use products that rely on Perl and Raku

- ▶ Ensure Perl and Raku are sustainably maintained and developed
- ▶ Gain valuable education opportunities for your teams at conferences
- ▶ Engage in important networking opportunities and build your corporate visibility
- ▶ Recruit new and invaluable Perl or Raku developers to your team
- ▶ Associate your brand with support for Perl and Raku



**Visit the link below or scan the QR code to donate.**

[perlfoundation.org/donate](http://perlfoundation.org/donate)