

Managing your Perl installs with perlbrew

Weds, June 15th by Bryan Smith, [Ann Arbor Perl Mongers](#). Use perlbrew 0.23.

Use cases

- Insufficient privileges to install modules or update Perl
- Want to test code in new versions of Perl or for backwards compatibility
- Running different apps with different Perl requirements

Installation

```
$ cpanm perlbrew
$ ~/perl5/perlbrew/bin/perlbrew init # Initialize. Follow instructions...
$ perlbrew mirror # Select a download mirror.
```

Useful commands

```
$ perlbrew list # Show installed perls
$ perlbrew available # Show available perls for download
$ perlbrew install perl-5.14.0 # Takes a while to build
$ perl -v
$ perlbrew switch perl-5.14.0 # Switch version to use
$ perlbrew use perl-5.14.0 # Switch for this shell only
$ perlbrew alias create perl-5.14.0 stable # Stable shebang
$ perlbrew install-cpanm # Installs cpanm in ~/perl5
$ cpanm Moose # Installs in cpanm directory
```

Gotchas

- *Where are cpanm modules installed?* Each Perl has its own lib paths at `~/perl5/perlbrew/perls/perl-VERSION/lib/`. To see paths for currently-loaded Perl:
`$ perl -le 'print foreach @INC'`
- *How to switch back to system?*
`$ perlbrew off`

Versus local::lib?

- `local::lib` is used for installing Perl modules in a user's personal space, also resides in `~/perl5`.
- `perlbrew` lets you install Perl modules in your path, as well as installing different modules for different Perls.

More resources

- CPAN project pages:
 - `perlbrew`: <http://search.cpan.org/perldoc?App::perlbrew>
 - `local::lib`: <http://search.cpan.org/perldoc?local::lib>
 - `cpanm`: <http://search.cpan.org/perldoc?cpanm>