

# Perl for OpenVMS Alpha

## Installation Guide and Release Notes

Perl Version 5.6.1 for OpenVMS  
CPQ-AXPVMS-PERL-V0506-1-1.PCSI

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## Software Prerequisites

The **Perl for OpenVMS** kit requires the following software:

- OpenVMS Alpha Version 7.2-1 or higher

Perl runs with the *Compaq Secure Web Server for OpenVMS Alpha* via CSWS\_PERL. You can also use Perl in a standalone mode through the command line.

You do not need to install *Compaq Secure Web Server for OpenVMS* nor CSWS\_PERL to use Perl.

## Documentation

For more information about Perl, see [The Source for Perl](#) and [Perl Mongers](#).

See the [CSWS\\_PERL for Compaq Secure Web Server for OpenVMS Alpha Installation Guide and Release Notes](#) for information about running CSWS\_PERL with Perl and *Compaq Secure Web Server for OpenVMS*.

Perl packages sometimes contain documentation information within the package. If the installed package includes documentation, you can view it by defining the following foreign command:

```
$ PERLDOC ::= $PERL_ROOT:[000000] PERL.EXE -  
              PERL_ROOT:[LIB.POD] PERLDOC.COM -t
```

## Upgrading Perl from an Earlier Version

You can install a new Perl for OpenVMS kit over an existing version of Perl. Restart the *Compaq Secure Web Server* for the new Perl kit to take effect.

### Important

If you install a new Perl kit to a different location from an earlier Perl kit using the /DESTINATION qualifier on the PRODUCT INSTALL command line, the new Perl kit will not work with the *Compaq Secure Web Server* unless you follow the steps below. This occurs because the CSWS\_PERL for Compaq Secure Web Server kit (also known as MOD\_PERL) adds extensions to Perl. Those extensions, and any user-added extensions, remain in the original location.

If you want to install a new Perl kit to a different location, follow these steps:

1. Save your CSWS\_PERL configuration file  
(APACHE\$COMMON:[CONF]MOD\_PERL.CONF)
2. Make sure the PERL\_ROOT logical name is pointing to the old Perl location
3. Remove CSWS\_PERL
4. Install the new Perl kit to the new location
5. Point the PERL\_ROOT logical name to the new Perl location
6. Re-install CSWS\_PERL
7. Re-install any user-installed Perl extensions
8. Restore your CSWS\_PERL configuration file

## Installing Perl for OpenVMS

To install the Perl for OpenVMS Alpha kit, enter the following command where *DISK\$DKA0:[APACHE\_KITS]* is an example of a disk and directory name.

```
$ PRODUCT INSTALL PERL/DESTINATION=DISK$DKA0:[000000]
```

**Note:** Perl is not dependent on the *Compaq Secure Web Server for OpenVMS* installation and can reside anywhere on the system. *Compaq Secure Web Server* uses the PERL\_ROOT logical to locate Perl.

For a description of the features you can request with the PRODUCT INSTALL command when starting an installation such as running the IVP, purging files, and configuring the installation, see the *POLYCENTER Software Installation Utility User's Guide*.

As the installation procedure progresses, the system displays the following information.

```
The following product has been selected:  
CPQ AXPVMS PERL V5.6-1                Layered Product
```

```
Do you want to continue? [YES]
```

```
Configuration phase starting ...
```

```
You will be asked to choose options, if any, for each  
selected product and for any products that may be  
installed to satisfy software dependency requirements.
```

```
CPQ AXPVMS PERL V5.6-1
```

```
Compaq Computer Corporation.
```

```
* This product does not have any configuration options.
```

```
Execution phase starting ...
```

```
The following product will be installed to destination:  
CPQ AXPVMS PERL V5.6-1                DKB100:[000000.]
```

Portion done: 0%..10%..20%..30%..40%..50%..60%..70%..80%..90%..100%

The following product has been installed:

CPQ AXPVMS PERL V5.6-1 Layered Product

CPQ AXPVMS PERL V5.6-1

Post-installation tasks are required for Perl for OpenVMS.

The release notes give detailed directions. This information is a brief checklist.

Perl for OpenVMS can run standalone, however, this kit is a special build that supports the Compaq Secure Web Server. To enable this kit for use by the web server, the following logicals must be visible.

PERL\_ROOT - A rooted logical pointing to the top level directory of this Perl installation.

PERLSHR - Pointing to the Perl shared image for this installation.

To run perl scripts in a standalone fashion, define a foreign command to run the main Perl executable.

```
PERL := $PERL_ROOT:[000000]PERL.EXE
```

Also, help can be obtained from some of the Perl modules (if the author provided it). Help can be extracted by defining another foreign command.

```
PERLDOC := $PERL_ROOT:[000000]PERL.EXE -  
          PERL_ROOT:[LIB.POD]PERLDOC.COM -t
```

## Post-Installation Tasks

### 1. Define the PERL\_ROOT logical

In order for the *Compaq Secure Web Server for OpenVMS* software to use Perl (via CSWS\_PERL), Perl must be made available to the server processes. Two logicals are required to locate this kit for the *Compaq Secure Web Server*. If no other versions of Perl are being used on this system, it is recommended that these logicals be defined systemwide. Otherwise, the logicals must be defined as either /GROUP or /JOB by the main server process.

The PERL\_ROOT logical locates the top level directory of the Perl installation. It is rooted and must be a concealed logical.

For example:

```
$ DEFINE/SYSTEM/EXEC/TRANSLATION=CONCEALED -  
_ $ PERL_ROOT DKB100:[PERL5_006_01.]
```

### 2. Define the PERLSHR logical

Once the top level directory is defined, *Compaq Secure Web Server for OpenVMS* needs access to the shareable image in this kit (PERLSHR.EXE). By default, OpenVMS looks in SYS\$SHARE, but since this kit can be installed anywhere, this logical is necessary.

For example:

```
$ DEFINE/SYSTEM/EXEC PERLSHR -  
_ $ PERL_ROOT: [000000] PERLSHR.EXE
```

*Compaq Secure Web Server for OpenVMS* is now able to locate this installation of Perl.

### 3. Define the foreign command

Perl can also be used in a standalone mode without *Compaq Secure Web Server for OpenVMS*. To use Perl in this manner, define a foreign command to the Perl main image.

For example:

```
$ PERL ::= $PERL_ROOT: [000000] PERL.EXE
```

Perl scripts can then be executed from the command line by using this verb and the Perl script name as the parameter. Use the command "Perl -h" to see other options.

## Removing Perl for OpenVMS

You can remove the Perl for OpenVMS kit by using the POLYCENTER Software Installation utility. Enter the following command:

```
$ PRODUCT REMOVE PERL
```

This command removes all files and directories created by this installation. Note that if you install Perl packages to extend the capabilities of Perl or create additional files in the installation area, PCSI will not have knowledge of these files and will not delete them. This will cause the directory structure to remain because the directories will not be completely empty. Some manual intervention may be needed to completely remove the kit.

## Release Notes

This section contains notes on the current release of Perl for OpenVMS.

- Problem corrected in Perl V5.5-3A3 and Perl V5.6.1: SUBSYSTEM attribute added to a rights identifier

Perl V5.5-3A3 and Perl V5.6.1 correct a bug that occurred when you ran Perl from an account with the SUBSYSTEM attribute added to a rights identifier granted to that account. This bug put Perl into "taint" mode, but the method of doing so had some coding errors, which have been corrected.

- Problem corrected in Perl V5.5-3A3: Long environment variables caused process to exit from a buffer overflow

Perl V5.5-3A3 corrects a problem that occurred in Perl V5.5-3A2, whereby long environment variables caused the process to exit from a buffer overflow. (The Perl V5.5-3A2 [hot fix saveset](#) also corrects this problem.) This problem does not occur in Perl V5.6.1.

- o Problem corrected in Perl V5.5-3A2: Environment variables exceeding 255 characters

CSWS\_PERL uses logical names to contain environment variables used by Perl scripts. Previously, if the equivalence string for any logical name exceeded 255 characters, CSWS\_PERL terminated with the following error in APACHE\$ROOT:[LOGS]ERROR\_LOG:

```
Fatal VMS error (status=340) at ROOT$: [PERL5_006_01]VMS.C;2
```

This error was most likely to occur if your browser transmits an HTTP\_ACCEPT string that exceeds 255 characters.

This error has been corrected in Perl V5.5-3A2 and higher for OpenVMS. Environment variables can now contain up to 32,385 characters. If you have a version of Perl earlier than V5.5-3A2 installed, install the latest version, then reinstall CSWS\_PERL to correct this problem.

- o Tracking versions of Perl and CSWS\_PERL

The Perl and CSWS\_PERL kits are tightly connected. Future versions of Perl or CSWS\_PERL may not interact correctly across version numbers. Perl V5.6.1 runs with [CSWS\\_PERL V1.1](#). Perl V5.5-3A3 runs with CSWS\_PERL V1.0-1 and V1.0.

- o Multiple versions of Perl

You can run this kit of Perl on the same system with other versions of Perl. If you choose to do this, be careful that the *Compaq Secure Web Server* software "sees" this version of Perl. Otherwise, your web based scripts will not operate correctly. The way *Compaq Secure Web Server* "sees" Perl is through logical names. See [Post-Installation Tasks](#) for information about how to set these logical names.

- o Perl example syntax

Some examples found in Perl manuals do not show the same syntax as that required by this version of Perl. Compaq recommends that you use the [PERLDOC](#) feature to display the help text (if available) to find the correct syntax.

- o Perl-status location

Through *Compaq Secure Web Server*, the "perl-status" location gives useful information about Perl and CSWS\_PERL. Part of that wealth of information requires the `Devel::Symdump` Perl package to be installed. This kit does not contain that package. It can be obtained from CPAN via the web at: <http://www.perl.com>.

