

# Vanilla Perl

<http://vanillaperl.com/>

David Golden

Perl Seminar New York  
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Do you use Win32?

Do you use Perl on Win32?

# A "newer, tastier Perl for Windows"

chromatic

July 5, 2006

<http://tinyurl.com/y89eck>

More like Unix

Faster upgrade cycle

More choice

Don't use Win32?

You might, someday

Schadenfreude

"pleasure taken from  
someone else's  
misfortune"

"malicious glee or  
gloating"

Appreciate how  
good you have it

And write more  
portable code

HISTORY

In the beginning,  
there was `ActiveState`

And it was good

And it was good

NOT

^

Can't compile XS

CPAN.pm takes work

nmake.exe  
not included

Can't upgrade  
core modules

File::Spec

Scalar::Util

PPM is a great hack

Except when it sucks

# Annoying PPM build-farm constraints

Back-compatible to  
first 58x release

Modules can't require  
updated core modules

PPM doesn't include tests

PPM is free  
(as in beer)

PPM is not free  
(as in speech)

99%\* unnecessary

\* Poetic license

Except for XS

TIPPING POINT

Adam wanted PPI  
to "JFI"

Adam said:

*"I hereby offer a reward of  
a vertical metre of beer..."*

January 21, 2006

<http://use.perl.org/~Alias/journal/28427>

9 point victory condition

Adam wanted a better  
Perl for Windows

Executable installer

With a compiler

With CPAN.pm working  
"out of the box"

In a firewall/NAT setup

With public build  
instructions

"mmm... beer"

Carl and Stephen  
wanted beer

There can be only one

Winner:

Perl Camelpack 5.8.7

Steven Steneker

ActiveState +  
Bloodshed Dev-C  
(MinGW) + nmake

Runner up:

Vanilla Perl  
Carl Franks

Perl from source +  
MinGW compiler +  
dmake +  
ported Unix tools

Discussion ensued

[win32.perl.org](http://win32.perl.org)

Roadmap?  
Flavors?

Vanilla Perl:  
Experimental, enhanced  
compatibility (backports)

Strawberry Perl:  
More stable, plus some  
extra modules

Fast forward...

YAPC::NA 2006  
Chicago

David mentioned to Adam:

*"Maybe I can update  
Vanilla Perl as a  
hackathon project"*

During Adam's next  
presentation:

*"David Golden has  
promised to deliver  
Strawberry Perl Alpha 1  
during the Hackathon"*

Don't speculate near Adam

Or you'll be volunteered

Hack, hack, hack...

July 5, 2006:  
Vanilla Perl Build 4

Scripted build  
using Perl::Dist::Vanilla

No more external tools  
(tar, zip)

a better  
ExtUtils::Installer

Builds PPI!

Adam is happy

Hack, hack, hack...

July 9, 2006:  
Strawberry Perl Alpha 1

Based on Vanilla Perl

Perl::Dist::Builder

Perl::Dist::Strawberry

Bundle::CPAN

Bundle::LWP  
(CPAN via http)

Since then

# Vanilla Perl Builds 5-7

Strawberry Perl Alpha 2

Mostly updated modules

Can build  
Alien::wxWidgets!

WHAT'S GOOD?

Community

#win32

Ad hoc discussion

[win32.perl.org](http://win32.perl.org) wiki

# Announcements

# Roadmaps

# Brainstorms

Q & A

Bug hunting

Bug hunting

# "Vanilla Perl Problem Modules"

13 build failures

26 test failures

Insight: tests are rarely  
as careful as code

Lots of file path problems

Lots of assumptions

Forking

Signals

External programs

12 external dependency  
failures

14 pending patches

24 distributions fixed

Other achievements

1800+ download requests

Many major modules work

Supports v6.pm

Audrey using  
Vanilla Perl for \$job

WHAT'S BAD?

Ongoing:  
Portability bugs on CPAN

Maintainability:  
Perl::Dist::Builder sucks

It's ugly

It's not (easily) extensible

Annoyance:  
Installer could be better

# File associations

# Environment setup

Annoyance:  
Path to perl is hardcoded

c:\blah\bin\perl.exe

c:\blah\lib\

Perl 5.8.9 will support  
relative paths

Install where you want

c:\program files\perl

But what about those  
spaces in the path?

GRRRR!

Big problem:  
No external library  
support yet

e.g. Expat, GD, libpng

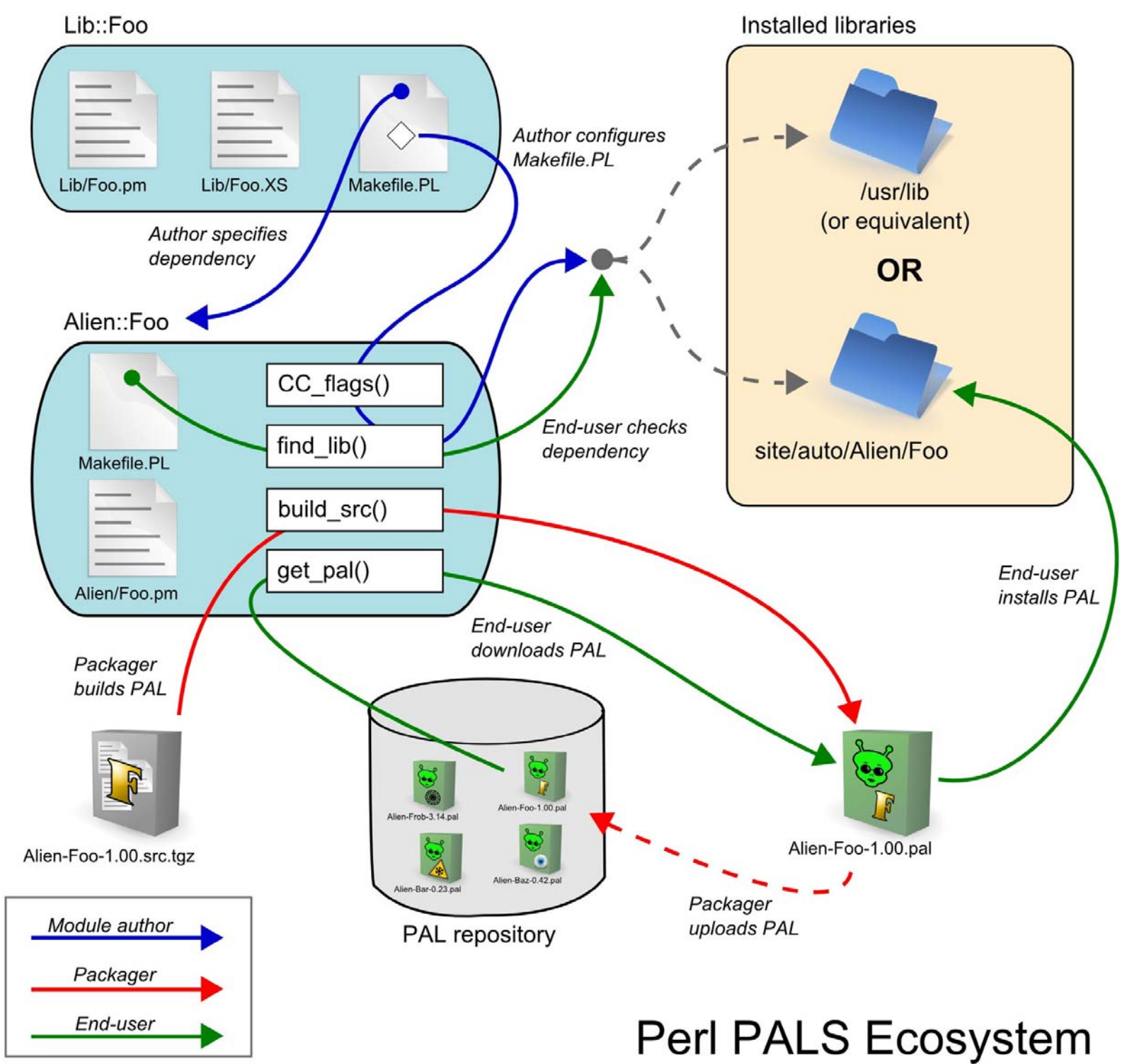
Many ideas,  
no conclusions  
yet

(a) Bundle libraries with  
Strawberry

(b) use/fix PPM somehow

(c) Enhance Alien::\*

Cue creepy music



# Perl PALS Ecosystem

(d) Punt (for now)

Workarounds:

win32.perl.org:

"Expat hacking"

"Vanilla Perl and GnuWin32"

WHAT'S NEXT?

Fix the bad stuff

# Roadmap for Vanilla

Update  
ExtUtils::MakeMaker  
& CPAN.pm (again)

use vendor/lib

Add g77 compiler

Eventually: better installer

Possibly: other toolchain  
components

MSYS

SWIG

autoconf

# Roadmap for Strawberry

Add PAR::Dist

Possibly: bundle some  
external libraries

Release 1.0 with Perl 5.8.9

New flavors?

# Chocolate Perl

("End-user" Perl)

Cayenne or Vindaloo Perl

(bleadperl for win32)

Pistachio Perl

(Perl + Jifty)

Or design your own

Questions?