Enough Perl to make you want more

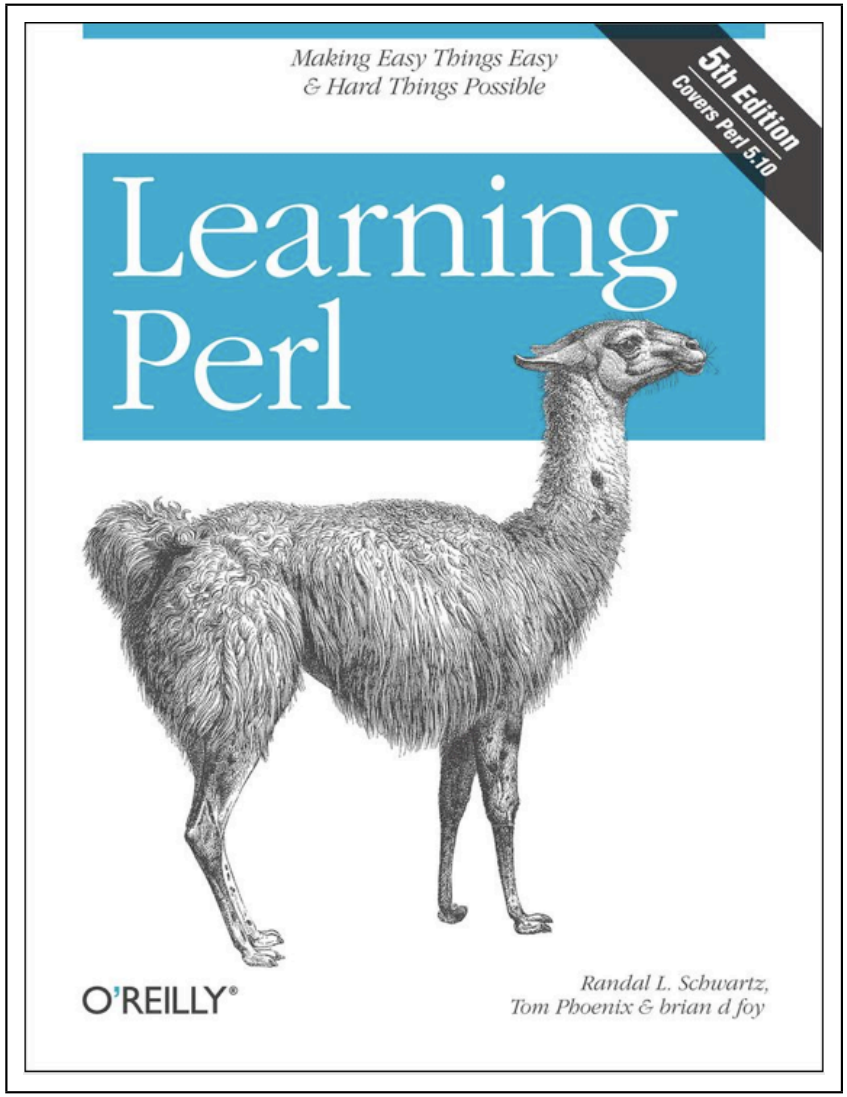
CMSC 331

UMBC

March 26, 2011

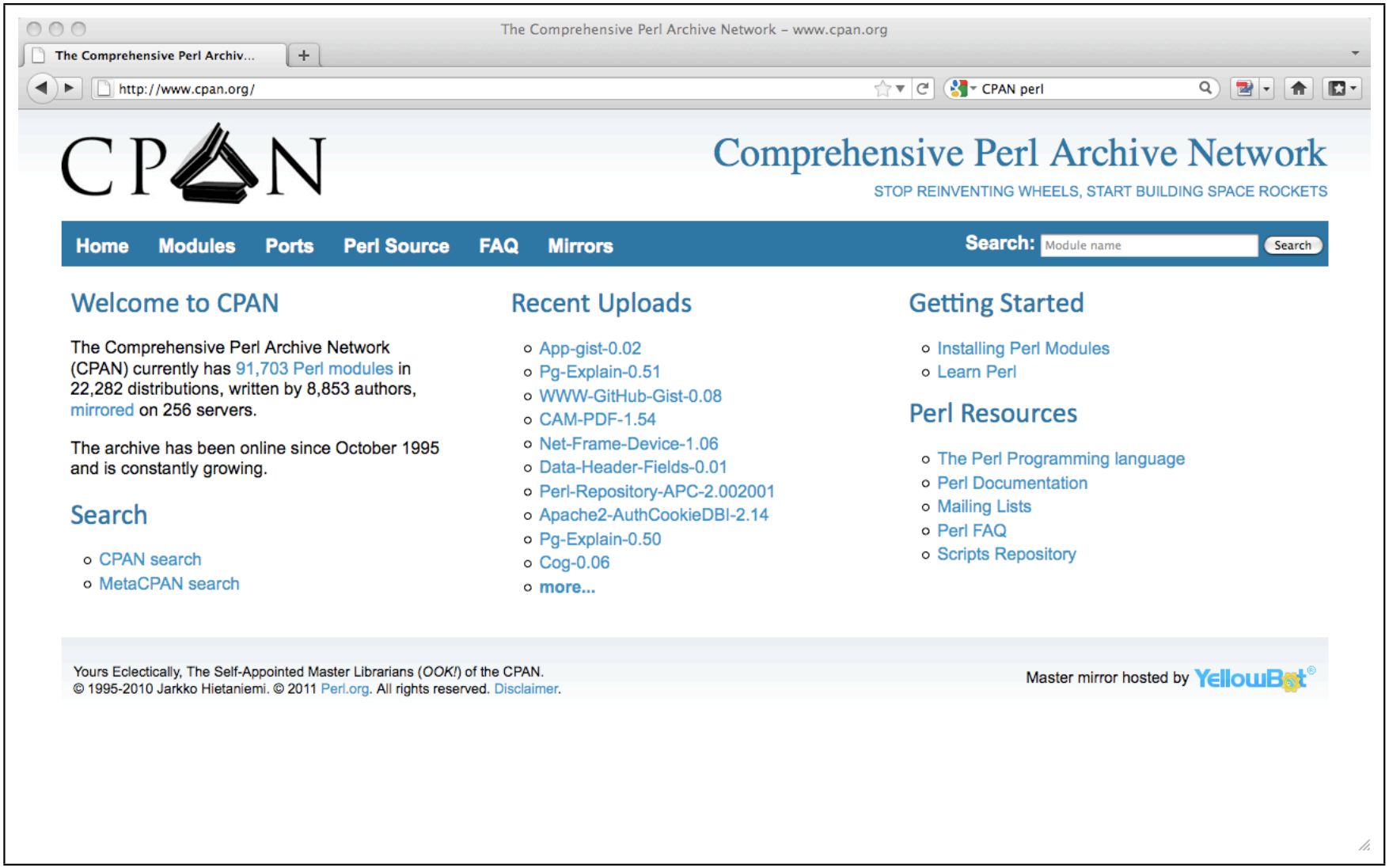
What is Perl good for?

- Practical Extraction and Reporting Language
- Quick and Dirty
- Very good for file and string processing
- Much (but not all) of this lecture based on the "Llama Book"



Why is Perl Popular?

- Seems a natural outgrowth of UNIX utilities like awk
- Combines benefits of interpreted and compiled code (How?)
- Lots of add-on packages available, via CPAN


The Comprehensive Perl Archive Network – www.cpan.org
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http://www.cpan.org/
CPAN perl
CPAN
Comprehensive Perl Archive Network
STOP REINVENTING WHEELS, START BUILDING SPACE ROCKETS
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Module name
Search
Welcome to CPAN
The Comprehensive Perl Archive Network (CPAN) currently has 91,703 Perl modules in 22,282 distributions, written by 8,853 authors, mirrored on 256 servers.
The archive has been online since October 1995 and is constantly growing.
Search
CPAN search
MetaCPAN search
Recent Uploads
App-gist-0.02
Pg-Explain-0.51
WWW-GitHub-Gist-0.08
CAM-PDF-1.54
Net-Frame-Device-1.06
Data-Header-Fields-0.01
Perl-Repository-APC-2.002001
Apache2-AuthCookieDBI-2.14
Pg-Explain-0.50
Cog-0.06
more...
Getting Started
Installing Perl Modules
Learn Perl
Perl Resources
The Perl Programming language
Perl Documentation
Mailing Lists
Perl FAQ
Scripts Repository
Yours Eclectically, The Self-Appointed Master Librarians (OOK!) of the CPAN.
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In many ways, Perl is like other languages

```
#!/usr/bin/perl
print "Hello, world!\n";  # a short Perl example
```

- Usual arithmetic operations, although almost everything is floating point; there's no integer data type
- Much of the syntax is borrowed from C