

CPAN / CPAN Shell / CPANPLUS Quick Reference Guide

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CPAN: The Comprehensive Perl Archive Network

- Stores source code for all versions of perl, as well as perl modules and scripts.
- Home page is <http://cpan.perl.org>, submissions stored by author in directories like <http://cpan.perl.org/modules/by-authors/id/J/JO/JOSHR/>
- Submissions are listed by author, category, module name, and recent-ness.
- A complete CPAN mirror is currently about 1.3GB.
- CPAN can be mirrored via rsync to a local /home/cpan/ directory like so:
% rsync -v -a favemirror.org::CPAN /home/cpan/
(replace favemirror.org::CPAN with an rsync host from CPAN/MIRRORED.BY)

CPAN Shell: Locates, downloads, builds, tests, and installs modules

- The CPAN Shell is invoked with % perl -MCPAN -e shell
- When used first time, will ask you a series of questions (ala gnu configure) to let you choose CPAN mirrors and machine-specific settings.
- If you have a local CPAN mirror, specify it as file:///home/cpan/ (note triple slash!).
- You can add it to an existing CPAN Shell configuration for that run with 'o conf urllist unshift file:///home/cpan/', or permanently by finding your /usr/local/perl-5.8.0/lib/5.8.0/CPAN/Config.pm file and modifying its urllist listref to begin with the appropriate file:/// url.
- CPAN Shell Command Guide (from "h" command in the CPAN shell):

a,b,d,m	WORD or /REGEXP/	about authors, bundles, distributions, modules
i	WORD or /REGEXP/	about anything of above
r	NONE	reinstall recommendations
ls	AUTHOR	about files in the author's directory
Download, Test, Make, Install		
get		download
make		make (implies get)
test	MODULES,	make test (implies make)
install	DISTS, BUNDLES	make install (implies test)
clean		make clean
look		open subshell in these dists' directories
readme		display these dists' README files
Other		! perl-code eval a perl command
o conf [opt]	set and query options	q quit the cpan shell
reload cpan	load CPAN.pm again	reload index load newer indices
autobundle	Snapshot	force cmd unconditionally do cmd

CPANPLUS: Next-Generation CPAN management, library and shell

- CPANPLUS Shell is invoked with % perl -MCPANPLUS -e shell
- Has new, enhanced shell and support for legacy CPAN Shell Interface.
- Aims to be eventual replacement of current CPAN package. Also known as CPAN++.
- Has completely rewritten, highly modular OO backend with plug-in architecture.
- CPANPLUS Command Guide:

h ?	# display help
q	# exit
v	# version information
[Search]	
a AUTHOR ...	# search by author(s)
m MODULE ...	# search by module(s)
f AUTHOR ...	# list all distributions by author(s)
o [MODULE ...]	# list installed module(s) that aren't up to date
[Operations]	
i MODULE NUMBER ...	# install module(s), by name or by search number
t MODULE NUMBER ...	# test module(s), by name or by search number
u MODULE NUMBER ...	# uninstall module(s), by name or by search number
d MODULE NUMBER ...	# download module(s) into current directory
l MODULE NUMBER ...	# display detailed information about module(s)
r MODULE NUMBER ...	# display README files of module(s)
c MODULE NUMBER ...	# check for module report(s) from cpan-testers
[Local Administration]	
e DIR ...	# add directories to your @INC
s [OPTION VALUE]	# set configuration options for this session
s conf save	# reconfigure settings / save current settings
! EXPR	# evaluate a perl statement
p [FILE]	# print the error stack (optionally to a file)
x	# reload CPAN indices