PerlCyc

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- Database of Solanaceae plants and related organisms
- tomato, potato, eggplant, pepper, petunia
- tobacco, Atropa belladonna
- Coffee
- Dealing with many organisms: Clade Oriented Database (COD)
- Data types: Genetic maps, EST sequences, unigene builds, gene families, pathway data, tomato genome data



PerlCyc

- What is it?
 - A Perl interface for Pathway Tools
- What is Perl?
 - Practical Extraction and Reporting Language
 - Language of the "C" family, developed from UNIX shell languages (yes, it's ugly!)
 - Excellent text handling capabilities
 - Object oriented models available
 - Popular in web programming and bioinformatics

Motivation

- Only few bioinformaticians know Lisp
- Make Pathway-Tools more accessible to the bioinformatics community
- Most bioinformaticians know Perl and/or Java.

Perlcyc features

- Allows to make calls to GFP and Pathway Tool functions from Perl
- Simple implementation
 - Written as a easy-to-use Perl module using general Object Perl conventions
- Secure
 - User needs access to file system

PerICyc implementation



PerlCyc API

- Implements both
 - Generic Frame Protocol (GFP) functions
 - Pathway Tools functions
- Function name conventions:
 - Replace dashes with underlines
 - Replace question marks with '_p'

Data type equivalents

- Note: Perl is not strongly typed!
 - Lisp list = Perl array
 - Lisp string = Perl scalar
 - Lisp symbol = Perl scalar
 - Lisp boolean ("NIL" | "t") = Perl scalar (NIL|t)
 - Lisp integer, etc = Perl scalar

PerICyc limitations

- Only one PerlCyc script can be running at a time (socket connection)
- Works only on UNIX
- Optional parameters to functions are not supported
- Certain functions may not be available
- It's just a thin layer frames are not implemented in Perl

Installing and running PerlCyc

- Requirements:
 - UNIX installation of Pathway Tools
 - Perl 5.6 or later
- Installation
 - Download PerICyc from TAIR http://arabidopsis.org/biocyc/perIcyc/
 - Follow installation instructions
 - Start pathway-tools using the -api option
 - Write and run PerlCyc perl scripts

Usage examples

```
#!/usr/bin/perl
use strict;
use perlcyc;
my $cyc = perlcyc -> new("ARA");
my @result = $cyc -> most_pathway_tools_functions();
# do something with results...
# ....
# at the end of script, clean up
$cyc -> close();
```

Sample Scripts

```
#!/usr/bin/perl
use strict;
use perlcyc;
```

```
my $cyc = perlcyc -> new("ARA");
my @reactions = $cyc -> all_rxns();
```

```
foreach my $reaction (@reactions) {
    print "$reaction\n";
    my $rname = $cyc -> get_slot_value($reaction, "in-pathway
    print "$rname\n";
}
$cyc->close();
```

```
#!/usr/bin/perl
use strict;
use perlcyc;
my $cyc = perlcyc -> new("ARA");
foreach my $g ($cyc->get_class_all_instances("|Genes|"))
  ł
   my $dblink = $cyc -> get_slot_value($g, "DBLINKS");
   print "DBLINKS: $dblink\n";
}
```

```
use strict;
my $added =0; my $genesprocessed=0;
my $cyc = perlcyc -> new ("ARA");
my @genes = $cyc -> get_class_all_instances ("|Genes|");
print "Adding TAIR links...\n";
foreach my $g (@genes) {
```

```
$genesprocessed++;
```

\$added++;

}

```
}
if ($genesprocessed % 1000 == 0) { print
"$genesprocessed\r";}
```

print "Processed \$genesprocessed genes and added

JavaCyc

- A similar interface for Java
- Written by Thomas Yan (TAIR)
- Available from TAIR

Future directions

- Improvements to address limitations
- Support for more languages
- Library of PerlCyc scripts

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Perl scripting as a spectator sport