

NAME

README.epoc - Perl for EPOC

SYNOPSIS

Perl 5 README file for the EPOC Release 5 operating system.

INTRODUCTION

EPOC is an OS for palmtops and mobile phones. For more informations look at:
<http://www.symbian.com/>

This is a port of perl to the epocemx SDK by Eberhard Mattes, which itself uses the SDK by symbian. Essentially epocemx it is a POSIX look alike environment for the EPOC OS. For more information look at: <http://epocemx.sourceforge.net/>

perl and epocemx runs on Epoc Release 5 machines: Psion 5mx, 5mx Pro, Psion Revo, Psion Netbook and on the Ericsson M128. It may run on Epoc Release 3 Hardware (Series 5 classic), too. For more information about this hardware please refer to <http://www.pSION.com/>

Vendors which like to have support for their devices are free to send me a sample.

INSTALLING PERL ON EPOC

You can download a ready-to-install version from <http://www.oflebbe.de/oflebbe/perl/>

You will need at least ~6MB free space in order to install and run perl.

Please install the emxusr.sis package from <http://epocemx.sourceforge.net/> first.

Install perl.sis on the EPOC machine. If you do not know how to do that, consult your PsiWin documentation.

Perl itself and its standard library is using 4 MB disk space. Unicode support and some other modules are left out. (For details, please look into `epoc/createpkg.pl`). If you like to use these modules, you are free to copy them from a current perl release.

STARTING PERL ON EPOC

Please use the epocemx shell to start perl. perl integrates with the conventions of epocemx.

Editors on Epoc

A suitable text editor can be downloaded from symbian
<http://www.symbian.com/developer/downloads/files/editor.zip>

Features of Perl on Epoc

The built-in function `EPOC::getcwd` returns the current directory.

Restrictions of Perl on Epoc

Features are left out, because of restrictions of the POSIX support in EPOC:

- socket IO is only implemented poorly. You can only use `sysread` and `syswrite` on them. The commands `read`, `write`, `print`, `<>` do not work for sockets. This may change iff epocemx supports sockets.
- `kill`, `alarm` and signals. Do not try to use them. This may be impossible to implement on EPOC.
- `select` is missing.
- `binmode` does not exist. (No CR LF to LF translation for text files)
- EPOC does not handle the notion of current drive and current directory very well (i.e. not at all, but it tries hard to emulate one). See `PATH`.

- Heap is limited to 4MB.
- Dynamic loading is not implemented.

Compiling Perl 5 on the EPOC cross compiling environment

Sorry, this is far too short.

- You will need the epocemx SDK from Eberhard Mattes.
- Get the Perl sources from your nearest CPAN site.
- Unpack the sources.
- Build a native perl from this sources... Make sure to save the miniperl executable as miniperl.native.

Start again from scratch

```
cp epoc/* .
./Configure -S
make
cp miniperl.native miniperl
touch miniperl.exe
make
perl createpkg.pl

emxsis perl.pkg perl.sis
```

SUPPORT STATUS OF PERL ON EPOC

I'm offering this port "as is". You can ask me questions, but I can't guarantee I'll be able to answer them. Since the port to epocemx is quite new, please check the web for updates first.

Very special thanks to Eberhard Mattes for epocemx.

AUTHOR

Olaf Flebbe <olaf@oflebbe.de> <http://www.oflebbe.de/oflebbe/perl/>

LAST UPDATE

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