

Re: Perl usage

Source: <http://coding.derkeiler.com/Archive/Perl/comp.lang.perl.misc/2007-11/msg01215.html>

- *From:* Charlton Wilbur <cwilbur@xxxxxxxxxxxxxx>
 - *Date:* 27 Nov 2007 10:16:24 -0500
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"x" == xhoster
<xhoster@xxxxxxxxxx>
writes:

x> If the manager did give you reasons (not covered in the FAQs),
x> we could possibly formulate rebuttals to do them, if we knew
x> what those reasons were.

It's also worth reiterating here that you can't reason someone out of a position that he or she didn't get to by reason in the first place. In other words, no matter what reason he gives, if your manager arrived at the decision not to use Perl based on gut feelings and subjective impressions, you most likely won't be able to argue him out of it with facts.

I've been in this situation a couple times. When you have more than 3 or 4 people in the organization, the options really boil down to these: first, you can get a consensus among 2/3 of the people working there that they would be better off in another language; second, you can get a new VP who thinks the old way is bad and the Perl way is clearly the way of the future, and who has enough credibility with his fellow VPs to make that pronouncement stick; third, you can stick with whatever the dominant programming language there is; fourth, you can find a job somewhere that they use Perl.

Managers think, and by and large correctly, that they're better off sticking with a language that their team is comfortable and productive in, even if it has clear technical shortcomings, than switching to a new and untested language, even if it has clear technical advantages. Some of this is merely being conservative, but managers are also more concerned with clear forecasting: you can get a more reliable estimate of how long a project will take with a tool you know than with a tool you don't know, and it's better from a business point of view to have a reliable estimate than to have a chance of finishing it in half the time but a comparable chance that it will take twice as long.

Charlton

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