

NAME

perlebcdic - Considerations for running Perl on EBCDIC platforms

DESCRIPTION

An exploration of some of the issues facing Perl programmers on EBCDIC based computers. We do not cover localization, internationalization, or multi byte character set issues other than some discussion of UTF-8 and UTF-EBCDIC.

Portions that are still incomplete are marked with XXX.

COMMON CHARACTER CODE SETS

ASCII

The American Standard Code for Information Interchange is a set of integers running from 0 to 127 (decimal) that imply character interpretation by the display and other system(s) of computers. The range 0..127 can be covered by setting the bits in a 7-bit binary digit, hence the set is sometimes referred to as a "7-bit ASCII". ASCII was described by the American National Standards Institute document ANSI X3.4-1986. It was also described by ISO 646:1991 (with localization for currency symbols). The full ASCII set is given in the table below as the first 128 elements. Languages that can be written adequately with the characters in ASCII include English, Hawaiian, Indonesian, Swahili and some Native American languages.

There are many character sets that extend the range of integers from 0..2**7-1 up to 2**8-1, or 8 bit bytes (octets if you prefer). One common one is the ISO 8859-1 character set.

ISO 8859

The ISO 8859-\$n are a collection of character code sets from the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) each of which adds characters to the ASCII set that are typically found in European languages many of which are based on the Roman, or Latin, alphabet.

Latin 1 (ISO 8859-1)

A particular 8-bit extension to ASCII that includes grave and acute accented Latin characters. Languages that can employ ISO 8859-1 include all the languages covered by ASCII as well as Afrikaans, Albanian, Basque, Catalan, Danish, Faroese, Finnish, Norwegian, Portuguese, Spanish, and Swedish. Dutch is covered albeit without the ij ligature. French is covered too but without the oe ligature. German can use ISO 8859-1 but must do so without German-style quotation marks. This set is based on Western European extensions to ASCII and is commonly encountered in world wide web work. In IBM character code set identification terminology ISO 8859-1 is also known as CCSID 819 (or sometimes 0819 or even 00819).

EBCDIC

The Extended Binary Coded Decimal Interchange Code refers to a large collection of slightly different single and multi byte coded character sets that are different from ASCII or ISO 8859-1 and typically run on host computers. The EBCDIC encodings derive from 8 bit byte extensions of Hollerith punched card encodings. The layout on the cards was such that high bits were set for the upper and lower case alphabet characters [a-z] and [A-Z], but there were gaps within each latin alphabet range.

Some IBM EBCDIC character sets may be known by character code set identification numbers (CCSID numbers) or code page numbers. Leading zero digits in CCSID numbers within this document are insignificant. E.g. CCSID 0037 may be referred to as 37 in places.

13 variant characters

Among IBM EBCDIC character code sets there are 13 characters that are often mapped to different integer values. Those characters are known as the 13 "variant" characters and are:

`\ [] { } ^ ~ ! # | $ @ ``

0037

Character code set ID 0037 is a mapping of the ASCII plus Latin-1 characters (i.e. ISO 8859-1) to an EBCDIC set. 0037 is used in North American English locales on the OS/400 operating system that runs on AS/400 computers. CCSID 37 differs from ISO 8859-1 in 237 places, in other words they agree on only 19 code point values.

1047

Character code set ID 1047 is also a mapping of the ASCII plus Latin-1 characters (i.e. ISO 8859-1) to an EBCDIC set. 1047 is used under Unix System Services for OS/390 or z/OS, and OpenEdition for VM/ESA. CCSID 1047 differs from CCSID 0037 in eight places.

POSIX-BC

The EBCDIC code page in use on Siemens' BS2000 system is distinct from 1047 and 0037. It is identified below as the POSIX-BC set.

Unicode code points versus EBCDIC code points

In Unicode terminology a *code point* is the number assigned to a character: for example, in EBCDIC the character "A" is usually assigned the number 193. In Unicode the character "A" is assigned the number 65. This causes a problem with the semantics of the pack/unpack "U", which are supposed to pack Unicode code points to characters and back to numbers. The problem is: which code points to use for code points less than 256? (for 256 and over there's no problem: Unicode code points are used) In EBCDIC, for the low 256 the EBCDIC code points are used. This means that the equivalences

```
pack("U", ord($character)) eq $character
unpack("U", $character) == ord $character
```

will hold. (If Unicode code points were applied consistently over all the possible code points, pack("U",ord("A")) would in EBCDIC equal *A with acute* or chr(101), and unpack("U", "A") would equal 65, or *non-breaking space*, not 193, or ord "A".)

Remaining Perl Unicode problems in EBCDIC

- Many of the remaining seem to be related to case-insensitive matching: for example, `/[\x{131}]/` (LATIN SMALL LETTER DOTLESS I) does not match "I" case-insensitively, as it should under Unicode. (The match succeeds in ASCII-derived platforms.)
- The extensions `Unicode::Collate` and `Unicode::Normalized` are not supported under EBCDIC, likewise for the encoding pragma.

Unicode and UTF

UTF is a Unicode Transformation Format. UTF-8 is a Unicode conforming representation of the Unicode standard that looks very much like ASCII. UTF-EBCDIC is an attempt to represent Unicode characters in an EBCDIC transparent manner.

Using Encode

Starting from Perl 5.8 you can use the standard new module Encode to translate from EBCDIC to Latin-1 code points

```
use Encode 'from_to';

my %ebcdic = ( 176 => 'cp37', 95 => 'cp1047', 106 => 'posix-bc' );

# $a is in EBCDIC code points
from_to($a, %ebcdic{ord '^'}, 'latin1');
# $a is ISO 8859-1 code points
```

and from Latin-1 code points to EBCDIC code points

```
use Encode 'from_to';

my %ebcdic = ( 176 => 'cp37', 95 => 'cp1047', 106 => 'posix-bc' );

# $a is ISO 8859-1 code points
from_to($a, 'latin1', $ebcdic{ord '^'});
# $a is in EBCDIC code points
```

For doing I/O it is suggested that you use the autotranslating features of PerlIO, see *perluniintro*.

Since version 5.8 Perl uses the new PerlIO I/O library. This enables you to use different encodings per IO channel. For example you may use

```
use Encode;
open($f, ">:encoding(ascii)", "test.ascii");
print $f "Hello World!\n";
open($f, ">:encoding(cp37)", "test.ebcdic");
print $f "Hello World!\n";
open($f, ">:encoding(latin1)", "test.latin1");
print $f "Hello World!\n";
open($f, ">:encoding(utf8)", "test.utf8");
print $f "Hello World!\n";
```

to get two files containing "Hello World!\n" in ASCII, CP 37 EBCDIC, ISO 8859-1 (Latin-1) (in this example identical to ASCII) respective UTF-EBCDIC (in this example identical to normal EBCDIC). See the documentation of Encode::PerlIO for details.

As the PerlIO layer uses raw IO (bytes) internally, all this totally ignores things like the type of your filesystem (ASCII or EBCDIC).

SINGLE OCTET TABLES

The following tables list the ASCII and Latin 1 ordered sets including the subsets: C0 controls (0..31), ASCII graphics (32..7e), delete (7f), C1 controls (80..9f), and Latin-1 (a.k.a. ISO 8859-1) (a0..ff). In the table non-printing control character names as well as the Latin 1 extensions to ASCII have been labelled with character names roughly corresponding to *The Unicode Standard, Version 3.0* albeit with substitutions such as s/LATIN// and s/VULGAR// in all cases, s/CAPITAL LETTER// in some cases, and s/SMALL LETTER ([A-Z])/!\$1/ in some other cases (the `chardnames` pragma names unfortunately do not list explicit names for the C0 or C1 control characters). The "names" of the C1 control set (128..159 in ISO 8859-1) listed here are somewhat arbitrary. The differences between the 0037 and 1047 sets are flagged with *******. The differences between the 1047 and POSIX-BC sets are flagged with **###**. All `ord()` numbers listed are decimal. If you would rather see this table listing octal values then run the table (that is, the pod version of this document since this recipe may not work with a `pod2_other_format` translation) through:

recipe 0

```
perl -ne 'if(/(.{33})(\d+)\s+(\d+)\s+(\d+)\s+(\d+)/)' \
-e '{printf("%s%-9o%-9o%-9o%\n", $1, $2, $3, $4, $5)}' perlebcdic.pod
```

If you want to retain the UTF-x code points then in script form you might want to write:

recipe 1

```
open(FH, "<perlebcdic.pod") or die "Could not open perlebcdic.pod: $!";
while (<FH> {
```


<START OF HEADING> 1	1	1	1	1	1
<START OF TEXT> 2	2	2	2	2	2
<END OF TEXT> 3	3	3	3	3	3
<END OF TRANSMISSION> 55	4	55	55	55	4
<ENQUIRY> 45	5	45	45	45	5
<ACKNOWLEDGE> 46	6	46	46	46	6
<BELL> 47	7	47	47	47	7
<BACKSPACE> 22	8	22	22	22	8
<HORIZONTAL TABULATION> 5	9	5	5	5	9
<LINE FEED> 21 ***	10	37	21	21	10
<VERTICAL TABULATION> 11	11	11	11	11	11
<FORM FEED> 12	12	12	12	12	12
<CARRIAGE RETURN> 13	13	13	13	13	13
<SHIFT OUT> 14	14	14	14	14	14
<SHIFT IN> 15	15	15	15	15	15
<DATA LINK ESCAPE> 16	16	16	16	16	16
<DEVICE CONTROL ONE> 17	17	17	17	17	17
<DEVICE CONTROL TWO> 18	18	18	18	18	18
<DEVICE CONTROL THREE> 19	19	19	19	19	19
<DEVICE CONTROL FOUR> 60	20	60	60	60	20
<NEGATIVE ACKNOWLEDGE> 61	21	61	61	61	21
<SYNCHRONOUS IDLE> 50	22	50	50	50	22
<END OF TRANSMISSION BLOCK> 38	23	38	38	38	23
<CANCEL> 24	24	24	24	24	24
<END OF MEDIUM> 25	25	25	25	25	25
<SUBSTITUTE> 63	26	63	63	63	26
<ESCAPE> 39	27	39	39	39	27
<FILE SEPARATOR> 28	28	28	28	28	28

<GROUP SEPARATOR> 29	29	29	29	29	29
<RECORD SEPARATOR> 30	30	30	30	30	30
<UNIT SEPARATOR> 31	31	31	31	31	31
<SPACE> 64	32	64	64	64	32
! 90	33	90	90	90	33
" 127	34	127	127	127	34
# 123	35	123	123	123	35
\$ 91	36	91	91	91	36
% 108	37	108	108	108	37
& 80	38	80	80	80	38
' 125	39	125	125	125	39
(77	40	77	77	77	40
) 93	41	93	93	93	41
* 92	42	92	92	92	42
+ 78	43	78	78	78	43
, 107	44	107	107	107	44
- 96	45	96	96	96	45
. 75	46	75	75	75	46
/ 97	47	97	97	97	47
0 240	48	240	240	240	48
1 241	49	241	241	241	49
2 242	50	242	242	242	50
3 243	51	243	243	243	51
4 244	52	244	244	244	52
5 245	53	245	245	245	53
6 246	54	246	246	246	54
7 247	55	247	247	247	55
8 248	56	248	248	248	56

9	57	249	249	249	57
249					
:	58	122	122	122	58
122					
;	59	94	94	94	59
94					
<	60	76	76	76	60
76					
=	61	126	126	126	61
126					
>	62	110	110	110	62
110					
?	63	111	111	111	63
111					
@	64	124	124	124	64
124					
A	65	193	193	193	65
193					
B	66	194	194	194	66
194					
C	67	195	195	195	67
195					
D	68	196	196	196	68
196					
E	69	197	197	197	69
197					
F	70	198	198	198	70
198					
G	71	199	199	199	71
199					
H	72	200	200	200	72
200					
I	73	201	201	201	73
201					
J	74	209	209	209	74
209					
K	75	210	210	210	75
210					
L	76	211	211	211	76
211					
M	77	212	212	212	77
212					
N	78	213	213	213	78
213					
O	79	214	214	214	79
214					
P	80	215	215	215	80
215					
Q	81	216	216	216	81
216					
R	82	217	217	217	82
217					
S	83	226	226	226	83
226					
T	84	227	227	227	84
227					

U			85	228	228	228	85
	228						
V			86	229	229	229	86
	229						
W			87	230	230	230	87
	230						
X			88	231	231	231	88
	231						
Y			89	232	232	232	89
	232						
Z			90	233	233	233	90
	233						
[91	186	173	187	91
	173	*** ###					
\			92	224	224	188	92
	224	###					
]			93	187	189	189	93
	189	***					
^			94	176	95	106	94
	95	*** ###					
_			95	109	109	109	95
	109						
`			96	121	121	74	96
	121	###					
a			97	129	129	129	97
	129						
b			98	130	130	130	98
	130						
c			99	131	131	131	99
	131						
d			100	132	132	132	100
	132						
e			101	133	133	133	101
	133						
f			102	134	134	134	102
	134						
g			103	135	135	135	103
	135						
h			104	136	136	136	104
	136						
i			105	137	137	137	105
	137						
j			106	145	145	145	106
	145						
k			107	146	146	146	107
	146						
l			108	147	147	147	108
	147						
m			109	148	148	148	109
	148						
n			110	149	149	149	110
	149						
o			111	150	150	150	111
	150						
p			112	151	151	151	112
	151						

q			113	152	152	152	113
152							
r			114	153	153	153	114
153							
s			115	162	162	162	115
162							
t			116	163	163	163	116
163							
u			117	164	164	164	117
164							
v			118	165	165	165	118
165							
w			119	166	166	166	119
166							
x			120	167	167	167	120
167							
y			121	168	168	168	121
168							
z			122	169	169	169	122
169							
{			123	192	192	251	123
192	###						
			124	79	79	79	124
79							
}			125	208	208	253	125
208	###						
~			126	161	161	255	126
161	###						
<DELETE>			127	7	7	7	127
7							
<C1 0>			128	32	32	32	
194.128 32							
<C1 1>			129	33	33	33	
194.129 33							
<C1 2>			130	34	34	34	
194.130 34							
<C1 3>			131	35	35	35	
194.131 35							
<C1 4>			132	36	36	36	
194.132 36							
<C1 5>			133	21	37	37	
194.133 37	***						
<C1 6>			134	6	6	6	
194.134 6							
<C1 7>			135	23	23	23	
194.135 23							
<C1 8>			136	40	40	40	
194.136 40							
<C1 9>			137	41	41	41	
194.137 41							
<C1 10>			138	42	42	42	
194.138 42							
<C1 11>			139	43	43	43	
194.139 43							
<C1 12>			140	44	44	44	
194.140 44							

<C1 13>	141	9	9	9
194.141 9				
<C1 14>	142	10	10	10
194.142 10				
<C1 15>	143	27	27	27
194.143 27				
<C1 16>	144	48	48	48
194.144 48				
<C1 17>	145	49	49	49
194.145 49				
<C1 18>	146	26	26	26
194.146 26				
<C1 19>	147	51	51	51
194.147 51				
<C1 20>	148	52	52	52
194.148 52				
<C1 21>	149	53	53	53
194.149 53				
<C1 22>	150	54	54	54
194.150 54				
<C1 23>	151	8	8	8
194.151 8				
<C1 24>	152	56	56	56
194.152 56				
<C1 25>	153	57	57	57
194.153 57				
<C1 26>	154	58	58	58
194.154 58				
<C1 27>	155	59	59	59
194.155 59				
<C1 28>	156	4	4	4
194.156 4				
<C1 29>	157	20	20	20
194.157 20				
<C1 30>	158	62	62	62
194.158 62				
<C1 31>	159	255	255	95
194.159 255				
###				
<NON-BREAKING SPACE>	160	65	65	65
194.160 128.65				
<INVERTED EXCLAMATION MARK>	161	170	170	170
194.161 128.66				
<CENT SIGN>	162	74	74	176
194.162 128.67				
###				
<POUND SIGN>	163	177	177	177
194.163 128.68				
<CURRENCY SIGN>	164	159	159	159
194.164 128.69				
<YEN SIGN>	165	178	178	178
194.165 128.70				
<BROKEN BAR>	166	106	106	208
194.166 128.71				
###				
<SECTION SIGN>	167	181	181	181
194.167 128.72				
<DIAERESIS>	168	189	187	121
194.168 128.73				
*** ###				

<COPYRIGHT SIGN>	169	180	180	180
194.169 128.74				
<FEMININE ORDINAL INDICATOR>	170	154	154	154
194.170 128.81				
<LEFT POINTING GUILLEMET>	171	138	138	138
194.171 128.82				
<NOT SIGN>	172	95	176	186
194.172 128.83 *** ###				
<SOFT HYPHEN>	173	202	202	202
194.173 128.84				
<REGISTERED TRADE MARK SIGN>	174	175	175	175
194.174 128.85				
<MACRON>	175	188	188	161
194.175 128.86 ###				
<DEGREE SIGN>	176	144	144	144
194.176 128.87				
<PLUS-OR-MINUS SIGN>	177	143	143	143
194.177 128.88				
<SUPERSCRIPT TWO>	178	234	234	234
194.178 128.89				
<SUPERSCRIPT THREE>	179	250	250	250
194.179 128.98				
<ACUTE ACCENT>	180	190	190	190
194.180 128.99				
<MICRO SIGN>	181	160	160	160
194.181 128.100				
<PARAGRAPH SIGN>	182	182	182	182
194.182 128.101				
<MIDDLE DOT>	183	179	179	179
194.183 128.102				
<CEDILLA>	184	157	157	157
194.184 128.103				
<SUPERSCRIPT ONE>	185	218	218	218
194.185 128.104				
<MASC. ORDINAL INDICATOR>	186	155	155	155
194.186 128.105				
<RIGHT POINTING GUILLEMET>	187	139	139	139
194.187 128.106				
<FRACTION ONE QUARTER>	188	183	183	183
194.188 128.112				
<FRACTION ONE HALF>	189	184	184	184
194.189 128.113				
<FRACTION THREE QUARTERS>	190	185	185	185
194.190 128.114				
<INVERTED QUESTION MARK>	191	171	171	171
194.191 128.115				
<A WITH GRAVE>	192	100	100	100
195.128 138.65				
<A WITH ACUTE>	193	101	101	101
195.129 138.66				
<A WITH CIRCUMFLEX>	194	98	98	98
195.130 138.67				
<A WITH TILDE>	195	102	102	102
195.131 138.68				
<A WITH DIAERESIS>	196	99	99	99
195.132 138.69				

<A WITH RING ABOVE>	197	103	103	103
195.133 138.70				
<CAPITAL LIGATURE AE>	198	158	158	158
195.134 138.71				
<C WITH CEDILLA>	199	104	104	104
195.135 138.72				
<E WITH GRAVE>	200	116	116	116
195.136 138.73				
<E WITH ACUTE>	201	113	113	113
195.137 138.74				
<E WITH CIRCUMFLEX>	202	114	114	114
195.138 138.81				
<E WITH DIAERESIS>	203	115	115	115
195.139 138.82				
<I WITH GRAVE>	204	120	120	120
195.140 138.83				
<I WITH ACUTE>	205	117	117	117
195.141 138.84				
<I WITH CIRCUMFLEX>	206	118	118	118
195.142 138.85				
<I WITH DIAERESIS>	207	119	119	119
195.143 138.86				
<CAPITAL LETTER ETH>	208	172	172	172
195.144 138.87				
<N WITH TILDE>	209	105	105	105
195.145 138.88				
<O WITH GRAVE>	210	237	237	237
195.146 138.89				
<O WITH ACUTE>	211	238	238	238
195.147 138.98				
<O WITH CIRCUMFLEX>	212	235	235	235
195.148 138.99				
<O WITH TILDE>	213	239	239	239
195.149 138.100				
<O WITH DIAERESIS>	214	236	236	236
195.150 138.101				
<MULTIPLICATION SIGN>	215	191	191	191
195.151 138.102				
<O WITH STROKE>	216	128	128	128
195.152 138.103				
<U WITH GRAVE>	217	253	253	224
195.153 138.104 ###				
<U WITH ACUTE>	218	254	254	254
195.154 138.105				
<U WITH CIRCUMFLEX>	219	251	251	221
195.155 138.106 ###				
<U WITH DIAERESIS>	220	252	252	252
195.156 138.112				
<Y WITH ACUTE>	221	173	186	173
195.157 138.113 *** ###				
<CAPITAL LETTER THORN>	222	174	174	174
195.158 138.114				
<SMALL LETTER SHARP S>	223	89	89	89
195.159 138.115				
<a WITH GRAVE>	224	68	68	68
195.160 139.65				

<a WITH ACUTE>	225	69	69	69
195.161 139.66				
<a WITH CIRCUMFLEX>	226	66	66	66
195.162 139.67				
<a WITH TILDE>	227	70	70	70
195.163 139.68				
<a WITH DIAERESIS>	228	67	67	67
195.164 139.69				
<a WITH RING ABOVE>	229	71	71	71
195.165 139.70				
<SMALL LIGATURE ae>	230	156	156	156
195.166 139.71				
<c WITH CEDILLA>	231	72	72	72
195.167 139.72				
<e WITH GRAVE>	232	84	84	84
195.168 139.73				
<e WITH ACUTE>	233	81	81	81
195.169 139.74				
<e WITH CIRCUMFLEX>	234	82	82	82
195.170 139.81				
<e WITH DIAERESIS>	235	83	83	83
195.171 139.82				
<i WITH GRAVE>	236	88	88	88
195.172 139.83				
<i WITH ACUTE>	237	85	85	85
195.173 139.84				
<i WITH CIRCUMFLEX>	238	86	86	86
195.174 139.85				
<i WITH DIAERESIS>	239	87	87	87
195.175 139.86				
<SMALL LETTER eth>	240	140	140	140
195.176 139.87				
<n WITH TILDE>	241	73	73	73
195.177 139.88				
<o WITH GRAVE>	242	205	205	205
195.178 139.89				
<o WITH ACUTE>	243	206	206	206
195.179 139.98				
<o WITH CIRCUMFLEX>	244	203	203	203
195.180 139.99				
<o WITH TILDE>	245	207	207	207
195.181 139.100				
<o WITH DIAERESIS>	246	204	204	204
195.182 139.101				
<DIVISION SIGN>	247	225	225	225
195.183 139.102				
<o WITH STROKE>	248	112	112	112
195.184 139.103				
<u WITH GRAVE>	249	221	221	192
195.185 139.104 ###				
<u WITH ACUTE>	250	222	222	222
195.186 139.105				
<u WITH CIRCUMFLEX>	251	219	219	219
195.187 139.106				
<u WITH DIAERESIS>	252	220	220	220
195.188 139.112				

<y WITH ACUTE>	253	141	141	141
195.189 139.113				
<SMALL LETTER thorn>	254	142	142	142
195.190 139.114				
<y WITH DIAERESIS>	255	223	223	223
195.191 139.115				

If you would rather see the above table in CCSID 0037 order rather than ASCII + Latin-1 order then run the table through:

recipe 4

```
perl -ne
'if(/.{33}\d{1,3}\s{6,8}\d{1,3}\s{6,8}\d{1,3}\s{6,8}\d{1,3}/)\
-e '{push(@l,$_)}' \
-e 'END{print map{$_->[0]}' \
-e '      sort{$a->[1] <=> $b->[1]}' \
-e '      map{[$_ ,substr($_,42,3)]@l;}' perlebcdic.pod
```

If you would rather see it in CCSID 1047 order then change the digit 42 in the last line to 51, like this:

recipe 5

```
perl -ne
'if(/.{33}\d{1,3}\s{6,8}\d{1,3}\s{6,8}\d{1,3}\s{6,8}\d{1,3}/)\
-e '{push(@l,$_)}' \
-e 'END{print map{$_->[0]}' \
-e '      sort{$a->[1] <=> $b->[1]}' \
-e '      map{[$_ ,substr($_,51,3)]@l;}' perlebcdic.pod
```

If you would rather see it in POSIX-BC order then change the digit 51 in the last line to 60, like this:

recipe 6

```
perl -ne
'if(/.{33}\d{1,3}\s{6,8}\d{1,3}\s{6,8}\d{1,3}\s{6,8}\d{1,3}/)\
-e '{push(@l,$_)}' \
-e 'END{print map{$_->[0]}' \
-e '      sort{$a->[1] <=> $b->[1]}' \
-e '      map{[$_ ,substr($_,60,3)]@l;}' perlebcdic.pod
```

IDENTIFYING CHARACTER CODE SETS

To determine the character set you are running under from perl one could use the return value of `ord()` or `chr()` to test one or more character values. For example:

```
$is_ascii = "A" eq chr(65);
$is_ebcdic = "A" eq chr(193);
```

Also, `"\t"` is a HORIZONTAL TABULATION character so that:

```
$is_ascii = ord("\t") == 9;
$is_ebcdic = ord("\t") == 5;
```

To distinguish EBCDIC code pages try looking at one or more of the characters that differ between them. For example:

```
$is_ebcdic_37 = "\n" eq chr(37);
```

```
$is_ebcdic_1047 = "\n" eq chr(21);
```

Or better still choose a character that is uniquely encoded in any of the code sets, e.g.:

```
$is_ascii          = ord('[') == 91;
$is_ebcdic_37      = ord('[') == 186;
$is_ebcdic_1047    = ord('[') == 173;
$is_ebcdic_POSIX_BC = ord('[') == 187;
```

However, it would be unwise to write tests such as:

```
$is_ascii = "\r" ne chr(13); # WRONG
$is_ascii = "\n" ne chr(10); # ILL ADVISED
```

Obviously the first of these will fail to distinguish most ASCII machines from either a CCSID 0037, a 1047, or a POSIX-BC EBCDIC machine since "\r" eq chr(13) under all of those coded character sets. But note too that because "\n" is chr(13) and "\r" is chr(10) on the MacIntosh (which is an ASCII machine) the second `$is_ascii` test will lead to trouble there.

To determine whether or not perl was built under an EBCDIC code page you can use the Config module like so:

```
use Config;
$is_ebcdic = $Config{'ebcdic'} eq 'define';
```

CONVERSIONS

tr///

In order to convert a string of characters from one character set to another a simple list of numbers, such as in the right columns in the above table, along with perl's `tr///` operator is all that is needed. The data in the table are in ASCII order hence the EBCDIC columns provide easy to use ASCII to EBCDIC operations that are also easily reversed.

For example, to convert ASCII to code page 037 take the output of the second column from the output of recipe 0 (modified to add `\\` characters) and use it in `tr///` like so:

```
$cp_037 =
'\000\001\002\003\234\011\206\177\227\215\216\013\014\015\016\017' .
'\020\021\022\023\235\205\010\207\030\031\222\217\034\035\036\037' .
'\200\201\202\203\204\012\027\033\210\211\212\213\214\005\006\007' .
'\220\221\026\223\224\225\226\004\230\231\232\233\024\025\236\032' .
'\040\240\342\344\340\341\343\345\347\361\242\056\074\050\053\174' .
'\046\351\352\353\350\355\356\357\354\337\041\044\052\051\073\254' .
'\055\057\302\304\300\301\303\305\307\321\246\054\045\137\076\077' .
'\370\311\312\313\310\315\316\317\314\140\072\043\100\047\075\042' .
'\330\141\142\143\144\145\146\147\150\151\253\273\360\375\376\261' .
'\260\152\153\154\155\156\157\160\161\162\252\272\346\270\306\244' .
'\265\176\163\164\165\166\167\170\171\172\241\277\320\335\336\256' .
'\136\243\245\267\251\247\266\274\275\276\133\135\257\250\264\327' .
'\173\101\102\103\104\105\106\107\110\111\255\364\366\362\363\365' .
'\175\112\113\114\115\116\117\120\121\122\271\373\374\371\372\377' .
'\134\367\123\124\125\126\127\130\131\132\262\324\326\322\323\325' .
'\060\061\062\063\064\065\066\067\070\071\263\333\334\331\332\237' ;

my $ebcdic_string = $ascii_string;
eval '$ebcdic_string =~ tr/' . $cp_037 . '/\000-\377/';
```

To convert from EBCDIC 037 to ASCII just reverse the order of the tr/// arguments like so:

```
my $ascii_string = $ebcdic_string;
eval '$ascii_string =~ tr/\000-\377/' . $cp_037 . '/';
```

Similarly one could take the output of the third column from recipe 0 to obtain a \$cp_1047 table. The fourth column of the output from recipe 0 could provide a \$cp_posix_bc table suitable for transcoding as well.

iconv

XPG operability often implies the presence of an *iconv* utility available from the shell or from the C library. Consult your system's documentation for information on iconv.

On OS/390 or z/OS see the iconv(1) manpage. One way to invoke the iconv shell utility from within perl would be to:

```
# OS/390 or z/OS example
$ascii_data = `echo '$ebcdic_data' | iconv -f IBM-1047 -t ISO8859-1`
```

or the inverse map:

```
# OS/390 or z/OS example
$ebcdic_data = `echo '$ascii_data' | iconv -f ISO8859-1 -t IBM-1047`
```

For other perl based conversion options see the Convert::* modules on CPAN.

C RTL

The OS/390 and z/OS C run time libraries provide `_atoe()` and `_etoa()` functions.

OPERATOR DIFFERENCES

The `..` range operator treats certain character ranges with care on EBCDIC machines. For example the following array will have twenty six elements on either an EBCDIC machine or an ASCII machine:

```
@alphabet = ('A'..'Z'); # $#alphabet == 25
```

The bitwise operators such as `&` `^` `|` may return different results when operating on string or character data in a perl program running on an EBCDIC machine than when run on an ASCII machine. Here is an example adapted from the one in *perlop*:

```
# EBCDIC-based examples
print "j p \n" ^ " a h"; # prints "JAPH\n"
print "JA" | " ph\n"; # prints "japh\n"
print "JAPH\nJunk" & "\277\277\277\277\277"; # prints "japh\n";
print 'p N$' ^ " E<H\n"; # prints "Perl\n";
```

An interesting property of the 32 C0 control characters in the ASCII table is that they can "literally" be constructed as control characters in perl, e.g. (`chr(0) eq "\c@"`) (`chr(1) eq "\cA"`), and so on. Perl on EBCDIC machines has been ported to take `"\c@"` to `chr(0)` and `"\cA"` to `chr(1)` as well, but the thirty three characters that result depend on which code page you are using. The table below uses the character names from the previous table but with substitutions such as `s/START OF/S.O./`; `s/END OF /E.O./`; `s/TRANSMISSION/TRANS./`; `s/TABULATION/TAB./`; `s/VERTICAL/VERT./`; `s/HORIZONTAL/HORIZ./`; `s/DEVICE CONTROL/D.C./`; `s/SEPARATOR/SEP./`; `s/NEGATIVE ACKNOWLEDGE/NEG. ACK./`. The POSIX-BC and 1047 sets are identical throughout this range and differ from the 0037 set at only one spot (21 decimal). Note that the `LINE FEED` character may be generated by `"\cJ"` on ASCII machines but by `"\cU"` on 1047 or POSIX-BC machines and cannot be generated as a `"\c.letter."` control character on 0037 machines. Note also that `"\c\"` maps to two

characters not one.

chr	ord	8859-1	0037	1047 && POSIX-BC
"\c?"	127	<DELETE>	"	"
***><				
"\c@"	0	<NULL>	<NULL>	<NULL>
***><				
"\cA"	1	<S.O. HEADING>	<S.O. HEADING>	<S.O. HEADING>
"\cB"	2	<S.O. TEXT>	<S.O. TEXT>	<S.O. TEXT>
"\cC"	3	<E.O. TEXT>	<E.O. TEXT>	<E.O. TEXT>
"\cD"	4	<E.O. TRANS.>	<C1 28>	<C1 28>
"\cE"	5	<ENQUIRY>	<HORIZ. TAB.>	<HORIZ. TAB.>
"\cF"	6	<ACKNOWLEDGE>	<C1 6>	<C1 6>
"\cG"	7	<BELL>	<DELETE>	<DELETE>
"\cH"	8	<BACKSPACE>	<C1 23>	<C1 23>
"\cI"	9	<HORIZ. TAB.>	<C1 13>	<C1 13>
"\cJ"	10	<LINE FEED>	<C1 14>	<C1 14>
"\cK"	11	<VERT. TAB.>	<VERT. TAB.>	<VERT. TAB.>
"\cL"	12	<FORM FEED>	<FORM FEED>	<FORM FEED>
"\cM"	13	<CARRIAGE RETURN>	<CARRIAGE RETURN>	<CARRIAGE RETURN>
"\cN"	14	<SHIFT OUT>	<SHIFT OUT>	<SHIFT OUT>
"\cO"	15	<SHIFT IN>	<SHIFT IN>	<SHIFT IN>
"\cP"	16	<DATA LINK ESCAPE>	<DATA LINK ESCAPE>	<DATA LINK ESCAPE>
"\cQ"	17	<D.C. ONE>	<D.C. ONE>	<D.C. ONE>
"\cR"	18	<D.C. TWO>	<D.C. TWO>	<D.C. TWO>
"\cS"	19	<D.C. THREE>	<D.C. THREE>	<D.C. THREE>
"\cT"	20	<D.C. FOUR>	<C1 29>	<C1 29>
"\cU"	21	<NEG. ACK.>	<C1 5>	<LINE FEED> ***
"\cV"	22	<SYNCHRONOUS IDLE>	<BACKSPACE>	<BACKSPACE>
"\cW"	23	<E.O. TRANS. BLOCK>	<C1 7>	<C1 7>
"\cX"	24	<CANCEL>	<CANCEL>	<CANCEL>
"\cY"	25	<E.O. MEDIUM>	<E.O. MEDIUM>	<E.O. MEDIUM>
"\cZ"	26	<SUBSTITUTE>	<C1 18>	<C1 18>
"\c["	27	<ESCAPE>	<C1 15>	<C1 15>
"\c\\"	28	<FILE SEP.>\	<FILE SEP.>\	<FILE SEP.>\
"\c]"	29	<GROUP SEP.>	<GROUP SEP.>	<GROUP SEP.>
"\c^"	30	<RECORD SEP.>	<RECORD SEP.>	<RECORD SEP.>
***><				
"\c_"	31	<UNIT SEP.>	<UNIT SEP.>	<UNIT SEP.>
***><				

FUNCTION DIFFERENCES

chr()

chr() must be given an EBCDIC code number argument to yield a desired character return value on an EBCDIC machine. For example:

```
$CAPITAL_LETTER_A = chr(193);
```

ord()

ord() will return EBCDIC code number values on an EBCDIC machine. For example:

```
$the_number_193 = ord("A");
```

pack()

The c and C templates for pack() are dependent upon character set encoding. Examples of usage on EBCDIC include:

```
$foo = pack("CCCC",193,194,195,196);
# $foo eq "ABCD"
$foo = pack("C4",193,194,195,196);
# same thing

$foo = pack("ccxxcc",193,194,195,196);
# $foo eq "AB\0\0CD"
```

print()

One must be careful with scalars and strings that are passed to print that contain ASCII encodings. One common place for this to occur is in the output of the MIME type header for CGI script writing. For example, many perl programming guides recommend something similar to:

```
print "Content-type:\ttext/html\015\012\015\012";
# this may be wrong on EBCDIC
```

Under the IBM OS/390 USS Web Server or WebSphere on z/OS for example you should instead write that as:

```
print "Content-type:\ttext/html\r\n\r\n"; # OK for DGW et alia
```

That is because the translation from EBCDIC to ASCII is done by the web server in this case (such code will not be appropriate for the Macintosh however). Consult your web server's documentation for further details.

printf()

The formats that can convert characters to numbers and vice versa will be different from their ASCII counterparts when executed on an EBCDIC machine. Examples include:

```
printf("%c%c%c",193,194,195); # prints ABC
```

sort()

EBCDIC sort results may differ from ASCII sort results especially for mixed case strings. This is discussed in more detail below.

sprintf()

See the discussion of printf() above. An example of the use of sprintf would be:

```
$CAPITAL_LETTER_A = sprintf("%c",193);
```

unpack()

See the discussion of pack() above.

REGULAR EXPRESSION DIFFERENCES

As of perl 5.005_03 the letter range regular expression such as [A-Z] and [a-z] have been especially coded to not pick up gap characters. For example, characters such as ô WITH CIRCUMFLEX that lie between I and J would not be matched by the regular expression range /[H-K]/. This works in the other direction, too, if either of the range end points is explicitly numeric: [\x89-\x91] will match \x8e, even though \x89 is i and \x91 is j, and \x8e is a gap character from the alphabetic viewpoint.

If you do want to match the alphabet gap characters in a single octet regular expression try matching

the hex or octal code such as `/\313/` on EBCDIC or `/\364/` on ASCII machines to have your regular expression match `o WITH CIRCUMFLEX`.

Another construct to be wary of is the inappropriate use of hex or octal constants in regular expressions. Consider the following set of subs:

```
sub is_c0 {
    my $char = substr(shift,0,1);
    $char =~ /[\\000-\\037]/;
}

sub is_print_ascii {
    my $char = substr(shift,0,1);
    $char =~ /[\\040-\\176]/;
}

sub is_delete {
    my $char = substr(shift,0,1);
    $char eq "\\177";
}

sub is_c1 {
    my $char = substr(shift,0,1);
    $char =~ /[\\200-\\237]/;
}

sub is_latin_1 {
    my $char = substr(shift,0,1);
    $char =~ /[\\240-\\377]/;
}
```

The above would be adequate if the concern was only with numeric code points. However, the concern may be with characters rather than code points and on an EBCDIC machine it may be desirable for constructs such as `if (is_print_ascii("A")) {print "A is a printable character\n";}` to print out the expected message. One way to represent the above collection of character classification subs that is capable of working across the four coded character sets discussed in this document is as follows:

```
sub Is_c0 {
    my $char = substr(shift,0,1);
    if (ord('^')==94) { # ascii
        return $char =~ /[\\000-\\037]/;
    }
    if (ord('^')==176) { # 37
        return $char =~
/[\\000-\\003\\067\\055-\\057\\026\\005\\045\\013-\\023\\074\\075\\062\\046\\030\\031\\077\\0
47\\034-\\037]/;
    }
    if (ord('^')==95 || ord('^')==106) { # 1047 || posix-bc
        return $char =~
/[\\000-\\003\\067\\055-\\057\\026\\005\\025\\013-\\023\\074\\075\\062\\046\\030\\031\\077\\0
47\\034-\\037]/;
    }
}
```

```

sub Is_print_ascii {
    my $char = substr(shift,0,1);
    $char =~ /[ !"#\$\%&'()*+,\-.\\/0-9:;<=>?\@A-Z[\]\^\_`a-z{|}~]/;
}

sub Is_delete {
    my $char = substr(shift,0,1);
    if (ord('^')==94) { # ascii
        return $char eq "\177";
    }
    else { # ebcdic
        return $char eq "\007";
    }
}

sub Is_c1 {
    my $char = substr(shift,0,1);
    if (ord('^')==94) { # ascii
        return $char =~ /[\200-\237]/;
    }
    if (ord('^')==176) { # 37
        return $char =~
/[\040-\044\025\006\027\050-\054\011\012\033\060\061\032\063-\066\010\070-\073\040\024\076\377]/;
    }
    if (ord('^')==95) { # 1047
        return $char =~
/[\040-\045\006\027\050-\054\011\012\033\060\061\032\063-\066\010\070-\073\040\024\076\377]/;
    }
    if (ord('^')==106) { # posix-bc
        return $char =~
/[\040-\045\006\027\050-\054\011\012\033\060\061\032\063-\066\010\070-\073\040\024\076\137]/;
    }
}

sub Is_latin_1 {
    my $char = substr(shift,0,1);
    if (ord('^')==94) { # ascii
        return $char =~ /[\240-\377]/;
    }
    if (ord('^')==176) { # 37
        return $char =~

/[\101\252\112\261\237\262\152\265\275\264\232\212\137\312\257\274\220\217\352\372\276\240\266\263\235\332\233\213\267\270\271\253\144\145\142\146\143\147\236\150\164\161-\163\170\165-\167\254\151\355\356\353\357\354\277\200\375\376\373\374\255\256\131\104\105\102\106\103\107\234\110\124\121-\123\130\125-\127\214\111\315\316\313\317\314\341\160\335\336\333\334\215\216\337]/;
    }
    if (ord('^')==95) { # 1047
        return $char =~

```

```

/[ \101\252\112\261\237\262\152\265\273\264\232\212\260\312\257\274\220\217\
352\372\276\240\266\263\235\332\233\213\267\270\271\253\144\145\142\146\143\
\147\236\150\164\161-\163\170\165-\167\254\151\355\356\353\357\354\277\200\
375\376\373\374\272\256\131\104\105\102\106\103\107\234\110\124\121-\123\13\
0\125-\127\214\111\315\316\313\317\314\341\160\335\336\333\334\215\216\337\
/;
    }
    if (ord('^')==106) { # posix-bc
        return $char =~

/[ \101\252\260\261\237\262\320\265\171\264\232\212\272\312\257\241\220\217\
352\372\276\240\266\263\235\332\233\213\267\270\271\253\144\145\142\146\143\
\147\236\150\164\161-\163\170\165-\167\254\151\355\356\353\357\354\277\200\
340\376\335\374\255\256\131\104\105\102\106\103\107\234\110\124\121-\123\13\
0\125-\127\214\111\315\316\313\317\314\341\160\300\336\333\334\215\216\337\
/;
    }
}

```

Note however that only the `Is_ascii_print()` sub is really independent of coded character set. Another way to write `Is_latin_1()` would be to use the characters in the range explicitly:

```

sub Is_latin_1 {
    my $char = substr(shift,0,1);
    $char =~
/[ ;çƒⓂ¥|§¨©ª«¬®¯°±²³´µ¶·¸¹º»¼½¾¿ÀÁÂÃÄÅÆÇÈÉÊËÌÍÎÏÐÑÒÓÔÕÖ×ØÙÚÛÜÝÞßàáâãääåæçè
éêëìíîïðñóôõö÷øùúûüýþÿ]/;
}

```

Although that form may run into trouble in network transit (due to the presence of 8 bit characters) or on non ISO-Latin character sets.

SOCKETS

Most socket programming assumes ASCII character encodings in network byte order. Exceptions can include CGI script writing under a host web server where the server may take care of translation for you. Most host web servers convert EBCDIC data to ISO-8859-1 or Unicode on output.

SORTING

One big difference between ASCII based character sets and EBCDIC ones are the relative positions of upper and lower case letters and the letters compared to the digits. If sorted on an ASCII based machine the two letter abbreviation for a physician comes before the two letter for drive, that is:

```

@sorted = sort(qw(Dr. dr.)); # @sorted holds ('Dr.', 'dr.') on ASCII,
                             # but ('dr.', 'Dr.') on EBCDIC

```

The property of lower case before uppercase letters in EBCDIC is even carried to the Latin 1 EBCDIC pages such as 0037 and 1047. An example would be that `Ë E WITH DIAERESIS` (203) comes before `ë e WITH DIAERESIS` (235) on an ASCII machine, but the latter (83) comes before the former (115) on an EBCDIC machine. (Astute readers will note that the upper case version of `ß SMALL LETTER SHARP S` is simply "SS" and that the upper case version of `ÿ Y WITH DIAERESIS` is not in the 0..255 range but it is at U+x0178 in Unicode, or "`\x{178}`" in a Unicode enabled Perl).

The sort order will cause differences between results obtained on ASCII machines versus EBCDIC machines. What follows are some suggestions on how to deal with these differences.

Ignore ASCII vs. EBCDIC sort differences.

This is the least computationally expensive strategy. It may require some user education.

MONO CASE then sort data.

In order to minimize the expense of mono casing mixed test try to `tr///` towards the character set case most employed within the data. If the data are primarily UPPERCASE non Latin 1 then apply `tr/[a-z]/[A-Z]/` then `sort()`. If the data are primarily lowercase non Latin 1 then apply `tr/[A-Z]/[a-z]/` before sorting. If the data are primarily UPPERCASE and include Latin-1 characters then apply:

```
tr/[a-z]/[A-Z]/;
tr/[àáâãäåæçèéêëìíîïðñòóôõöùúûýþ]/[ÀÁÂÃÄÅÆÇÈÉÊËÌÍÎÏÐÑÒÓÔÕÖØÙÚÛÜÝÞ]/;
s/ß/SS/g;
```

then `sort()`. Do note however that such Latin-1 manipulation does not address the `ÿ` WITH DIAERESIS character that will remain at code point 255 on ASCII machines, but 223 on most EBCDIC machines where it will sort to a place less than the EBCDIC numerals. With a Unicode enabled Perl you might try:

```
tr/^?/\x{178}/;
```

The strategy of mono casing data before sorting does not preserve the case of the data and may not be acceptable for that reason.

Convert, sort data, then re convert.

This is the most expensive proposition that does not employ a network connection.

Perform sorting on one type of machine only.

This strategy can employ a network connection. As such it would be computationally expensive.

TRANSFORMATION FORMATS

There are a variety of ways of transforming data with an intra character set mapping that serve a variety of purposes. Sorting was discussed in the previous section and a few of the other more popular mapping techniques are discussed next.

URL decoding and encoding

Note that some URLs have hexadecimal ASCII code points in them in an attempt to overcome character or protocol limitation issues. For example the tilde character is not on every keyboard hence a URL of the form:

```
http://www.pvhp.com/~pvhp/
```

may also be expressed as either of:

```
http://www.pvhp.com/%7Epvhp/
```

```
http://www.pvhp.com/%7epvhp/
```

where 7E is the hexadecimal ASCII code point for '~'. Here is an example of decoding such a URL under CCSID 1047:

```
$url = 'http://www.pvhp.com/%7Epvhp/';
# this array assumes code page 1047
my @a2e_1047 = (
    0, 1, 2, 3, 55, 45, 46, 47, 22, 5, 21, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15,
    16, 17, 18, 19, 60, 61, 50, 38, 24, 25, 63, 39, 28, 29, 30, 31,
    64, 90, 127, 123, 91, 108, 80, 125, 77, 93, 92, 78, 107, 96, 75, 97,
```

```

240,241,242,243,244,245,246,247,248,249,122, 94, 76,126,110,111,
124,193,194,195,196,197,198,199,200,201,209,210,211,212,213,214,
215,216,217,226,227,228,229,230,231,232,233,173,224,189, 95,109,
121,129,130,131,132,133,134,135,136,137,145,146,147,148,149,150,
151,152,153,162,163,164,165,166,167,168,169,192, 79,208,161, 7,
32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 6, 23, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 9, 10, 27,
48, 49, 26, 51, 52, 53, 54, 8, 56, 57, 58, 59, 4, 20, 62,255,
65,170, 74,177,159,178,106,181,187,180,154,138,176,202,175,188,
144,143,234,250,190,160,182,179,157,218,155,139,183,184,185,171,
100,101, 98,102, 99,103,158,104,116,113,114,115,120,117,118,119,
172,105,237,238,235,239,236,191,128,253,254,251,252,186,174, 89,
68, 69, 66, 70, 67, 71,156, 72, 84, 81, 82, 83, 88, 85, 86, 87,
140, 73,205,206,203,207,204,225,112,221,222,219,220,141,142,223
);
$url =~ s/%([0-9a-fA-F]{2})/pack("c", $a2e_1047[hex($1)])/ge;

```

Conversely, here is a partial solution for the task of encoding such a URL under the 1047 code page:

```

$url = 'http://www.pvhp.com/~pvhp/';
# this array assumes code page 1047
my @e2a_1047 = (
    0, 1, 2, 3,156, 9,134,127,151,141,142, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15,
    16, 17, 18, 19,157, 10, 8,135, 24, 25,146,143, 28, 29, 30, 31,
128,129,130,131,132,133, 23, 27,136,137,138,139,140, 5, 6, 7,
144,145, 22,147,148,149,150, 4,152,153,154,155, 20, 21,158, 26,
32,160,226,228,224,225,227,229,231,241,162, 46, 60, 40, 43,124,
38,233,234,235,232,237,238,239,236,223, 33, 36, 42, 41, 59, 94,
45, 47,194,196,192,193,195,197,199,209,166, 44, 37, 95, 62, 63,
248,201,202,203,200,205,206,207,204, 96, 58, 35, 64, 39, 61, 34,
216, 97, 98, 99,100,101,102,103,104,105,171,187,240,253,254,177,
176,106,107,108,109,110,111,112,113,114,170,186,230,184,198,164,
181,126,115,116,117,118,119,120,121,122,161,191,208, 91,222,174,
172,163,165,183,169,167,182,188,189,190,221,168,175, 93,180,215,
123, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73,173,244,246,242,243,245,
125, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82,185,251,252,249,250,255,
92,247, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90,178,212,214,210,211,213,
48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57,179,219,220,217,218,159
);
# The following regular expression does not address the
# mappings for: ( '.' => '%2E', '/' => '%2F', ':' => '%3A' )
$url =~ s/([\t
"%&\(\),;=<=>?\@\[\]\\]^`{|}~])/sprintf("%02X", $e2a_1047[ord($1)])/ge;

```

where a more complete solution would split the URL into components and apply a full `s///` substitution only to the appropriate parts.

In the remaining examples a `@e2a` or `@a2e` array may be employed but the assignment will not be shown explicitly. For code page 1047 you could use the `@a2e_1047` or `@e2a_1047` arrays just shown.

uu encoding and decoding

The `u` template to `pack()` or `unpack()` will render EBCDIC data in EBCDIC characters equivalent to their ASCII counterparts. For example, the following will print "Yes indeed\n" on either an ASCII or EBCDIC computer:

```
$all_byte_chrs = '';
```

```

for (0..255) { $all_byte_chrs .= chr($_); }
$uencode_byte_chrs = pack('u', $all_byte_chrs);
($uu = <<'ENDOFHEREDOC') =~ s/^\s*//gm;
M`$`P0%!@<("0H+#`T.#Q`1$A,4%187&!D:&QP='A@(2(C)"4F)R@I*BLL
M+2XO,#$R,S0U-C<X.3H[#T^/T!!0D-$149'2$E*2TQ-3D]045)35%565UA9
M6EM<75Y?8&%B8V1E9F=H:6IK;&UN;W!Q<G-T=79W>'EZ>WQ]?G^`@8*#A(6&
MAXB)BHN,C8Z/D)&2DY25EI>8F9J;G)V>GZ"AHJ.DI::GJ*FJJZRMKJ^PL;*S
MM+6VM[BYNKN\O;Z_P,'P\3%QL?(R<K+S,W.S)#1TM/4U=;7V-G:V]S=WM_@
?X>+CY.7FY^CIZNOL[>[O\'R\_3U]O?X^?K[_/W^_P`
ENDOFHEREDOC
if ($uencode_byte_chrs eq $uu) {
    print "Yes ";
}
$udecode_byte_chrs = unpack('u', $uencode_byte_chrs);
if ($udecode_byte_chrs eq $all_byte_chrs) {
    print "indeed\n";
}

```

Here is a very spartan udecoder that will work on EBCDIC provided that the @e2a array is filled in appropriately:

```

#!/usr/local/bin/perl
@e2a = ( # this must be filled in
        );
$_ = <> until ($mode,$file) = /^begin\s*(\d*)\s*(\S*)//;
open(OUT, "> $file") if $file ne "";
while(<>) {
    last if /^end/;
    next if /[a-z]/;
    next unless int((((e2a[ord()] - 32) & 077) + 2) / 3) ==
        int(length() / 4);
    print OUT unpack("u", $_);
}
close(OUT);
chmod oct($mode), $file;

```

Quoted-Printable encoding and decoding

On ASCII encoded machines it is possible to strip characters outside of the printable set using:

```

# This QP encoder works on ASCII only
$qp_string =~ s/([\x00-\x1F\x80-\xFF])/sprintf("=%02X",ord($1))/ge;

```

Whereas a QP encoder that works on both ASCII and EBCDIC machines would look somewhat like the following (where the EBCDIC branch @e2a array is omitted for brevity):

```

if (ord('A') == 65) { # ASCII
    $delete = "\x7F"; # ASCII
    @e2a = (0 .. 255) # ASCII to ASCII identity map
}
else { # EBCDIC
    $delete = "\x07"; # EBCDIC
    @e2a = # EBCDIC to ASCII map (as shown above)
}
$qp_string =~
s/([^\
!\"#\$\%&'()*+,\-.\\/0-9:;<>?\@A-Z[\\]^_`a-z{|}~$delete])/sprintf("=%02X",ord($1))/ge;

```


`2a[ord($1)]/ge;` (although in production code the substitutions might be done in the EBCDIC branch with the `@e2a` array and separately in the ASCII branch without the expense of the identity map).

Such QP strings can be decoded with:

```
# This QP decoder is limited to ASCII only
$string =~ s/=[0-9A-Fa-f][0-9A-Fa-f]/chr hex $1/ge;
$string =~ s/=[\n\r]+$//;
```

Whereas a QP decoder that works on both ASCII and EBCDIC machines would look somewhat like the following (where the `@a2e` array is omitted for brevity):

```
$string =~ s/=[0-9A-Fa-f][0-9A-Fa-f]/chr $a2e[hex $1]/ge;
$string =~ s/=[\n\r]+$//;
```

Caesarian ciphers

The practice of shifting an alphabet one or more characters for encipherment dates back thousands of years and was explicitly detailed by Gaius Julius Caesar in his **Gallic Wars** text. A single alphabet shift is sometimes referred to as a rotation and the shift amount is given as a number `$n` after the string 'rot' or "rot`$n`". Rot0 and rot26 would designate identity maps on the 26 letter English version of the Latin alphabet. Rot13 has the interesting property that alternate subsequent invocations are identity maps (thus rot13 is its own non-trivial inverse in the group of 26 alphabet rotations). Hence the following is a rot13 encoder and decoder that will work on ASCII and EBCDIC machines:

```
#!/usr/local/bin/perl

while(<>){
    tr/n-za-mN-ZA-M/a-zA-Z/;
    print;
}
```

In one-liner form:

```
perl -ne 'tr/n-za-mN-ZA-M/a-zA-Z/;print'
```

Hashing order and checksums

To the extent that it is possible to write code that depends on hashing order there may be differences between hashes as stored on an ASCII based machine and hashes stored on an EBCDIC based machine. XXX

I18N AND L10N

Internationalization(I18N) and localization(L10N) are supported at least in principle even on EBCDIC machines. The details are system dependent and discussed under the *"OS ISSUES"* in *perlebcdic* section below.

MULTI OCTET CHARACTER SETS

Perl may work with an internal UTF-EBCDIC encoding form for wide characters on EBCDIC platforms in a manner analogous to the way that it works with the UTF-8 internal encoding form on ASCII based platforms.

Legacy multi byte EBCDIC code pages XXX.

OS ISSUES

There may be a few system dependent issues of concern to EBCDIC Perl programmers.

OS/400

PASE

The PASE environment is runtime environment for OS/400 that can run executables built for PowerPC AIX in OS/400, see *perlos400*. PASE is ASCII-based, not EBCDIC-based as the ILE.

IFS access

XXX.

OS/390, z/OS

Perl runs under Unix Systems Services or USS.

chcp

chcp is supported as a shell utility for displaying and changing one's code page. See also *chcp*.

dataset access

For sequential data set access try:

```
my @ds_records = `cat //DSNAME`;
```

or:

```
my @ds_records = `cat //'HLQ.DSNAME'`;
```

See also the OS390::Stdio module on CPAN.

OS/390, z/OS iconv

iconv is supported as both a shell utility and a C RTL routine. See also the *iconv(1)* and *iconv(3)* manual pages.

locales

On OS/390 or z/OS see *locale* for information on locales. The L10N files are in */usr/nls/locale*. `$Config{d_setlocale}` is 'define' on OS/390 or z/OS.

VM/ESA?

XXX.

POSIX-BC?

XXX.

BUGS

This pod document contains literal Latin 1 characters and may encounter translation difficulties. In particular one popular nroff implementation was known to strip accented characters to their unaccented counterparts while attempting to view this document through the **pod2man** program (for example, you may see a plain γ rather than one with a diaeresis as in γ). Another nroff truncated the resultant manpage at the first occurrence of 8 bit characters.

Not all shells will allow multiple `-e` string arguments to perl to be concatenated together properly as recipes 0, 2, 4, 5, and 6 might seem to imply.

SEE ALSO

perllocale, *perlfunc*, *perlunicode*, *utf8*.

REFERENCES

<http://anubis.dkuug.dk/i18n/charmmaps>

<http://www.unicode.org/>

<http://www.unicode.org/unicode/reports/tr16/>

<http://www.wps.com/texts/codes/> **ASCII: American Standard Code for Information Infiltration** Tom Jennings, September 1999.

The Unicode Standard, Version 3.0 The Unicode Consortium, Lisa Moore ed., ISBN 0-201-61633-5, Addison Wesley Developers Press, February 2000.

CDRA: IBM - Character Data Representation Architecture - Reference and Registry, IBM SC09-2190-00, December 1996.

"Demystifying Character Sets", Andrea Vine, Multilingual Computing & Technology, **#26 Vol. 10 Issue 4**, August/September 1999; ISSN 1523-0309; Multilingual Computing Inc. Sandpoint ID, USA.

Codes, Ciphers, and Other Cryptic and Clandestine Communication Fred B. Wrixon, ISBN 1-57912-040-7, Black Dog & Leventhal Publishers, 1998.

<http://www.bobbemer.com/P-BIT.HTM> **IBM - EBCDIC and the P-bit; The biggest Computer Goof Ever** Robert Bemer.

HISTORY

15 April 2001: added UTF-8 and UTF-EBCDIC to main table, pvhp.

AUTHOR

Peter Prymmer pvhp@best.com wrote this in 1999 and 2000 with CCSID 0819 and 0037 help from Chris Leach and André Pirard A.Pirard@ulg.ac.be as well as POSIX-BC help from Thomas Dorner Thomas.Dorner@start.de. Thanks also to Vickie Cooper, Philip Newton, William Raffloer, and Joe Smith. Trademarks, registered trademarks, service marks and registered service marks used in this document are the property of their respective owners.