

# Printing HTML

## *How to print your HTML an easier way*

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As you saw in the last section, printing HTML to the browser with Perl required escaping quote marks and using the `\n` character to break a line if you wanted your code to be more readable. You can avoid some of these headaches by using a special print command in Perl. This command allows you to print your HTML as it is written (some special characters still need to be escaped). Notice the code below that would print out a page with a simple link:

```
#!/usr/bin/perl

print "Content-type: text/html\n\n";
print "<HTML><HEAD>\n";
print "<TITLE>CGI Test</TITLE>\n";
print "</HEAD>\n";
print "<BODY><A HREF=\"http://someplace.com\">Click Here</A>\n";
print "</BODY></HTML>";
```

With the need to escape the quotes and add `\n` characters for source readability, it is a bit tedious to constantly escape quote marks and write in new line characters. An easier way to do this is to use a special print command in Perl:

```
print <<ENDHTML;
....your HTML code here.....

ENDHTML
```

This print command tells the program to print the HTML code until it finds the word `ENDHTML` again on its own. You can use any word or group of letters you like, just be sure you use the same thing when you want to end the HTML code. For instance, some people use `EOM` to do this:

```
print <<EOM;
....your HTML code here.....

EOM
```

Just remember to use the exact same thing after the `<<` characters and after the

HTML code, and it is case sensitive. Also, when you end the HTML code, you just need your word-- no semicolon. The semicolon only goes with the first print statement.

This allows you to write the code without the need to escape the quote marks, and new lines are created where you break the lines in your code. Here is an example of the last script written in this manner:

```
#!/usr/bin/perl

print "Content-type: text/html\n\n";
print <<ENDHTML;
<HTML>
<HEAD>
<TITLE>CGI Test</TITLE>
</HEAD>
<BODY>
<A HREF="http://someplace.com">Click Here</A>
</BODY>
</HTML>

ENDHTML
```

This is even better if you are coding a large number of links, images, and other things that need quote marks. It keeps a long page of HTML code from becoming a blur of print statements.

However, other special characters in Perl still need to be escaped. Remember the @ sign? It will still need to be escaped, as will any other special characters that set off special meanings in Perl (such as \$, @, %, \*). So, if you use one of these, remember to escape it with the \ symbol, like in the example below:

```
#!/usr/bin/perl

print "Content-type: text/html\n\n";
print <<ENDHTML;
<HTML>
<HEAD>
<TITLE>CGI Test</TITLE>
</HEAD>
<BODY>
<A HREF="mailto:john\@pageresource.com">Mail Me, or Else!</A>
</BODY>
</HTML>

ENDHTML
```

Now that you have seen two ways to write HTML in Perl, you can decide which one you are more comfortable with. You can use a print statement for short HTML segments, and this technique for longer segments. Either way, you'll get your HTML.

Well, that's it for writing HTML, let's go on to: [Perl Variables](#).

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