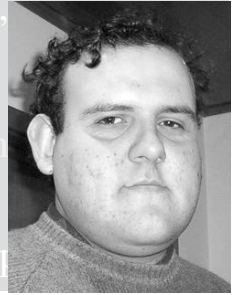


```
my @ftree = map { add to parent's Child list ( $found );
                  unless ( $found );
                  s/\s+$/;
                  push( @# $node->{Parent}->{Children} }, $node
                  if ( $node->{count} < number of indent blocks children
                  $depth = $depth + 1;
                  # Start a new paragraph rather than 0
                  $parent_stack[ $depth ] = $node;
                  while ( $found->{ID} < $parent_stack[ $depth ]->{ID} )
                  # create node structure $parent, stack[ $depth ] = $node;
```

TPF Grants

by Alberto Manuel Simões
ams@di.uminho.pt



The Perl Foundation (TPF) includes a grants program designed to provide a way for Perl programmers to see their projects developed with some monetary support. The grants program is run by the Grants Committee and headed by a committee chairperson, which is the position I currently hold.

At the present moment, we're updating the committee rules and grants process, but I'll tell you how it is now. So, some of the information here might be out of date or imprecise later. In any case, anyone can read our rules of operation for the latest rules.

■ Grants Proposal Evaluation-----

Any Perl programmer can make a proposal for development of a specific project, which can be as simple as bug fixing a specific module, developing a new module or extend an existing module. Also, it can include more complex tasks as the development of complete frameworks or the implementation of specific modules on Perl core.

There are a lot of successful TPF grants stories. The Perl Foundation website includes a reference to most of the completed grants. Nicholas Clark worked on Perl internals, Adam Kennedy's grant produced what is now Strawberry Perl, Chris Dolan wrote 20 new policies for Perl::Critic, and Jouke Visser developed pVoice.

■ Applying for a grant -----

Each three months, TPF publishes a call for grant proposals and anyone can submit one. This proposal should include, at least:

- A title, your name, and your contact information
- A short summary of the project
- A detailed description of the project objectives
- A list of the deliverables
- A description of how the success of the project will benefit the Perl community
 - A timetable of the project milestones
 - The amount the project is worth
 - A short biography of the proposer, stating why he is the best person to perform that task.

Although I have only been in this role for just some months, I can point some things you should take care when writing your proposal.

First, the project should benefit the Perl community as a whole. Do not propose a project to solve a specific problem for a company or small group of persons.

And, don't propose anything that is already done. It is better to propose an expansion to something already existing than to reinvent the wheel. Don't propose to write a new module when there are lots of modules for that same task. Try to contact the author and propose a fix or extension to make an existing module more interesting.

If you aren't sure if you can finish a big project, propose a smaller part of it, but explain the whole idea. Try to propose small generic modules that can be glued together to build the whole thing.

If you want to interact directly with Perl or Parrot development, first contact the project leaders, and check of your idea's viability. This is probably a good idea for any project, but especially for the large projects that have a lot of contributors and a project plan already in place.

■ Choosing the grants -----

At the end of the period for proposals submission, we publish proposals on the TPF website. At the moment we are using the TPF blog, but it might change next time. During a period of one or two weeks, depending on the feedback rate, we invite the Perl community to comment on any of the proposals. The idea is to discuss the relevance of the proposal and its guts. The proposer should visit its entry on the blog from time to time to answer possible questions. This is a chance for the proposer to refine and improve their proposal.

The previous grant period was the first time that we've made the proposals public as part of the selection process. So far, it worked out quite well. The public discussion of proposals let more people see how the process works and the basis of some of the votes. Instead of scaring people away, we had 18 grant proposals this time, which is more than we typically have.

After this discussion period, the proposals will be evaluated by the grants committee. Normally, each member votes to reject or accept the proposal, or possibly abstain when there might be some interest conflict or the committee member doesn't think he is qualified to judge the proposal. Along with their votes, committee members can add a comment about the proposal.

As the chairperson, I collect the votes from all the members and divide the propoals into three groups: accepted, rejected, and everything else. An accepted proposal is not automatically funded.