

NAME

Tie::Handle - base class definitions for tied handles

SYNOPSIS

```
package NewHandle;
require Tie::Handle;

@ISA = qw(Tie::Handle);

sub READ { ... } # Provide a needed method
sub TIEHANDLE { ... } # Overrides inherited method

package main;

tie *FH, 'NewHandle';
```

DESCRIPTION

This module provides some skeletal methods for handle-tying classes. See *perltie* for a list of the functions required in tying a handle to a package. The basic **Tie::Handle** package provides a new method, as well as methods TIEHANDLE, PRINT, PRINTF and GETC.

For developers wishing to write their own tied-handle classes, the methods are summarized below. The *perltie* section not only documents these, but has sample code as well:

TIEHANDLE classname, LIST

The method invoked by the command `tie *glob, classname`. Associates a new glob instance with the specified class. LIST would represent additional arguments (along the lines of *AnyDBM_File* and *compatriots*) needed to complete the association.

WRITE this, scalar, length, offset

Write *length* bytes of data from *scalar* starting at *offset*.

PRINT this, LIST

Print the values in *LIST*

PRINTF this, format, LIST

Print the values in *LIST* using *format*

READ this, scalar, length, offset

Read *length* bytes of data into *scalar* starting at *offset*.

READLINE this

Read a single line

GETC this

Get a single character

CLOSE this

Close the handle

OPEN this, filename

(Re-)open the handle

BINMODE this

Specify content is binary

EOF *this*

Test for end of file.

TELL *this*

Return position in the file.

SEEK *this*, offset, whence

Position the file.

Test for end of file.

DESTROY *this*

Free the storage associated with the tied handle referenced by *this*. This is rarely needed, as Perl manages its memory quite well. But the option exists, should a class wish to perform specific actions upon the destruction of an instance.

MORE INFORMATION

The *perltie* section contains an example of tying handles.

COMPATIBILITY

This version of Tie::Handle is neither related to nor compatible with the Tie::Handle (3.0) module available on CPAN. It was due to an accident that two modules with the same name appeared. The namespace clash has been cleared in favor of this module that comes with the perl core in September 2000 and accordingly the version number has been bumped up to 4.0.