PAR::Lite

Making CPAN modules available the easy way

Background

- Idea provoked by a talk at LPW

- Dificult to get started with Perl

- Easier with other languages

- e.g. JAVA and it's jar files

Perl has PAR

- I talked about this in 2010

- http://miltonkeynes.pm/talks/2010/10/PAR_Talk.pdf

- PAR has it's problems - has loads of different modules some which overlap

- Difficult to work out how to use PAR

Goals

- Download a single pure-perl module (no compilation and works on all platforms)

- Use it to access a repository of available prebuilt PAR files on the web

- All user has to do is get the module add it to PERL5LIB and use it

PAR

- PAR (perl archive) uses zipped up sets of files as if they are installed

- Causes a problem because there are no pure-perl modules available which are capable of handling PAR files

- PAR uses Archive::Zip which in turn uses Compress::Raw::Zlib which needs a compiler to install

- Compress::Raw::Zlib became core after v5.9.4

- Solaris 10 and several commercially supported versions of Linux use earlier versions of Perl

PAR::Lite

- Initially I tried to provide a pure-perl module which emulate PAR without need of a compiler using Compress::Zlib::Perl - this attempt failed

- Then I worked on providing architecture specific versions of PAR - just download the appropriate version - this was messy and hard for beginners to work out which to use

PAR::Lite continued

- Then I looked for a minimal pure-perl module that can do http get

- HTTP::Lite achieves this but can't handle proxies

- Plient transparently uses whatever is available

Using Plient

- Plient is pure perl and will use what it can in this order :-
  http:curl, wget, HTTPLite,LWP:https:curl,wget,LWP

- Use Plient to download a bundle appropriate to the architecture to enable PAR usage

- Then use PAR