

**NAME**

config\_data - Query or change configuration of Perl modules

**SYNOPSIS**

```
# Get config/feature values
config_data --module Foo::Bar --feature bazzable
config_data --module Foo::Bar --config magic_number

# Set config/feature values
config_data --module Foo::Bar --set_feature bazzable=1
config_data --module Foo::Bar --set_config magic_number=42

# Print a usage message
config_data --help
```

**DESCRIPTION**

The `config_data` tool provides a command-line interface to the configuration of Perl modules. By “configuration”, we mean something akin to “user preferences” or “local settings”. This is a formalization and abstraction of the systems that people like Andreas Koenig (CPAN::Config), Jon Swartz (HTML::Mason::Config), Andy Wardley (Template::Config), and Larry Wall (perl’s own Config.pm) have developed independently.

The configuration system employed here was developed in the context of `Module::Build`. Under this system, configuration information for a module `Foo`, for example, is stored in a module called `Foo::ConfigData` (I would have called it `Foo::Config` but that was taken by all those other systems mentioned in the previous paragraph...). These `...::ConfigData` modules contain the configuration data, as well as publicly accessible methods for querying and setting (yes, actually re-writing) the configuration data. The `config_data` script (whose docs you are currently reading) is merely a front-end for those methods. If you wish, you may create alternate front-ends.

The two types of data that may be stored are called `config` values and `feature` values. A `config` value may be any perl scalar, including references to complex data structures. It must, however, be serializable using `Data::Dumper`. A `feature` is a boolean (1 or 0) value.

**USAGE**

This script functions as a basic getter/setter wrapper around the configuration of a single module. On the command line, specify which module’s configuration you’re interested in, and pass options to get or set `config` or `feature` values. The following options are supported:

**module**

Specifies the name of the module to configure (required).

**feature**

When passed the name of a `feature`, shows its value. The value will be 1 if the feature is enabled, 0 if the feature is not enabled, or empty if the feature is unknown. When no feature name is supplied, the names and values of all known features will be shown.

**config**

When passed the name of a `config` entry, shows its value. The value will be displayed using `Data::Dumper` (or similar) as perl code. When no config name is supplied, the names and values of all known config entries will be shown.

**set\_feature**

Sets the given `feature` to the given boolean value. Specify the value as either 1 or 0.

**set\_config**

Sets the given `config` entry to the given value.

**eval**

If the `--eval` option is used, the values in `set_config` will be evaluated as perl code before being stored. This allows moderately complicated data structures to be stored. For really complicated

structures, you probably shouldn't use this command-line interface, just use the Perl API instead.

help

Prints a help message, including a few examples, and exits.

**AUTHOR**

Ken Williams, [kwilliams@cpan.org](mailto:kwilliams@cpan.org)

**COPYRIGHT**

Copyright (c) 1999, Ken Williams. All rights reserved.

This library is free software; you can redistribute it and/or modify it under the same terms as Perl itself.

**SEE ALSO**

*[Module::Build\(3\)](#), [perl\(1\)](#).*