

**NAME**

AnyDBM\_File - provide framework for multiple DBMs

NDBM\_File, DB\_File, GDBM\_File, SDBM\_File, ODBM\_File - various DBM implementations

**SYNOPSIS**

```
use AnyDBM_File;
```

**DESCRIPTION**

This module is a “pure virtual base class”—it has nothing of its own. It’s just there to inherit from one of the various DBM packages. It prefers ndbm for compatibility reasons with Perl 4, then Berkeley DB (See DB\_File), GDBM, SDBM (which is always there—it comes with Perl), and finally ODBM. This way old programs that used to use NDBM via *dbmopen()* can still do so, but new ones can reorder @ISA:

```
BEGIN { @AnyDBM_File::ISA = qw(DB_File GDBM_File NDBM_File) }
use AnyDBM_File;
```

Having multiple DBM implementations makes it trivial to copy database formats:

```
use Fcntl; use NDBM_File; use DB_File;
tie %newhash, 'DB_File', $new_filename, O_CREAT|O_RDWR;
tie %oldhash, 'NDBM_File', $old_filename, 1, 0;
%newhash = %oldhash;
```

**DBM Comparisons**

Here’s a partial table of features the different packages offer:

	odbm	ndbm	sdbm	gdbm	bsd-db
Linkage comes w/ perl	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Src comes w/ perl	no	no	yes	no	no
Comes w/ many unix os	yes	yes[0]	no	no	no
Builds ok on !unix	?	?	yes	yes	?
Code Size	?	?	small	big	big
Database Size	?	?	small	big?	ok[1]
Speed	?	?	slow	ok	fast
FTPable	no	no	yes	yes	yes
Easy to build	N/A	N/A	yes	yes	ok[2]
Size limits	1k	4k	1k[3]	none	none
Byte-order independent	no	no	no	no	yes
Licensing restrictions	?	?	no	yes	no

[0] on mixed universe machines, may be in the bsd compat library, which is often shunned.

[1] Can be trimmed if you compile for one access method.

[2] See DB\_File. Requires symbolic links.

[3] By default, but can be redefined.

**SEE ALSO**

[dbm\(3\)](#), [ndbm\(3\)](#), [DB\\_File\(3\)](#), [perldbfilter\(1\)](#)