

Table of Contents

INTRODUCTION TO THE ACTIVESTATE PERL DEBUGGER.....	5
Welcome.....	5
Key Benefits & Features.....	5
About this Documentation.....	5
Conventions used in this documentation.....	6
Contacting ActiveState.....	6
Reporting Bugs.....	6
Purchasing ActiveState Perl Debugger.....	6
Learning More.....	7
Books on Perl.....	7
Internet Web sites.....	7
Mailing Lists.....	8
Usenet Newsgroups.....	9
QUICK START.....	9
Quick Start.....	9
INSTALLATION.....	9
Installation Requirements.....	9
Installation Instructions.....	10
INSIDE THE ACTIVESTATE PERL DEBUGGER.....	10
Debugger Environment.....	11
Pointers.....	11
Source Window.....	11
Watch Window.....	12
Proximity Window.....	13
Registers Window.....	13
Toolbar.....	14
Menus.....	15
Debug Menu - Call Stack.....	15
Debug Menu - Continue.....	15
Debug Menu - Dump Variable.....	15
Debug Menu - Quick Eval.....	16
Debug Menu - Run To Cursor.....	16
Debug Menu - Step Into.....	16
Debug Menu - Step Out.....	16
Debug Menu - Step Over.....	16
Debug Menu - Stop Debugging.....	16
Edit Menu - Edit Breakpoints.....	16
Edit Menu - Find.....	17
Edit Menu - Go To Line.....	17
Edit Menu - Insert Breakpoint.....	17
Edit Menu - Next Bookmark.....	17
Edit Menu - Previous Bookmark.....	17
Edit Menu - Remove All Bookmarks.....	17
Edit Menu - Toggle Bookmark.....	17
Edit Menu - Toggle Breakpoint.....	17
File Menu - Exit.....	17
Help Menu - About Perl Debugger.....	18
Help Menu - Help Topics.....	18
Help Menu - What's This.....	18

Tools Menu - Customize.....	18
Tools Menu - Edit Source.....	19
Tools Menu - Options.....	20
Tools Menu - Send Command.....	20
View Menu - Registers.....	20
View Menu - Status Bar.....	20
View Menu - Tool Bar.....	20
View Menu - Proximity.....	20
View Menu - Watch.....	20
Configuring.....	20
Options Dialog – General Tab.....	20
Options Dialog – Source Tab.....	21
Options Dialog – Watch Tab.....	22
Options Dialog – Colors Tab.....	23
Options Dialog - Accelerator Key Tab.....	24
TROUBLESHOOTING.....	25
Support.....	25
The Perl Clinic™.....	25
FAQ.....	26
The debugger installed OK, but the licensing part failed, what should I do?.....	26
Does ActiveState Perl Debugger work with the Standard Distribution Release 5.004xx port? ..	26
How can I buy ActiveState Perl Debugger?.....	26
Can I use both the console and visual debuggers?.....	26
Why can't I dump a my variable?.....	26
The splash screen that appears when I start ActiveState Perl Debugger™ was cool the first dozen times, but how do I get rid of it?.....	26
I'm trying to run ActiveState Perl Debugger™ using the -d option, but I'm getting an error message that says ole.pm and config.pm cannot be found. What's going on?.....	27
Why can't I edit scripts directly within the source window?.....	27
Can I trap compiler warnings in the debugger? I want to run the debugger with -w -d, but it doesn't seem to work.....	27
This is a known problem. A useful alternative is to first run the script with -c -w, fix those problems, then run with -d to make sure the script is doing what it should be doing.....	27
Why doesn't syntax coloring work correctly for multi-line strings?.....	27
I'm using the -d option when I run Perl, but the ActiveState Perl Debugger™ window isn't being displayed, and the console window is displaying a "DB<1>" prompt. What do I do?.....	27
When I try to run my scripts in debug mode, I get the error:.....	28
ActiveState Perl Debugger™ is behaving strangely and I don't know what's wrong. What can I do?.....	28
My scripts causes a "use of uninitialized value" message when run with perl.exe, but seems to run with no error message in the Debugger.....	28
I've edited my Perl program and now my breakpoints are all in the wrong places. What do I do?	28
I'm trying to step through my Perl program, but most of the debugging commands are beeping at me. What's going on?.....	28
REFERENCES.....	29
Other Perl Tools.....	29
Registry entries.....	29
Glossary.....	30
Learning More.....	30
COPYRIGHT INFO.....	35

Introduction to the ActiveState Perl Debugger

Welcome

ActiveState Perl Debugger™ is a compact visual **Perl** debugger designed to replace the default console-based Perl debugger. Experienced programmers will find familiar controls and powerful features, while programmers who are just starting out will find that with its intuitive interface, they will be producing solid code in no time.

We hope you enjoy using ActiveState Perl Debugger.

Key Benefits & Features

ActiveState Perl Debugger™ is a lightweight yet powerful GUI debugger for your perl scripts that lets you focus on the code.

Key Benefits

- **Easy to use.** Just run Perl with the `-d` option, and you're debugging!
- **Zero Learning Curve.** Whether you are familiar with popular GUI debuggers or not, you will feel right at home with ActiveState Perl Debugger.
- **Saves time.** Remembers your settings, including breakpoints and bookmarks, so that you can focus on your code.

Key Features

- **Proximity Window.** Displays scalar variables near the instruction pointer so you can focus on what is relevant as you step through your code.
- **Syntax Coloring.** Single and double quoted strings, regular expressions, comments, POD, and Perl key words are color coded to help you navigate your script.
- **Detailed Information.** Call stack, list and hash dumps, several watch windows, quick eval and conditional breakpoints let you get the information you need.
- **User configurable accelerator keys.** Lets you use the accelerator keys you want to use.

About this Documentation

This documentation has been organized into the following sections:

Section 1 – Introduction to ActiveState Perl Debugger™

The **Introduction** section includes information on the following topics:

- the debugger and it's main features
- the documentation and how to navigate it
- contacting ActiveState Tool Corp
- how to purchase the debugger
- additional references in the learning more section

Section 2 – Quick Start

The **Quick Start** section is for users who don't want to read the documentation, but want to get up and running the debugger as quickly as possible

Section 3 – Installation

The **Installation** section is an in depth look at what's happening during the installation process.

Section 4 – Getting Started

The **Getting Started** section includes a brief sample debugging session to illustrate the main features of **ActiveState Perl Debugger™** in action.

Section 5 – Inside ActiveState Perl Debugger™

This section is a more in depth look at all of the features of the debugger, including all of its features and how to configure them.

Section 6 – Troubleshooting

The **Troubleshooting** section is there for you should any problems arise while using the debugger. This section currently consists of a list of Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) and where to go for additional support.

Section 7 – References

The **References** section includes both sub-sections directly related to ActiveState Perl Debugger™ and sections which are there for you should you decide that you want to learn more about **Perl**.

Conventions used in this documentation

- Menu names and options, and important terminology are shown in **bold**.
- Key names, key combinations and key sequences are shown enclosed in brackets and in bold. For example: **<ALT + F1>**
- Source code and commands are shown in *courier*.

Comments on this documentation

If you have any comments or suggestions regarding this documentation, please submit them on the bug reporting page of the ActiveState Web site at: <http://www.ActiveState.com/bugs>.

Contacting ActiveState

To contact **ActiveState Tool Corp.**, please visit the ActiveState Web site at:

- <http://www.ActiveState.com>

Reporting Bugs

To report bugs in **ActiveState Perl Debugger™**, or any other ActiveState product, please visit the bug page on the ActiveState Web site at:

- <http://www.ActiveState.com/bugs>

Purchasing ActiveState Perl Debugger

ActiveState Perl Debugger is available for purchase online at the ActiveState Web site at <http://www.ActiveState.com/pldb/>.

With this release, we are only offering trial and single use licenses.

Trial licenses are freely available and allow full functionality of the debugger. Trials expire after 7 days.

Single use licenses are classified into two separate types: User and Machine.

User Licenses

User licenses are for a specific user. A User license may be used by the same user on any number of machines.

Machine Licenses

Machine Licenses are for a specific machine. A Machine license may only be used on one particular machine, but any number of users may use it.

After this special offer has expired, we will be offering several different types of licenses, including Educational, Bulk and Enterprise to suit the needs of the different types of users.

Upgrades & maintenance releases

Your license entitles you to free maintenance releases and revisions. There are several known issues with the debugger, and as we resolve them we will notify you. Upgrading your installation will be a simple matter of installing the new package. Our IDE, Visual Perl is under development, as is a more powerful version of the debugger. Our policy is to give our existing customers a discount on the purchase of our new products when they are released.

For more information on purchasing ActiveState Perl Debugger, and on our licensing system, please see the purchasing and licensing FAQs at: <http://www.ActiveState.com/pldb/faq/>.

Learning More

Books on Perl

The following books published by **O'Reilly** are useful additions to any Perl aficionado's bookcase:

Advanced Perl Programming

By Sriram Srinivasan

CGI Programming on the World Wide Web

By Shishir Gundavaram

Learning Perl on Win32 Systems

By Randal L. Schwartz, Erik Olson & Tom Christiansen

Learning Perl, 2nd Edition

By Randal L. Schwartz & Tom Christiansen Foreword by Larry Wall

Mastering Regular Expressions

Powerful Techniques for Perl and Other Tools

By Jeffrey E. F. Friedl

Perl 5 Desktop Reference

By Johan Vromans

Programming Perl, 2nd Edition

By Larry Wall, Tom Christiansen & Randal L. Schwartz

Web Client Programming with Perl

Automating Tasks on the Web

By Clinton Wong

Internet Web sites

- **ActiveState Tool Corp** – <http://www.ActiveState.com>

- **The Perl Clinic** – <http://www.PerlClinic.com>
- **The O'Reilly Perl Resource Center** – <http://perl.oreilly.com/>
- **Books on Perl published by O'Reilly** – <http://www.oreilly.com/publishing/perl/>
- **The Perl Journal** – <http://www.tpj.com/>
- **The Perl Language Home Page** – <http://www.perl.com/perl/>

Mailing Lists

ActiveState maintains the following mailing lists for its commercial **Perl** products

- **Perl-Debugger**. This list is for any questions regarding ActiveState Perl Debugger™, ActiveState's commercial visual debugger for Perl.
- **PerlEx**. This list is for any questions regarding PerlEx, ActiveState's commercial software package for running Perl CGI programs on Windows NT Web servers.

There are also seven mailing lists maintained by ActiveState for the **Perl for Win32** community:

- **Perl-Win32-Users**. This list is for general questions on Perl installation on Win32 platforms (except HTTP servers), Cross-platform issues related to Win32, Socket programming (non-Internet), Object Linking and Embedding, COM or Automation (except database related). As well as, Any Perl for Win32 topic not mentioned in the topic lists of the other mailing lists. Please check that FAQs on the ActiveState Web site and related sites before asking a question. This list gets to have some moderate traffic at times.
- **Perl-Win32-Porters**. This list is **NOT** for usage or install questions. If you post a question like that on this list, people may not be nice to you. It is used to discuss porting and development issues. Relatively low traffic that gets little bursts on occasion. Perl5-porters is on this list so that the main porters know what the Win32 issues are.
- **Perl-Win32-Announce**. This list is a receive-only list used to announce new builds, security issues and bugs found and other occasional information. This list can only be posted to by the owner and is very light traffic wise. Any serious **Perl for Win32** developer should be on this list. :-)
- **Perl-Win32-Web**. This list is for the discussion of CGI programming, **PerlIS**, Installation/Configuration of Perl on Win32 HTTP servers, Internet system security related to Perl, **PerlScript** on Web servers, All other Perl/Web related topics, e.g., Web search scripts, HTML munging.
- **Perl-Win32-Admin**. This list is for the discussion of the use of Perl in user account creation, modification, etc. registry work, event logging, Access Control Lists (permissions), and all other systems administration topics.
- **Perl-Win32-Database**. This list is for the discussion of Open Database Connectivity issues, Module installation, Database access via OLE, and all other database related topics.
- **Perl-Win32-J**. This list is for users in Japan who are using Perl for Win32. Discussions are all in Japanese.

To subscribe to any of the above mailing lists, send an email request to **ListManager@ActiveState.com**, with the following in the message:

```
subscribe <listname>
```

Where <listname> is the name of the list you want to subscribe to.

Usenet Newsgroups

Usenet newsgroups are another good source of information and advice regarding **Perl**. Please consult your system administrator or Internet provider for availability of the following groups:

- `comp.lang.perl.announce`
- `comp.lang.perl.misc`
- `comp.lang.perl.modules`
- `comp.lang.perl.tk`

There are also some non-English Perl related newsgroups:

- `de.comp.lang.perl`
- `fj.lang.perl`
- `fr.comp.lang.perl`
- `it.comp.lang.perl`
- `pl.comp.lang.perl`
- `japan.comp.lang.perl`

Quick Start

Quick Start

This section is designed to get you up and using **ActiveState Perl Debugger** as quickly as possible. It assumes that you have already gone through the installation process trouble free, and are ready to debug. If you had any problems with installation, please see the **Installation** section.

NOTE: You must have **Perl for Win32™** build 310 or higher installed to use **ActiveState Perl Debugger™**. You can check the version you have installed by typing `perl -v` at the command line. The latest version of Perl for Win32 is available from the **ActiveState** Web site at: <http://www.ActiveState.com>.

After successful installation of the debugger, you can start debugging your Perl programs by running Perl with the `-d` option, as follows:

```
Perl -d <myprogram>
```

where `<myprogram>` is the Perl program you want to debug.

ActiveState Perl Debugger has all of the basic debugger functionality you expect from a debugger plus a list of additional features designed to make your debugging easier. For a detailed list of the program's features and how to use them, please see the **Inside ActiveState Perl Debugger** section.

Installation

Installation Requirements

Before using **ActiveState Perl Debugger™**, you should be familiar with the basic operation of Windows 95 or Windows NT.

System requirements

ActiveState Perl Debugger was designed to run on a system consisting of:

- Pentium 90 or faster (recommended)
- 16 MB RAM or more
- Windows 95 or Windows NT 4.0
- **Perl for Win32**, Build 310 or later – the latest version is available from the **ActiveState** Web site at <http://www.ActiveState.com> or, Standard Distribution v5.004xx release.
- 2 MB free disk space

Installation Instructions

NOTE: Before you start installing ActiveState Perl Debugger, you should have installed either **Perl for Win32** build 310 or higher – available from the ActiveState Web site at <http://www.ActiveState.com> – or, the Standard Distribution v5.004xx release. To check to see which version of Perl you have, run Perl with the `-v` option as follows: `perl -v`.

ActiveState Perl Debugger™ installation package utilizes **Authenticode** so you can be assured that you are getting unmodified software as created by **ActiveState**. To take advantage of Authenticode, you must be using **Microsoft Internet Explorer** 3.01 or later when downloading the software, and you must choose to open the file rather than saving it.

Executing the self-extracting package will bring you to the initial dialog welcoming you to ActiveState Perl Debugger installer. After selecting **Next**, you are taken to the **License dialog**, where you are asked to read and either accept or decline the conditions of the licensing agreement. If you accept the terms of the licensing agreement, you are next asked to choose the folder in which you would like to install the debugger. After selecting the installation folder, you are asked to enter the Program folder that will be put into the Windows Start menu, click **Next** if you accept the Installers default. The installer then copies all of the required files to your hard disk, and alters the Registry on your computer. After the setup process is complete, you are asked whether or not you would like to view the **Release Notes**. We recommend that you read this file to find out about any last minute changes or updates.

Registry entries

During installation, the installer adds the following keys to the registry:

```
[HKEY_CURRENT_USER/SOFTWARE/ActiveState/Perl Debugger/1.0]
[HKEY_CURRENT_USER/SOFTWARE/ActiveWare/Perl5/PERL5DB]
```

The PERL5DB registry key defines which debugger **Perl for Win32** uses. If you want to run both console and visual debuggers, please see the **FAQ** for more information.

If during installation you indicated that you are running the Standard Distribution Release 5.004xx, the following line was added to your `autoexec.bat` file if you are running Windows 95:

```
set PERL5DB = BEGIN { require '<perl5dbpath>\Perl5DB.pl' }
```

where `<perl5dbpath>` is the path to where you installed the ActiveState Perl Debugger. Users who are running Windows NT will have the Perl5DB variable set in their environment.

Once the application and its files have been copied to your system, you enter the **Registration and Licensing** phase of the installation process. In this phase of installation, you can purchase the software, or get trial versions of it.

NOTE: If for any reason, registration should fail, you can run it again by selecting **Product Licensing** from the **ActiveState Perl Debugger** program group of the **Start** menu.

Inside the ActiveState Perl Debugger

Debugger Environment

Pointers

➤ Instruction Pointer

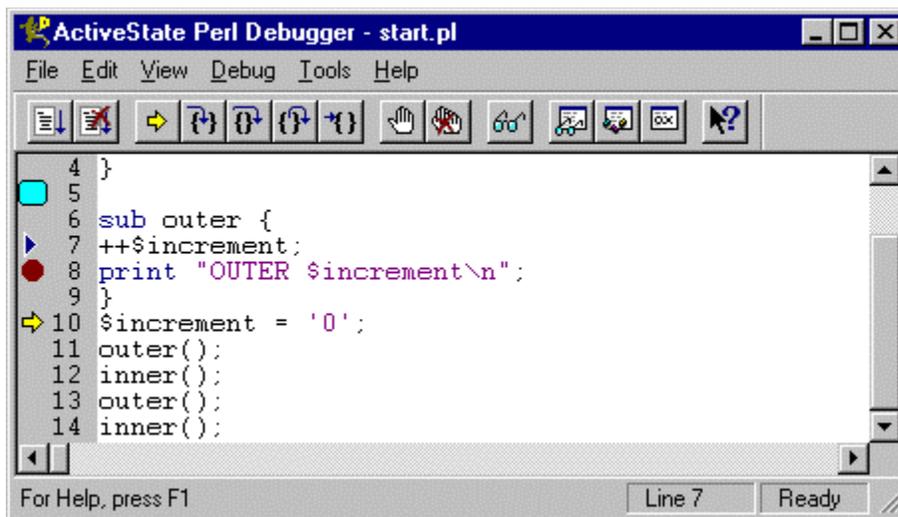
The **Instruction Pointer**, or IP for short, is found in the left-hand margin of the **Source** window. The line that it is pointing to will be executed next. Use the **Step Into**, **Step Over**, **Step Out** or **Run to Cursor** commands to advance the position of the pointer.

▶ Current line Pointer

The **Current Line Pointer** points to the line that is currently selected. If you add **Breakpoints** or **Bookmarks**, they will be added to the line this pointer is pointing to. You can change the position of the pointer using the **Up** and **Down Arrows**, as well as the **<Home>**, **<End>**, **<Page Up>** and **<Page Down>** keys. If the **<Ctrl>** key is pressed, the window is vertically scrolled without moving the current line pointer.

Source Window

The source to your Perl program is displayed in the **Source window**. Generally, this is the Perl program specified when you started the Perl debugger, however, it can change if during the execution of your Perl program, another Perl program is called. The program is displayed line by line and Perl syntax is emphasized with different text colors if you have enabled syntax coloring in the **Color tab of the Options dialog**.



To make the source window the active window either click anywhere in the window, or press **<Alt + S>** or **<F6>**.

The left margin displays **breakpoint markers**, **bookmark markers**, the **current line pointer** and the **instruction pointer**. The margin also displays line numbers if you have set this option in the **Source tab of the Options dialog**.

The current line pointer can be moved via the standard keyboard navigation keys: **<Up Arrow>**, **<Down Arrow>**, **<Home>**, **<End>**, **<Page up>** and **<Page Down>**. If the **<Ctrl>** key is pressed, the window is vertically scrolled without moving the current line pointer.

The current line pointer can also be moved by using the mouse to click on the desired line. If the right mouse button is clicked, or if **<Shift+F10>** is pressed, a shortcut menu is displayed that contains the commands: **Toggle Breakpoint**; **Insert Breakpoint**; **Edit Breakpoints**; **Run to Cursor**; and **Quick Eval**.

Double-clicking on a variable in the **Source window** will select the variable. Right-clicking on the selected variable, produces a shortcut menu from which you can choose **Quick Eval**, **Copy to Watch** or **Copy to Clipboard**.

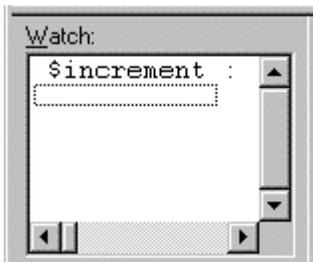
Double-clicking on a line number in the margin will toggle a breakpoint on that line.

Status Bar

On the right side of the **Status Bar** there are two message boxes. **Double-clicking** the message on the left displays the **Go To Line** dialog box. The second message box displays **Ready** when the debugger is idle, and **Working** when a program is running.

Watch Window

The **Watch** window displays one or more Perl expressions in the context of the currently executing Perl program.



The results of each expression in the **Watch** window are updated any time a variable, in the context of the Perl program, could change – after execution is continued, a statement is stepped over, or even after the **Quick Eval** dialog is used. The expressions supported are the same types of expression supported by the **Quick Eval** dialog, and since they can actually change the contents of the variables, it is important to note that the expressions are evaluated from top to bottom. Also note that expressions in the **Watch** window are evaluated before expressions in the **Registers** window.

To make the **Watch** window the active window, either click anywhere in the window or press **<ALT + W>**.

To add variables to the **Watch**, use any of the following methods:

- Right-click in the **Watch** window and select **Add Watch** from the shortcut menu
- Double click on or below the entry at the bottom of the list in the **Watch** window
- Press **<Enter>** when the **Watch** window is the active window, and the entry at the bottom of the list is highlighted (pressing **<Enter>** with a different expression highlighted allows you to edit that particular expression)
- Press the **<Insert>** key while the **Watch** window is active
- Type any character when the **Watch** window is the active window. Any typed characters are automatically added to the **Watch** box when it is displayed.

You can also add variables to the **Watch** window by selecting the variable you want to add in the **Source** window, right-clicking on it, and then selecting **Copy to Watch** from the shortcut menu.

You can **Edit** a watch by doing any of the following:

- Select **Edit Watch** from the shortcut menu of the **Watch** window
- Double-click on an existing watch expression in the **Watch** window
- Press the **<Enter>** key when an existing watch expression in the **Watch** window is highlighted

You can **Remove** a watch by any of the following ways:

- Right-click on the watch expression you want to remove, and select **Remove Watch** from the shortcut menu of the **Watch** window.
- Select the watch expression you want to remove, and press the **<Delete>** key.

Right-clicking in the border of the **Watch** window displays a menu that allows you to:

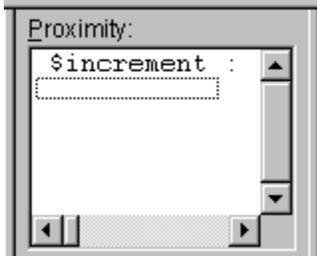
- **Allow docking** of the window

- **Hide** the window

You can move the **Watch** window to any position on your screen by clicking on the border of the window and dragging it to the desired location. To prevent the window from docking, keep the **<Ctrl>** key pressed while dragging the window.

Proximity Window

The **Proximity** window looks and behaves much like the **Watch** and **Registers** windows, except that the user cannot change the list of expressions. Instead, the list is automatically generated by the debugger, which looks at the lines of the Perl program surrounding the current statement. You can specify the number of lines above and below the **instruction pointer** to scan for variables by changing the **lines above** and **lines below** options in the **Watch** tab of the **Options** dialog. (**Tools** menu)



To make the **Proximity** window the active window, either click anywhere in the window or press **<ALT + P>**.

Right-clicking in the **Proximity** window displays a shortcut menu that allows you to:

- **Hide** the **Proximity** window
- **Copy to watch** – copy the currently selected variable to the **Watch** window

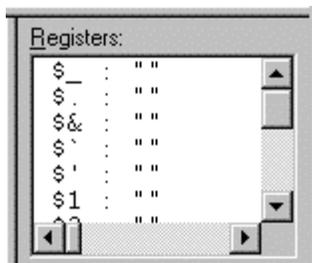
Right-clicking in the border of the **Proximity** window displays a shortcut menu that allows you to:

- **Allow docking** of the window
- **Hide** the window

You can move the **Proximity** window to any position on your screen by clicking on the border of the window and dragging it to the desired location. To prevent the window from docking, keep the **<Ctrl>** key pressed while dragging the window.

Registers Window

The **Registers** window looks and behaves exactly like the **Watch** window. The only significant difference between the two is that the expressions listed in the **Registers** window are tied to the application instead of the currently active Perl program, making them the same for every Perl program you debug. Any changes made to the list of expressions in this window will be reflected the next time that the debugger is run, regardless of the script.



The results of each expression in the **Registers** window are updated any time a variable, in the context of the Perl program, could change – after execution is continued, a statement is stepped over, or even after the **Quick Eval** dialog is used. The expressions supported are the same types of expression supported by the **Quick Eval** dialog, and since they can actually change the contents of the variables, it is important to note that the expressions are evaluated from top to bottom. Also note that expressions in the **Watch** window are evaluated before expressions in the **Registers** window.

To make the **Registers** window the active window, either click anywhere in the window or press **<ALT + W>**.

To add variables to the **Registers**, use any of the following methods:

- Right-click in the **Registers** window and select **Add Watch** from the shortcut menu
- Double click on or below the entry at the bottom of the list in the **Registers** window
- Press **<Enter>** when the **Registers** window is the active window, and the entry at the bottom of the list is highlighted (pressing **<Enter>** with a different expression highlighted allows you to edit that particular expression)
- Press the **<Insert>** key while the **Registers** window is active
- Type any character when the **Registers** window is the active window. Any typed characters are automatically added to the **Watch** box when it is displayed.

You can **Edit** a watch by doing any of the following:

- Select **Edit Watch** from the shortcut menu of the **Registers** window
- Double-click on an existing watch expression in the **Registers** window
- Press the **<Enter>** key when an existing watch expression in the **Registers** window is highlighted

You can **Remove** a watch by any of the following ways:

- Right-click on the watch expression you want to remove, and select **Remove Watch** from the shortcut menu of the **Registers** window.
- Select the watch expression you want to remove, and press the **<Delete>** key.

Right-clicking in the border of the **Registers** window displays a menu that allows you to:

- **Allow docking** of the window
- **Hide** the window

You can move the **Registers** window to any position on your screen by clicking on the border of the window and dragging it to the desired location. To prevent the window from docking, keep the **<Ctrl>** key pressed while dragging the window.



The **ActiveState Perl Debugger™** Toolbar conveniently groups in one place the most commonly used functions of the debugger. The function of each of the icons and their corresponding shortcut keys are listed below.



Continue <F5> Continues execution of the Perl program from the Instruction Pointer Execution continues until a break point is hit, or the program terminates.



Stop Debugging <SHIFT+F5> Halts execution of the Perl program, exiting ActiveState Perl Debugger.



Show Next Statement <ALT+NUM *> Ensures that the line pointed to by the Instruction Pointer is currently visible.



Step Into <F11> Continues execution of the Perl program from the Instruction Pointer, stopping at the next statement, but stepping into any subroutines called.



Step Over <F10> Continues execution of the Perl program from the Instruction Pointer, stopping at the next statement, stepping over any called subroutines.



Step Out <SHIFT + F11> Continues execution of the Perl program from the Instruction Pointer, stopping after the current subroutine has returned.



Run to Cursor <CTRL + F10> Continues execution of the Perl program from the Instruction Pointer, stopping when execution reaches the **Current Line Pointer**.



Insert Breakpoint <CTRL + F19> Allows you to enter a breakpoint at an optional condition anywhere in the current file.



Remove All Breakpoints <CTRL + SHIFT + F9> Removes all breakpoints set in the active Perl program.



Quick Eval <SHIFT + F9> Allows you to quickly evaluate any Perl expression, in the context of the Perl program you are debugging.



Toggle Watch Shows or hides the Watch window, which displays Perl expressions that you want to watch while debugging the currently active program.



Toggle Proximity Shows or hides the Proximity window, which displays Perl expressions that occur around the **Current Line Pointer**.



Toggle Registers Shows or hides the Registers window, which displays Perl expressions you want to watch while debugging any Perl program.



Help To obtain context sensitive help for ActiveState Perl Debugger, first click on the help button, and then click on the item for which you want help and an appropriate help topic will be displayed.

Menus

Debug Menu - Call Stack

Selecting **Call Stack** from the **Debug** menu or pressing **<Ctrl + T>** displays the **Call Stack** dialog. This dialog displays the call stack, or the currently active subroutines at the **current line pointer**. The currently active subroutines is a list of subroutines that have been called but have not yet returned.

Each entry in the list of subroutine calls includes the name of the subroutine, the arguments that were passed to the subroutine, if any, and the file and line from which the subroutine was called. The **Go To Line** button is enabled when a subroutine call from the currently active Perl program is selected. Pressing the **Go To Line** button, or double-clicking a subroutine call item, will close the **Call Stack** dialog and set the current line to the line number specified by the selected subroutine call in the call stack.

Debug Menu - Continue

Selecting **Continue** from the **Debug** menu or pressing **<F5>** causes the currently active Perl program to continue executing until it encounters the next breakpoint or until the program is complete. If you do not insert a breakpoint, the program will be run to completion, and the debugger exited.

Debug Menu - Dump Variable

Selecting **Dump Variable** from the **Debug** menu or pressing **<Ctrl + D>** displays the **Dump Variable** dialog. This dialog displays the contents of the variable specified in the **Variable** box after the **View** button has been clicked. If there is both a scalar and an array with the same name, both will be displayed.

The Dump Variable dialog displays the contents of a specified variable in the context of the currently executing Perl program. This dialog calls the **dumpvar** subroutine provided by Perl 5.0. The text specified in the **Variable** box can be a scalar, array, hash or even a file handle. The \$, @ or % is stripped from the variable before it is passed to **dumpvar**, so if the specified variable name is used by both an array and a hash, for example, the contents of both the array and the hash will be displayed. See the implementation of the **dumpvar** subroutine for a more complete description of what is supported.

Debug Menu - Quick Eval

Selecting **Quick Eval** from the **Debug** menu, or pressing **<Ctrl + E>** or **<Shift + F9>** allows you to evaluate a Perl expression in the context of the Perl program currently being debugged. Type the expression into the **Evaluate** box and click the **Eval** button. The result of the Perl expression will appear in the **Result** box. Clicking **Add Watch** will add the expression to the **Watch** window. The result of the expression is always treated as a scalar, even if the expression returns an array or hash. If you need to see the contents of an array or hash, assign the array or hash to a temporary variable, and then use the **Dump Variable** dialog to view its contents.

Any Perl expression can be successfully evaluated with this dialog, including assignments, which can be used to change variables. More specifically, any expression that would be syntactically correct inside parentheses will work with this dialog. As a result, neither blocks nor multiple statements separated by semicolons are supported.

Also, a match or substitution evaluated with this dialog will not affect the global match variables (\$&, \$1, etc.) if you want to view the results of a match, for example, you'll have to include them in the evaluation in some way, as in `/([a-z]+)/, $1.`

Debug Menu - Run To Cursor

Selecting **Run to Cursor** from the **Debug** menu or pressing **<Ctrl + F10>** causes the currently active Perl program to continue executing until the **instruction pointer** arrives at the **current line pointer**. The Perl script will run to completion and exit the debugger if execution never reaches the current line pointer.

Debug Menu - Step Into

Selecting **Step Into** from the **Debug** menu, or pressing **<F11>**, causes the currently active Perl program to execute the next statement. If that statement calls a subroutine, then the current statement advances to the first statement of that subroutine.

Debug Menu - Step Out

Selecting **Step Out** from the **Debug** menu or pressing **<Shift + F11>** causes the currently active Perl program to continue executing until the **instruction pointer** arrives at the end of the currently executing subroutine. If there is no currently executing subroutine, the command works like Continue.

Debug Menu - Step Over

Selecting **Step Over** from the **Debug** menu or pressing **<F10>** causes the currently active Perl program to execute the next statement. If that statement calls a subroutine, the execution continues through the subroutine normally (unless a breakpoint is set within that subroutine).

Debug Menu - Stop Debugging

Selecting **Stop Debugging** from the **Debug** menu, or pressing **<Shift + F5>**, causes the active Perl program to no longer be debugged, exiting the debugger.

Edit Menu - Edit Breakpoints

Selecting **Edit Breakpoints** from the **Edit** menu or pressing **<Alt + F9>** displays the **Edit Breakpoints** dialog.

Edit Menu - Find

Selecting **Find** from the **Edit** Menu, or pressing **<Ctrl + F>** or **<Alt + F3>**, displays the **Find** dialog.

Edit Menu - Go To Line

Selecting **Go To Line** from the **Edit** menu, pressing **<Ctrl + G>**, or double-clicking on the current line indicator in the **status bar**, displays the **Go To Line** dialog.

Edit Menu - Insert Breakpoint

Selecting **Insert Breakpoint** from the **Edit** menu or pressing **<Ctrl + F9>** displays the **Insert Breakpoint** dialog. Clicking the **Condition** check box allows you to enter a condition, which if met, will cause the execution of the program to stop. If the condition is not met, the program will continue to execute until it reaches a valid breakpoint or the program terminates.

Edit Menu - Next Bookmark

Selecting **Next Bookmark** from the **Edit** menu or pressing **<F2>**, sets the current line to the next bookmarked line in the script, wrapping to the top of the script if necessary, and beeping if there are no bookmarks in the script.

Edit Menu - Previous Bookmark

Select **Previous Bookmark** from the **Edit** menu or pressing **<Shift + F2>**, sets the current line to the previous bookmarked line in the script, wrapping to the bottom of the script if necessary, and beeping if there are no bookmarks in the script.

Edit Menu - Remove All Bookmarks

Selecting **Remove All Bookmarks** from the **Edit** menu or pressing **<Ctrl + Shift + F2>** removes all bookmarks from the script.

Edit Menu - Toggle Bookmark

Selecting **Toggle Bookmark** from the **Edit** menu or pressing **<Ctrl + F2>** removes the bookmark at the current line, or sets a bookmark at the current line if there is currently no bookmark there. Double clicking on a line in the margin will also toggle bookmarks.

Edit Menu - Toggle Breakpoint

Selecting **Toggle Breakpoint** from the **Edit** menu or from the **Source** window shortcut menu, or pressing **<F9>** removes any breakpoint set at the current line, or inserts an unconditional breakpoint at the current line if there is no breakpoint currently there.

File Menu - Exit

Selecting **Exit** from the **File** menu quits the application. You can also exit by clicking on the close box on the right of the application's title bar, by selecting **Close** from the **System** menu, or by pressing **<Alt + F4>**.

If the debugger is working, the executing Perl program will not automatically terminate, and will probably have to be stopped manually using **<Ctrl+ C>**.

When the application is exited, various application settings are saved to the registry, including:

- All options displayed in the **Options** dialog
- The Size and position of the frame window
- The position of the tool bar
- The size and position of the **Watch** windows
- The position and settings of the **Find** dialog
- The current list of variables in the **Registers** window
- The **User Tools** currently supported

Various settings associated with the current Perl program are also saved, including the list of variables in the **Watch** window, the breakpoints and their conditions and the current bookmarks.

NOTE: If the **Reset All Settings** button of the **Options** dialog has been pressed, instead of saving all of the above settings, the entire Perl Debugger registry key is deleted, forcing all of the debugger settings back to their defaults when the debugger is launched next.

Help Menu - About Perl Debugger

Selecting **About Perl Debugger** from the **Help** menu displays the **About** dialog.

Help Menu - Help Topics

Selecting **Help Topics** from the **Help** menu or pressing <F1> displays the ActiveState Perl Debugger online help.

Help Menu - What's This

Selecting **What's This?** from the **Help** menu enables context sensitive help. Subsequently clicking on any part of the main window will display a popup help window briefly describing the clicked item if there is help available for that item.

Tools Menu - Customize

The **Customize Tools** dialog displays the list of user tools currently available, and allows you to add, remove or change the list of **User Tools**. Selecting **Customize** from the **Tools** menu displays the **Customize Tools** dialog. The **Edit Source** option of the **Tools** menu is the default tool and can be configured to launch your favorite editor.

You can add up to 16 tools, and you can run them by either selecting the entry from the Tools menu or pressing <Alt + 1-9>, for tools 1 through 9, <Alt + 0> for tool 10, and <Alt + Shift + 1-6> for tools 11 through 16.

The names of the tools currently available are shown in the User Tools list. Selecting a tool displays the Name, Command, Arguments and Initial Directory for that tool.

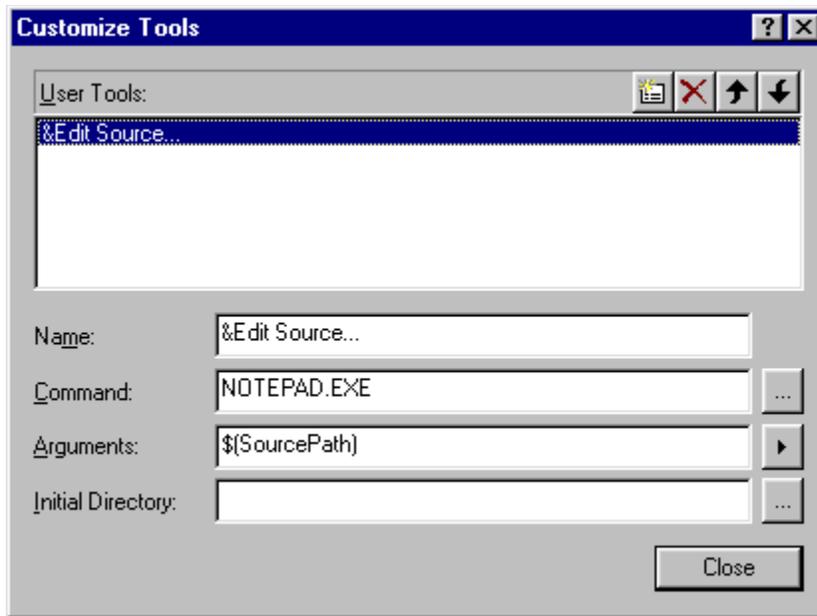
The four buttons above the User Tools list allow you to add, remove and change the order of the user tools.

The Add button <Alt + N> adds a new tool to the bottom of the list, giving it the name New Tool and no command, arguments or initial directory.

The Delete button <Delete> removes the selected item from the list

The Move Up button, <Alt + Up Arrow> moves the selected tool up one position

The Move Down button, <Alt + Down Arrow> moves the selected tool down one position.



To add a new tool:

1. Press **<ALT + N>** or click on the **New** button located in the upper right corner of the dialog.
2. Type the name that you want to appear in the **Tools** menu in the **Name** text box. Use the **&** character to indicate which letter you would like to use for a quick access key
3. Type the name of the application or command that you want run when the menu selection is chosen. You can browse on your computer's disks by pressing the ... button.
4. Select the arguments you want to append to the command by clicking on the button to the right of the text box, and selecting one of the choices from the shortcut menu. (see below for an explanation of the arguments you can select)
5. Choose the initial directory for the tool
6. Press the **Close** button to add the new entry to the **Tools** menu.

The **Arguments** text box displays the arguments that will be passed to the program specified in the **Command** text box when the tool is selected from the **Tool** menu. The following strings with additional information can be passed

Source Path	&(SourcePath)	The full path of the active Perl program, e.g. c:\scripts\buildbook.pl
Source Directory	\$(SourceDirectory)	The directory of the active Perl program, e.g. c:\scripts
Source Name	\$(SourceName)	The name of the active Perl program, e.g. BuildBook
Source Extension	\$(SourceExtension)	The extension of the active Perl program, e.g. .pl
Current Directory	\$(CurrentDirectory)	The current directory of Windows, e.g. c:\My Documents
Current Line	\$(CurrentLine)	The number of the current line in the active Perl program, e.g. 12.
Current Text	\$(CurrentText)	The text of the current line of the active Perl program, e.g. chomp;

You can change the order in which the entries appear in the **Tools** menu by selecting the entry in the **Customize Tools** dialog box, and pressing either the up or down arrow located in the upper right corner.

To delete an entry, select the entry and either press the **<Delete>** key, or press the **Delete** button located in the upper right corner of the **Customize Tools** dialog box.

Any changes made take place immediately – there is no way to undo any changes made in this dialog.

Tools Menu - Edit Source

Selecting **Edit Source** from the **Tools** menu opens the currently active Perl script with **Notepad**. See the **Customize** section for information on how to change the editor and add your own **User Tools**.

Tools Menu - Options

Selecting **Options** from the **Tools** menu displays the **Options** dialog. The Options dialog is composed of four tabs:

- **General**
- **Source**
- **Watch**
- **Colors**

Tools Menu - Send Command

Pressing **<Ctrl + F7>** allows the user to send a command directly to the PerlDB.pl script used by the debugger. There is no menu item for this dialog, as it is an advanced feature that few, if any people will need to take advantage of.

View Menu - Registers

Selecting **Registers** from the **View** menu displays the **Registers** window if it is currently hidden, and hides it if it is currently displayed. (The menu item is checked only if the **Registers** window is currently shown)

View Menu - Status Bar

Selecting **Status Bar** from the **View** menu displays the **Status Bar** if it is currently hidden, and hides it if it is currently displayed (The menu item is checked only if the **Status Bar** is currently shown)

View Menu - Tool Bar

Selecting **Tool Bar** from the **View** menu displays the **Tool Bar** if it is currently hidden, and hides it if it is currently displayed. (The menu item is checked only if the **Tool Bar** is currently shown)

View Menu - Proximity

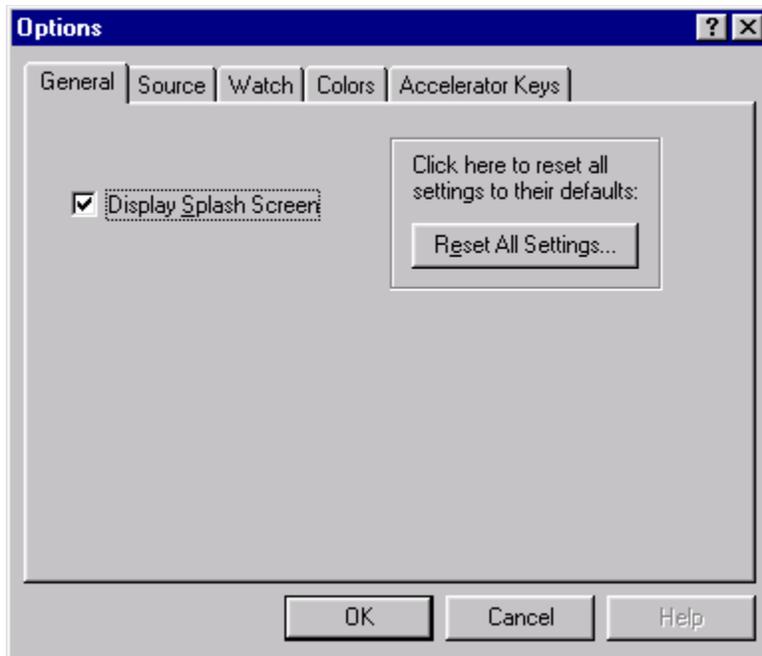
Selecting **Proximity** from the **View** menu displays the **Proximity** window if it is currently hidden, and hides it if it is currently displayed. (The menu item is checked only if the **Proximity** window is currently shown)

View Menu - Watch

Selecting **Watch** from the **View** menu displays the **Watch** window if it is currently hidden, and hides it if it is currently displayed. (The menu item is checked only if the **Watch** window is currently shown)

Configuring

Options Dialog – General Tab



Select **Options** from the **Tools** menu and then click on the **General** tab to view general configurable properties.

Display Splash Screen

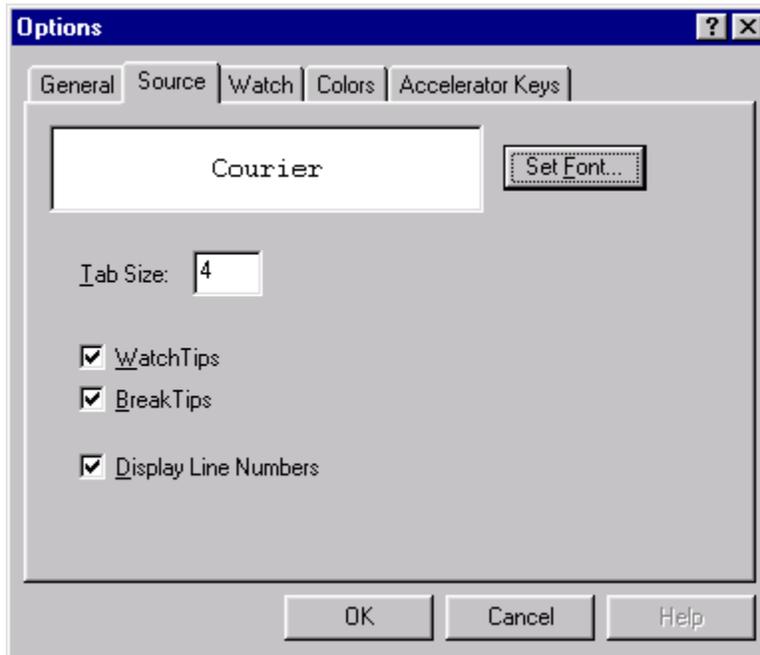
The **Display Splash Screen** check box controls whether or not to display the splash screen when you start ActiveState Perl Debugger.

Reset All Settings

Reset All Settings button to discard any changes you have made to the settings, including window placement and breakpoints. This will delete settings not only for the current script, but any other scripts you have run. (Settings are remembered for up to 100 scripts)

While you are editing any of the options in the **Options** dialog, clicking **OK** at any time accepts and applies the changes you've made. Clicking **Cancel** at any time discards any changes you've made.

Options Dialog – Source Tab



Select **Options** from the **Tools** menu and then click on the **Source** tab to configure how you view your source.

Set Font

Clicking the **Set Font** button will bring up a second dialog box from which you can select the font you would like to use to display Perl source code and the line numbers in the left margin. The default is 10 point Courier.

Tab Size

Tab size allows you to specify the number of spaces that represent one tab character in the source window. The default is 4.

WatchTips

The **WatchTips** check box determines whether or not WatchTips are displayed. With WatchTips enabled, pointing with the mouse to a variable in the source code displays the contents of that variable in a ToolTip.

BreakTips

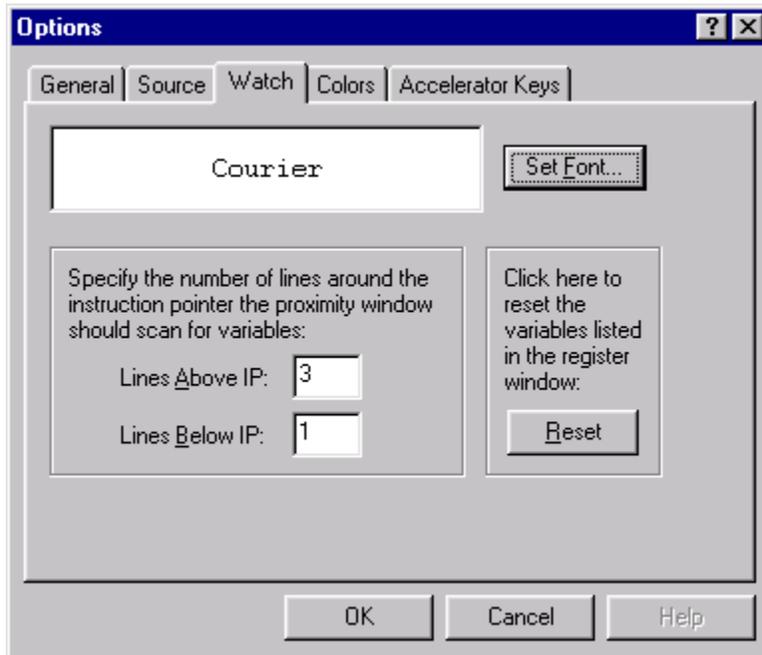
The **BreakTips** check box determines whether or not BreakTips are displayed. With BreakTips enabled, pointing with the mouse to a breakpoint in the left margin of the source code displays the condition of the breakpoint in a ToolTip. If there is no condition, the ToolTip displays **Break always**, otherwise it displays **Break when <condition>**, where **<condition>** is the condition you have set for that breakpoint.

Display Line Numbers

The **Display Line Numbers** check box controls whether or not to display line numbers in the left side margin.

While you are editing any of the options in the **Options** dialog, clicking **OK** at any time accepts and applies the changes you've made. Clicking **Cancel** at any time discards any changes you've made. Clicking the **Reset All settings** button in the **General** tab will return all of the settings to their defaults.

Options Dialog – Watch Tab



Select **Options** from the **Tools** menu and then click on the **Watch** tab to view the configurable watch properties.

Set Font

Clicking the **Set Font** button will bring up a second dialog box from which you can select the font you would like to use to display text in the **Watch**, **Proximity** and **Registers** windows, as well as the **Quick Eval** and **Dump Variable** dialogs. The default font is 10 point Courier.

Reset

Clicking on **Reset** resets the variables listed in the **Registers** window, returning them to their default values. Default values for the Registers window are: \$_, \$., \$\$, \$', \$R', and \$1 through \$9. The values will be reset once you have clicked the **Reset** button.

Lines Above IP

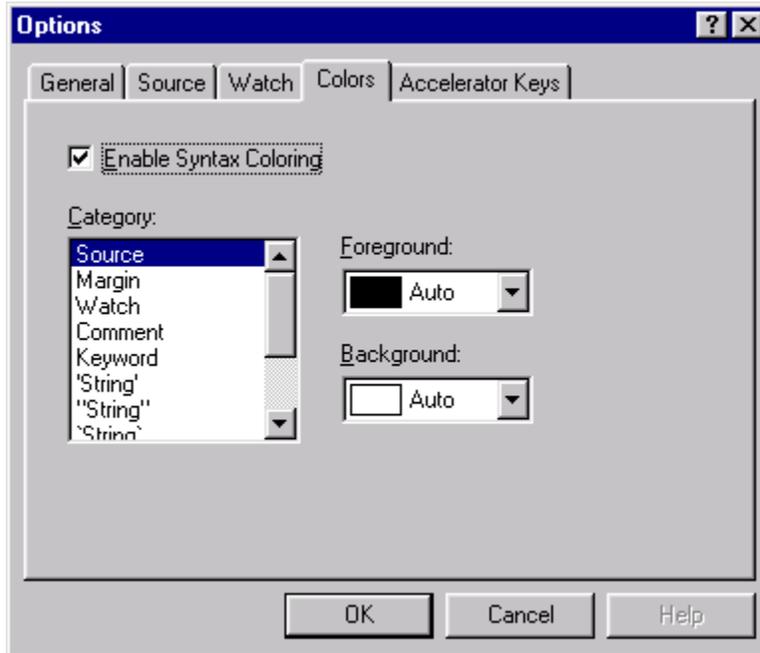
Lines Above IP specifies how many lines above the **instruction pointer** will be scanned for variables to display in the **Proximity** window.

Lines Below IP

Lines Below IP specifies how many lines below the **instruction pointer** will be scanned for variables to display in the **Proximity** window.

While you are editing any of the options in the **Options** dialog, clicking **OK** at any time accepts and applies the changes you've made. Clicking on **Cancel** at any time discards any changes you've made. Clicking the **Reset All settings** button in the **General** tab will return all of the settings to their defaults.

Options Dialog – Colors Tab



Select **Options** from the **Tools** menu and then click on the **Colors** tab to view the configurable color properties.

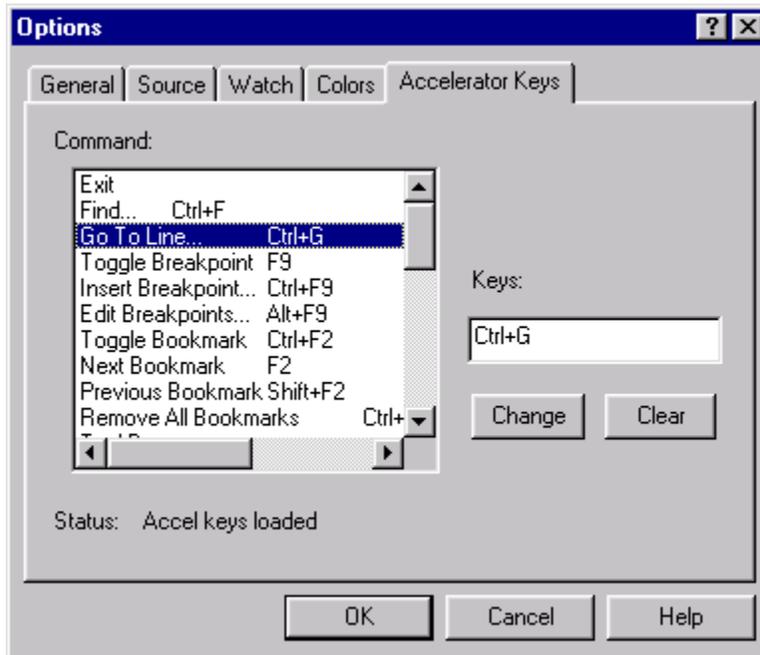
Enable Syntax Coloring

Syntax Coloring allows you to set colors for which various categories of syntax in the Perl program are colored. The components are divided into the following categories:

- **Source** for any Perl source code not modified by any of the categories below
- **Margin** for the margin along the left side of the source window. The foreground color specifies the color of the line numbers, while the background color specifies the color of the margin itself.
- **Watch** sets the foreground and background colors for the **Watch**, **Proximity** and **Registers** windows.
- **Comment** sets the color for any comments that are contained in your source code. One-line comments start with a **#** character not immediately following a **\$** character and end at the end of the line. Multi-line comments start with an equal sign followed by an alphabetic character and end with a line that begins with **=cut**.
- **Keyword** sets the color for any keywords in your source code. A complete list of keywords is contained in the file `<perlpath>/keywords.txt`, where `<perlpath>` is the path to where you have installed ActiveState Perl Debugger. You can edit the `keywords.txt` file to add or remove any keywords you want. Lines beginning with a semicolon in the file are ignored.
- **'String'** determines the color that **single-quoted strings** are displayed in. Single quoted strings start with a non-backslashed single-quote and end with a non-backslashed single-quote. Single-quoted strings can also start with a `q` not immediately preceded by a letter, number, or variable prefix. The character immediately following the `q` is used to determine where the string ends – the next non-backslashed instance of that character terminates the string (unless the character is a bracket, in which case the next non-backslashed closing version of the bracket terminates the string).
- **String** determines the color that **double-quoted strings** are displayed in. Double-quoted strings can start with a non-backslashed double-quote and end with a non-backslashed double-quote. Double-quoted strings can also start with `qq` – the syntax is the same as `q` for single-quoted strings.

While you are editing any of the options in the **Options** dialog, clicking **OK** at any time accepts and applies the changes you've made. Clicking **Cancel** at any time discards any changes you've made. Clicking the **Reset All settings** button in the **General** tab will return all of the settings to their defaults.

Options Dialog - Accelerator Key Tab



Select **Options** from the **Tools** menu and then click on the **Accelerator Keys** tab to customize your accelerator key setup.

Changing an Accelerator Key

1. Select the command you would like to change in the **Command** window.
2. Click in the **Keys** text field.
3. Type the keys you would like to assign to the command.
4. Click the **Change** button.
5. Click **OK** to accept the change and exit from the **Options** dialog.

Troubleshooting

Support

If you're having a problem with the ActiveState Perl Debugger, your first line of defense is the Frequently Asked Question (FAQ) section. In this section, we have solutions to a list of common problems from users like you. You can find the most up to date list of FAQs for ActiveState Perl Debugger on our Web site at: <http://www.ActiveState.com/pldb/faq/>.

Peer level support can be obtained from the ActiveState Perl Debugger mailing list, please see the mailing list section for more information on how to join this list. Also, support for installation related problems is available by emailing Support@ActiveState.com.

Commercial level support for any of your Perl problems is available from The Perl Clinic. For more information regarding the Perl Clinic and its services, please visit their Web site at <http://www.PperlClinic.com>.

The Perl Clinic™

The Perl Clinic offers commercial level support for all of your Perl problems. For more information regarding the Perl Clinic and its services, please visit their Web site at <http://www.PerlClinic.com>.

FAQ

The debugger installed OK, but the licensing part failed, what should I do?

Select **Product Licensing** from the **ActiveState Perl Debugger** program group in the **Start** menu to start the licensing process again. Or, you can select the **Purchase** button in the ActiveState Perl Debugger splash screen.

The latest Perl Debugger FAQs are always available at: <http://www.ActiveState.com/pldb/faq/>

Does ActiveState Perl Debugger work with the Standard Distribution Release 5.004xx port?

Yes, during installation, specify that you are running the Standard Distribution Release, and your autoexec.bat file will be modified if you are running Windows 95 or, if you are running Windows NT, the PERL5DB variable will be set in your environment.

The latest Perl Debugger FAQs are always available at: <http://www.ActiveState.com/pldb/faq/>

How can I buy ActiveState Perl Debugger?

ActiveState Perl Debugger is available online for purchasing at the ActiveState Web site at www.ActiveState.com.

The latest Perl Debugger FAQs are always available at: <http://www.ActiveState.com/pldb/faq/>

Can I use both the console and visual debuggers?

Yes. To the directory where you installed **ActiveState Perl Debugger**, a file called `cmdDB.bat` was copied during installation. Typing `cmdDB` at the prompt in the console window (MSDOS/Command Prompt) will switch to the console debugger for the duration of that console session. If you launch another console session, the default debugger will once again be the ActiveState Perl Debugger.

The latest Perl Debugger FAQs are always available at: <http://www.ActiveState.com/pldb/faq/>

Why can't I dump a my variable?

My variables cannot be dumped with this version of the debugger. To work around this, assign the variable to a temporary variable using **Quick Eval** and then dump that variable.

The latest Perl Debugger FAQs are always available at: <http://www.ActiveState.com/pldb/faq/>

The splash screen that appears when I start ActiveState Perl Debugger™ was cool the first dozen times, but how do I get rid of it?

While ActiveState Perl Debugger is running, select the **Options** command of the **Tools** menu and uncheck **Display Splash Screen** in the **General** tab.

The latest Perl Debugger FAQs are always available at: <http://www.ActiveState.com/pldb/faq/>

I'm trying to run ActiveState Perl Debugger™ using the -d option, but I'm getting an error message that says ole.pm and config.pm cannot be found. What's going on?

It sounds like you don't have Perl properly installed. After you have copied the Perl files onto your machine using the Perl installer, make sure you run the appropriate batch file to complete the install. If the install is successful, the debugger should be able to locate the standard library modules and everything should work fine.

The following registry key contains the complete path to the `/lib` directory:

```
[HKEY_LOCALMACHINE/Software/ActiveWare/PRIVLIB]
```

If the directory in this key is not the same as the `/lib` directory's actual location, you should reinstall, as mentioned above, however, changing the registry entry to match your configuration may also fix the problem. (please see your Windows NT documentation for more information on changing registry entries.)

The latest Perl Debugger FAQs are always available at: <http://www.ActiveState.com/pldb/faq/>

Why can't I edit scripts directly within the source window?

You cannot edit scripts in **ActiveState Perl Debugger™** source window. You can configure the debugger to launch your favorite editor by choosing **Customize** from the **Tools** menu and adding your editor. ActiveState is working on an integrated development environment, IDE, for Perl developers called **Visual Perl™** which will include the ability to edit scripts directly within the source window as well as a host of other features that Perl developers have told us they want.

The latest Perl Debugger FAQs are always available at: <http://www.ActiveState.com/pldb/faq/>

Can I trap compiler warnings in the debugger? I want to run the debugger with -w -d, but it doesn't seem to work.

This is a known problem. A useful alternative is to first run the script with `-c -w`, fix those problems, then run with `-d` to make sure the script is doing what it should be doing.

The latest Perl Debugger FAQs are always available at: <http://www.ActiveState.com/pldb/faq/>

Why doesn't syntax coloring work correctly for multi-line strings?

ActiveState Perl Debugger™ does not continue syntax coloring of strings (single and double) or regular expressions across line boundaries. This is a design feature in that there were many circumstances where the syntax coloring can get confused and then the rest of the script would be colored incorrectly. To avoid this, syntax state gets cleared at the end of each line. Visual Perl, an upcoming product, will have more correct syntax coloring.

The latest Perl Debugger FAQs are always available at: <http://www.ActiveState.com/pldb/faq/>

I'm using the -d option when I run Perl, but the ActiveState Perl Debugger™ window isn't being displayed, and the console window is displaying a "DB<1>" prompt. What do I do?

If you see the DB<1> prompt, you are running the default console-based debugger that comes with Perl. It sounds like your PERL5DB environment variable is not being set properly – running the installation program again should fix the problem.

The latest Perl Debugger FAQs are always available at: <http://www.ActiveState.com/pldb/faq/>

When I try to run my scripts in debug mode, I get the error:

```
Undefined subroutine &Win32::Sleep called at C:\Program
Files\ActiveState Perl Debugger\PerlDB.pl line 153
```

There are two ways to fix this. You can comment out line 153, or upgrade your **Perl for Win32** to the latest build. You can get the latest version of Perl for Win32 from the ActiveState Web site at: <http://www.ActiveState.com>.

The latest Perl Debugger FAQs are always available at: <http://www.ActiveState.com/pldb/faq/>

ActiveState Perl Debugger™ is behaving strangely and I don't know what's wrong. What can I do?

There are various things that you can try if **ActiveState Perl Debugger™** is not working as you would expect it to.

The first thing you should do is check which version of Perl you are running. If you run Perl with the -v option, you can find out which build number you are using. ActiveState Perl Debugger should work with most builds of Perl, but it has only been extensively tested with builds later than 310. Older builds may not work properly.

Another thing you can try is to click **Reset All Settings** in the **Options** dialog of the **Tools** menu. This will cause ActiveState Perl Debugger to forget all of its settings, including window placement, breakpoints, and other settings, but it might solve the problem that you are having.

The latest Perl Debugger FAQs are always available at: <http://www.ActiveState.com/pldb/faq/>

My scripts causes a "use of uninitialized value" message when run with perl.exe, but seems to run with no error message in the Debugger.

This is a known issue. The debugger declares variables to put into the proximity window, so the value is initialized.

The latest Perl Debugger FAQs are always available at: <http://www.ActiveState.com/pldb/faq/>

I've edited my Perl program and now my breakpoints are all in the wrong places. What do I do?

ActiveState Perl Debugger™ keeps track of breakpoints so that you don't have to enter them every time you run the debugger. However, if you add or remove lines from your program the breakpoints will no longer be in the right places. You can fix them by either selecting **Edit Breakpoints** from the **Edit** menu to change their placement, or remove the breakpoints and add them again in the right places.

The latest Perl Debugger FAQs are always available at: <http://www.ActiveState.com/pldb/faq/>

I'm trying to step through my Perl program, but most of the debugging commands are beeping at me. What's going on?

Look at the lower-right hand corner of the **ActiveState Perl Debugger™** window – the status bar should say **Ready** or **Working**. If it says **Working**, the Perl program is currently executing and can't be interrupted by the debugger. You must either wait for your Perl program to stop executing (by hitting a breakpoint or being done with the program) or stop the program manually by hitting **<CTRL + C>** or **<CTRL + BREAK>** in the console window.

The latest Perl Debugger FAQs are always available at: <http://www.ActiveState.com/pldb/faq/>

References

Other Perl Tools

ActiveState Tool Corp.™ makes a wide range of **Perl** related software for **Win32** systems. All of the software listed below is available from the **ActiveState** Web site at <http://www.ActiveState.com>.

- **Perl for Win32™**. The de facto standard Win32 port of Perl.
- **PerlEx™**. PerlEx is ActiveState's answer for slow running Perl CGI programs. Compatible with most popular Windows NT Web servers, including **O'Reilly WebSite Pro**, **Microsoft Internet Information Server** and **Netscape Fastrack & Enterprise** servers, PerlEx functions similar to **mod_perl** by precompiling your Perl CGI programs for lightning fast execution. PerlEx also adds increased functionality through the introduction of a new powerful type of interpreter called Solar.
- **PerlScript™**. An **ActiveX** scripting engine compatible with **Microsoft Internet Information Server** versions 3.0 & 4.0, **Microsoft Internet Explorer** versions 3.0 & 4.0, **Microsoft Exchange** 5.5 and other ActiveX scripting hosts.
- **Perl for ISAPI™**. A DLL that offers increased performance for Perl programs running on **Microsoft Internet Information Server** and other Web servers that support ISAPI.

Registry entries

During installation, the setup application made **ActiveState Perl Debugger™** your default debugger by adding the following registry key:

```
[HKEY_CURRENT_USER/Software/ActiveWare/Perl5/Perl5DB]
```

The value was set to:

```
BEGIN { require '<perlpath>\PerlDB.pl' }
```

where **<perlpath>** is the path to where **ActiveState Perl Debugger™** is installed on your system.

To switch back to the Console debugger, change the value to:

```
SET PERL5DB=BEGIN { require '<perlpath>\lib\Perl5DB.pl' }
```

where **<perlpath>** is the path to where **Perl for Win32** installed.

You can temporarily use the console debugger by running the **cmdDB.bat** file located in the directory that you installed ActiveState Perl Debugger in. If you quit that particular console session, the default bugger will revert to the visual debugger.

The **Standard Release 5.004xx** port does not currently use the Perl5DB registry key, requiring you to set the Perl5DB variable as follows:

```
SET PERL5DB=BEGIN { require '<perl5dbpath>\perl5DB.pl' }
```

For more information regarding how to use both the console and visual debuggers and on getting ActiveState Perl Debugger working with the Standard Release 5.004xx port, please see the **FAQ** section.

Copyright Info

ActiveState, ActiveState Perl Debugger, Perl for Win32, Perl for ISAPI, PerlScript, The Perl Clinic and PerlEx are trademarks of ActiveState Tool Corp. All other products mentioned are registered trademarks or trademarks of their respective companies.