

## NAME

autodie - Replace functions with ones that succeed or die with lexical scope

## SYNOPSIS

```
use autodie;                # Recommended: implies 'use autodie
qw(:default)'
```

```
use autodie qw(:all);      # Recommended more: defaults and system/exec.
```

```
use autodie qw(open close); # open/close succeed or die
```

```
open(my $fh, "<", $filename); # No need to check!
```

```
{
    no autodie qw(open);      # open failures won't die
    open(my $fh, "<", $filename); # Could fail silently!
    no autodie;              # disable all autodies
}
```

## DESCRIPTION

bIlujDI' yIchegh()Qo'; yIHegh()!

It is better to die() than to return() in failure.

-- Klingon programming proverb.

The `autodie` pragma provides a convenient way to replace functions that normally return false on failure with equivalents that throw an exception on failure.

The `autodie` pragma has *lexical scope*, meaning that functions and subroutines altered with `autodie` will only change their behaviour until the end of the enclosing block, file, or `eval`.

If `system` is specified as an argument to `autodie`, then it uses `IPC::System::Simple` to do the heavy lifting. See the description of that module for more information.

## EXCEPTIONS

Exceptions produced by the `autodie` pragma are members of the `autodie::exception` class. The preferred way to work with these exceptions under Perl 5.10 is as follows:

```
use feature qw(switch);

eval {
    use autodie;

    open(my $fh, '<', $some_file);

    my @records = <$fh>;

    # Do things with @records...

    close($fh);
```

```
};

given ($@) {
    when (undef) { say "No error"; }
    when ('open') { say "Error from open"; }
    when (':io') { say "Non-open, IO error."; }
    when (':all') { say "All other autodie errors." }
    default { say "Not an autodie error at all." }
}
```

Under Perl 5.8, the `given/when` structure is not available, so the following structure may be used:

```
eval {
    use autodie;

    open(my $fh, '<', $some_file);

    my @records = <$fh>;

    # Do things with @records...

    close($fh);
};

if ($@ and $@->isa('autodie::exception')) {
    if ($@->matches('open')) { print "Error from open\n"; }
    if ($@->matches(':io')) { print "Non-open, IO error."; }
} elsif ($@) {
    # A non-autodie exception.
}
```

See *autodie::exception* for further information on interrogating exceptions.

## CATEGORIES

Autodie uses a simple set of categories to group together similar built-ins. Requesting a category type (starting with a colon) will enable autodie for all built-ins beneath that category. For example, requesting `:file` will enable autodie for `close`, `fcntl`, `fileno`, `open` and `sysopen`.

The categories are currently:

```
:all
  :default
    :io
      read
      seek
      sysread
      sysseek
      syswrite
    :dbm
      dbmclose
      dbmopen
  :file
    binmode
    close
```

```
        fcntl
        fileno
        flock
        ioctl
        open
        sysopen
        truncate
:filesystem
    chdir
    closedir
    opendir
    link
    mkdir
    readlink
    rename
    rmdir
    symlink
    unlink
:ipc
    pipe
:msg
    msgctl
    msgget
    msgrcv
    msgsnd
:semaphore
    semctl
    semget
    semop
:shm
    shmctl
    shmget
    shmread
:socket
    accept
    bind
    connect
    getsockopt
    listen
    recv
    send
    setsockopt
    shutdown
    socketpair
:threads
    fork
:system
    system
    exec
```

Note that while the above category system is presently a strict hierarchy, this should not be assumed.

A plain use autodie implies use autodie qw(:default). Note that system and exec are not enabled by default. system requires the optional *IPC::System::Simple* module to be installed, and enabling system or exec will invalidate their exotic forms. See *BUGS* below for more details.

The syntax:

```
use autodie qw(:1.994);
```

allows the `:default` list from a particular version to be used. This provides the convenience of using the default methods, but the surety that no behavioral changes will occur if the `autodie` module is upgraded.

`autodie` can be enabled for all of Perl's built-ins, including `system` and `exec` with:

```
use autodie qw(:all);
```

## FUNCTION SPECIFIC NOTES

### flock

It is not considered an error for `flock` to return false if it fails to an `EWOULDBLOCK` (or equivalent) condition. This means one can still use the common convention of testing the return value of `flock` when called with the `LOCK_NB` option:

```
use autodie;

if ( flock($fh, LOCK_EX | LOCK_NB) ) {
    # We have a lock
}
```

Autodying `flock` will generate an exception if `flock` returns false with any other error.

### system/exec

The `system` built-in is considered to have failed in the following circumstances:

- The command does not start.
- The command is killed by a signal.
- The command returns a non-zero exit value (but see below).

On success, the autodying form of `system` returns the *exit value* rather than the contents of `$?`.

Additional allowable exit values can be supplied as an optional first argument to autodying `system`:

```
system( [ 0, 1, 2 ], $cmd, @args); # 0,1,2 are good exit values
```

`autodie` uses the `IPC::System::Simple` module to change `system`. See its documentation for further information.

Applying `autodie` to `system` or `exec` causes the exotic forms `system { $cmd } @args` or `exec { $cmd } @args` to be considered a syntax error until the end of the lexical scope. If you really need to use the exotic form, you can call `CORE::system` or `CORE::exec` instead, or use `no autodie qw(system exec)` before calling the exotic form.

## GOTCHAS

Functions called in list context are assumed to have failed if they return an empty list, or a list consisting only of a single undef element.

## DIAGNOSTICS

`:void` cannot be used with lexical scope

The `:void` option is supported in *Fatal*, but not *autodie*. To workaround this, *autodie* may be explicitly disabled until the end of the current block with `no autodie`. To disable *autodie*

for only a single function (eg, `open`) use `no autodie qw(open)`.

No user hints defined for %s

You've insisted on hints for user-subroutines, either by pre-pending a `!` to the subroutine name itself, or earlier in the list of arguments to `autodie`. However the subroutine in question does not have any hints available.

See also "*DIAGNOSTICS*" in *Fatal*.

## BUGS

"Used only once" warnings can be generated when `autodie` or `Fatal` is used with package filehandles (eg, `FILE`). Scalar filehandles are strongly recommended instead.

When using `autodie` or `Fatal` with user subroutines, the declaration of those subroutines must appear before the first use of `Fatal` or `autodie`, or have been exported from a module. Attempting to use `Fatal` or `autodie` on other user subroutines will result in a compile-time error.

Due to a bug in Perl, `autodie` may "lose" any format which has the same name as an autodying built-in or function.

`autodie` may not work correctly if used inside a file with a name that looks like a string eval, such as `eval(3)`.

## autodie and string eval

Due to the current implementation of `autodie`, unexpected results may be seen when used near or with the string version of `eval`. *None of these bugs exist when using block eval.*

Under Perl 5.8 only, `autodie` *does not* propagate into string `eval` statements, although it can be explicitly enabled inside a string `eval`.

Under Perl 5.10 only, using a string `eval` when `autodie` is in effect can cause the `autodie` behaviour to leak into the surrounding scope. This can be worked around by using a `no autodie` at the end of the scope to explicitly remove `autodie`'s effects, or by avoiding the use of string `eval`.

*None of these bugs exist when using block eval.* The use of `autodie` with block `eval` is considered good practice.

## REPORTING BUGS

Please report bugs via the CPAN Request Tracker at <http://rt.cpan.org/NoAuth/Bugs.html?Dist=autodie>.

## FEEDBACK

If you find this module useful, please consider rating it on the CPAN Ratings service at <http://cpanratings.perl.org/rate?distribution=autodie>.

The module author loves to hear how `autodie` has made your life better (or worse). Feedback can be sent to [pjf@perltraining.com.au](mailto:pjf@perltraining.com.au).

## AUTHOR

Copyright 2008-2009, Paul Fenwick [pjf@perltraining.com.au](mailto:pjf@perltraining.com.au)

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## SEE ALSO

*Fatal*, `autodie::exception`, `autodie::hints`, `IPC::System::Simple`

*Perl tips*, `autodie` at <http://perltraining.com.au/tips/2008-08-20.html>

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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See the *AUTHORS* file for full credits. The latest version of this file can be found at <http://github.com/pfenwick/autodie/tree/master/AUTHORS> .