

PERL ALARM FUNCTION

http://www.tutorialspoint.com/perl/perl_alarm.htm

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Description

This function sets the "alarm," causing the current process to receive a SIGALRM signal in `EXPR` seconds. If `EXPR` is omitted, the value of `$_` is used instead.

The actual time delay is not precise, since different systems implement the alarm functionality differently. The actual time may be up to a second more or less than the requested value. You can only set one alarm timer at any one time. If a timer is already running and you make a new call to the alarm function, the alarm timer is reset to the new value. A running timer can be reset without setting a new timer by specifying a value of 0.

Syntax

Following is the simple syntax for this function –

```
alarm EXPR  
  
alarm
```

Return Value

This function returns Integer value ie. number of seconds remaining for previous timer.

Example

Following is the example code showing its basic usage –

```
#!/usr/bin/perl  
  
eval {  
    local $SIG{ALRM} = sub { die "alarm\n" }; # NB: \n required  
    alarm $timeout;  
    $nread = sysread SOCKET, $buffer, $size;  
    alarm 0;  
};  
if ($?) {  
    die unless $? eq "alarm\n"; # propagate unexpected errors  
    # timed out  
}  
else {  
    # didn't  
}
```

When above code is executed, it produces the following result –