

Convert a Perl Hash of Hashes into XML with XML::Dumper

For a project of mine, I wanted to convert a Perl data structure, a so called Hash of Hashes, into an XML.

The simple solution to this is to use the [XML::Dumper](#) module.

Let's suppose your data structure looks like this:

```
%hash_of_hashes = {  
  item1 => {  
    item1_1 => 'value1_1',  
    item1_2 => 'value1_2',  
  },  
  item2 => {  
    item2_1 => 'value2_1',  
    item2_2 => 'value2_2',  
  },  
};
```

You can easily convert this into an XML representation using this command:

```
my $xml_output = XML::Dumper::pl2xml( %hash_of_hashes );
```

So you'll end up with this output:

```
<perldata>  
<hashref memory_address="0x878e784">  
<item key="item1">  
<hashref memory_address="0x87a8c58">  
<item key="item1_1">value1_1</item>  
<item key="item1_2">value1_2</item>  
</hashref>  
</item>  
<item key="item2">  
<hashref memory_address="0x87a8c61">  
<item key="item2_1">value2_1</item>  
<item key="item2_2">value2_2</item>  
</hashref>  
</item>  
</hashref>  
</perldata>
```

But be aware: You need to pass the hash by reference, imposing the **%hash_of_hashes** notation, otherwise you end up with something like this:

```
<perldata>  
<scalar>item_1</scalar>  
<scalar>item_2</scalar>  
</perldata>
```

It's so obvious, but I had overlooked that as well in the first attempts ;-)