RemoteLib

Making CPAN modules available without needing to install them

- Inspired be a talk at LPW comparing the relative ease of use for various languages

- Want to emulate Java where you just download a jar file and put it on your class path

- Perl has PAR which attempts to do the same as Java jar files

- BUT - PAR is not in core and it needs Archive::Zip which is not Pure Perl and so needs compiler to build

- I want this to work with no installation so need to use core only modules

RemoteLib

- Uses IO::Socket::INET which has been core since 5.6.0 which was released in March 2000

- Adds a core ref to @INC so whenever an 'use <module>;' statement is met, RemoteLib downloads the necessary and it just works

- Relies on a repo of PAR files on the web one for each CPAN module

- Currently over 17000 prebuilt PAR files on miltonkeynes.pm

- RemoteLib connects to a server on miltonkeynes.pm passing the perl version, architecture and module required

- The server checks to see if PAR file for module for the appropriate arch/version and if so unzips the par and returns each file in a structure back to the calling server

- These files are then saved as files on the calling server and the path to them is added to @INC so they can be found

- RemoteLib keeps track of that is has already installed so it only does this once perl module

- The upshot is you can use any CPAN module which is available in a PAR file on the server

- Simply set PERL5OPT="-MRemoteLib" run with perl -MRemoteLib <script> or put "use RemoteLib;"

Building PAR files

- install PAR::Dist::FromCPAN - or use RemoteLib to do it for you with perl -MRemoteLib -e 'use PAR::Dist::FromCPAN;'

- use the cpan2par script provided cpan2par -a -t -p <Module>
-a => --auto-detect-pure-perl
-t => --test
-p => --pattern
creates a par file called :-
<Module>-<version>-<arch>-<perlversion>.par

Where you can get it

- https://github.com/edwart/RemoteLib/

- You can see what is available at http://miltonkeynes.pm/remotelib/