

Tcl ... Where Now?

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<http://www.etoyoc.com/tcl/TclCommunityHour2015.pdf>



Tcl in an Alternate Reality

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Tcl is many things

- **Stable**
- **Useful**
- **Dependable**
- **Easy to learn**



But Tcl is Not...

- **Sexy**
- **Popular**
- **The darling of the tech industry**
- **A household word**
- ...
- **NEW**





**ALWAYS BE YOURSELF
UNLESS YOU CAN BE**

A UNICORN

**THEN ALWAYS
BE A UNICORN**

Moving Forward

- **The Tcl Community is about people**
- **People need things to do**
- **It would be really nice if we could work on doing them together**



Hypnotoad's Wish List

- **A series of inter-related projects**
- **I have already done a zero-th order approximation on many**
- **But I'm much more interested in getting other people to dive in and make it their own**



Object Oriented Library for Tcl (TOOL)

- **Revamp the Tcl Standard Library**
- **Redesign key packages to exploit coroutines and TclOO**
- **Provide a sensible template for OTHER frameworks**
 - Documentation
 - Installation
 - Distribution



TOOL for Websockets

- **HTTP Application Server**
- **SCGI Application Server**
- **Applications**
 - Revamp the TIP system
 - A website to coordinate these projects



TOOL for Tk

- **Further develop a standard megawidget framework in TclOO**
- **Include ready to use items like:**
 - Interactive Console
 - Interactive Help Viewer



TOOL for Canvas

- **A library of layouts and abstractions for advanced Canvas animations**
- **A tool to develop an interactive Graphviz-like visualizer for Canvas**
- **Integrate a geometric constraints manager**
- **Accelerate basic vector and geometry routines in C**



TOOL Shed

- **Use Tcl to build Tcl C extensions**
 - Death to Autoconf
 - Death to Make
- **Provide tools for wrapping packages and executables**
- **tclConfig.tcl / tkConfig.tcl ?**



ZipVFS In the Core

- **Patches are already in a branch**
- **Zip encode/decode is in Tcllib**
- **Enhancements need to be migrated from AndroWish to allow for properly signed APK packages**



Tcl for Kids

- **A standard suite of tutorials that launch in a shrink-wrapped executable**
 - (Remember that interactive console?)
- **Ships with a TclTutor updated to 8.6**
- **Also includes games which require Tcl programming to solve**
- **Have a printed manual that can be sold in stores with the executable on CD**
- **Especially need help in supporting multiple languages**



Project ... People

- **Tcl is a volunteer organization**
 - We just happen to build software
- **Volunteer organizations need people to run**
- **Volunteer organizations also need funds to run**



Tcl as a Social Organization

- **We need to preserve the Annual Tcl Conference**
- **We also need:**
 - “Mini” conferences held locally where we have clusters of Tclers
 - Could be part of other Tech meetups or get-together
 - But mostly we need to find ways for other people to discover Tcl



Tcl Actually needs employees

- **“I'm bored, I need something to do”**
 - Spoken by no Tcl programmer, ever
- **Community building requires skill sets beyond programming**
- **They also require a great deal of work that would distract our programming talent programming**



Tcl Pamphleteer

- **Tcl Needs a singular source of good information**
 - Product announcements
 - Project updates
 - People highlights
- **Act as a non-geek to review documentation**



Tcl Evangelist

- **A salesman for Tcl**
- **Attend technology conferences**
 - Especially running a Tcl community booth
- **Do outlandish things to get in the news**
- **Be “that guy” who gets interviewed on NPR**



Tcl Monk

- **Maintain and curate dedicated technical resources for the community**
 - The main website
 - Dedicated hosting for fossil repositories
 - Hosting for the Tcl projects board, the online newsletter, etc.



Tcl Clerk

- **Someone to deal with finances**
 - Tax paperwork
 - Taking receivership of monetary donations
 - Tracking Community owned properties



Tcl as a Social Club / Tech Cult / etc

- **The community needs a dependable stream of revenue**
- **Conference attendance varies**
 - Many want to attend, but can't



Tcl as a Social Club / Tech Cult / etc

- **Many organizations have paid memberships**
- **Especially important:**
 - Membership levels
 - Definable benefits conferred with Membership



Let's Open the Floor to Comments

