

Re: TIP #172: Improve UNIX Tk Look and Feel

Source: <http://coding.derkeiler.com/Archive/Tcl/comp.lang.tcl/2004-03/0899.html>

From: Benjamin Riefenstahl (*Benjamin.Riefenstahl_at_epost.de*)

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Hi Ralf,

Ralf Fassel <ralfixx@gmx.de> writes:

- > *In my experience one-GUI-for-all is useful for those working on*
- > *multiple platforms regularly (e.g. I as a developer, checking that my*
- > *script runs on Unix *and* Windows), and not useful for those working*
- > *on one platform only when the application L&F is not native to that*
- > *platform (the end user who only uses Windows).*

Actual case (though not Tcl-related):

I just recently installed a version of the Encyclopedia Britannica on my Mac OS X machine. The interface was obviously "ported" from Windows in the same-look-and-feel manner. Although I am a long-time Windows user, I really dislike it.

Keyboard shortcuts that are common on Mac OS are wrong or missing, which e.g. makes it a pain to cut-and-paste from and to the application. Even lots of stuff that I use on Windows was missing, probably because the developers didn't use the features on Windows and so didn't port them. And the app looks terrible from a Mac POV.

You could argue that most of this is just bugs in the application. But to me it indicates that the developers or application designers didn't know the target platform very well and probably didn't use it themselves regularly. To do a good port, that seems essential to me. But once I do that, as a developer, I can't see how I could ever be satisfied with this kind of port.

- > *The opposite (different L&F dependent on platform): the tk*
- > *checkboxton on Unix by default is raised/grey when unchecked and*
- > *sunken/yellow(violet?) when checked. On Windows, it is*
- > *sunken/yellow(violet?) when `_un_checked`, and*
- > *sunken/yellow-with-checkmark when checked. This regularly confuses*
- > *me when looking at Windows OFF checkbuttons (I think they're ON).*
- > *OTOH a Windows user would think they're OFF on Unix when in fact*
- > *they're ON.*

Note how none of the two implementation styles can help here. Unless you suppose all people use **only** your application on one of the supported platforms. Otherwise there will always be people that are confused, because they are used to the "other" behaviour from other applications.

benny