

Re: File Descriptors

Source: <http://coding.derkeiler.com/Archive/Tcl/comp.lang.tcl/2004-12/1275.html>

From: Ian Bell (ruffrecords_at_yahoo.com)

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Cameron Laird wrote:

> *In article <cqv4id\$a3l\$I@slavica.ukpost.com>,
> Ian Bell <ruffrecords@yahoo.com> wrote:
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> .
>> Like a shaft of bright sunlight. Many thanks. It is interesting that much
>> less emphasis seems to be placed on this topic in the two tcl/tk books I
>> have. Although I am relatively new to tcl/tk, the more I use it the more
>> I am impressed by its elegance.
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> Any elaboration of this reaction is timely. At least one Tcl
> book is in preparation now, as well as at least one article on
> exception-handling. How would these matters best be documented
> for *you*?*

I think that depends somewhat on where you are coming to tcl/tk from. I assume the majority new users of tcl/tk will be familiar with C and with making system calls and are looking for a fast painless way to create applications.

That said, I would rather that tcl/tk books did not dive straight into the syntax of the language, but begin with an overview of the the language and its approach to standard application issues. So IMHO Chapter 1 should include the following topics:

- Tcl program structure
- Namespaces
- Bytecode interpreter
- Error/Exception handling
- Strings and Numbers
- Tk event loop
- Resource Management

comp.lang.tcl: Re: File Descriptors

With regard to error handling in particular, most of my application needs involve interaction with various PC ports (serial, parallel etc) which on most stock Linux distros will require root privileges. Error handling therefore has important security implications.

So, my needs would be best met by documenting:

- Conditions under which exceptions occur
- Security issues (e.g. permissions and race conditions)
- Tcl/Tk internal handling of exceptions
- Handling exceptions yourself

The two books I use at present are Practical programming in Tcl & Tk (3rd edition) and Graphical Applications with Tcl & Tk. Taken together these do not cover all the above topics nor IMHO do they go into sufficient depth.

HTH

Ian

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Ian Bell