

# handling of errors in slave

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*Source:* <http://coding.derkeiler.com/Archive/Tcl/comp.lang.tcl/2005-08/msg00860.html>

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I have a question concerning the handling of errors in slave interpreters used to read files created by ordinary users, such as init files. I'm assuming that the init file is read via something like this:

```
proc ReadInitFile {name} {
if { [catch {interp invoke init source $name} msg] } {
ShowMessage [format [_ "Error on reading init file %1\$s: %2\$s"] $name $msg]
} else {
ShowMessage [format [_ "Executed init file %s"] $name]
}
interp delete init
}
```

If the user types "ValloonHelpShowP" instead of "BalloonHelpShowP", the resulting error message is:

```
Error on reading init file .msgrc: invalid command name "ValloonHelpShowP"
```

The incorrect command name is caught by the slave interpreter and reported using the name the user typed, which is a small deviation from the name by which the command is known to the user and listed in the documentation.

But if the user types "BalloonHelpShowP 0 n", the error message is:

```
Error on reading init file .msgrc: wrong # args: should be "SetBalloonHelpShow b"
```

In this case the error is caught by the master, not the slave, and reported using the name that the command has in the master. This may be confusing to the user. In this case, as in other cases in which the differences between internal and external names are motivated by different namespace organization and similar considerations, the two names may be similar enough that the user will realize which command is causing the problem, but suppose that the internal and external names are different because they are in different languages? Suppose that a monolingual francophone user receives this error message:

```
Erreur en lisant le scripte d'initialisation .msgrc:
wrong # args: should be "SetBalloonHelpShow b"
```

(I just checked and the part of the message that comes from tcl comes out in

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English even though I have set my locale to fr\_FR. In principle of course this part might come out in French.)

Our French speaker is likely to have no idea that "SetBalloonHelpShow" is the internal name for the command "ActiverInfobulles" in his or her init file.

Has anyone addressed this problem? Offhand, the only way I can see to deal with it is to trap the error messages, parse out the command names, translate them into the user's language (which by hypothesis we can already do since it must have been done creating the slave alias in the first place), and reassemble the error message before showing it to the user. I haven't actually tried to do this yet, but it presumably wouldn't be terribly difficult since the form of the error messages is limited and we can generate a list of commands to search for. However, the task would be simplified if Tcl supported this by setting a variable to contain the name of the offending command so that we don't have to parse it out.

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- *Follow-Ups:*

- ◆ **Re: handling of errors in slave**

- ◇ *From:* Jeff Hobbs

- Prev by Date: **Re: tackling the packer**
- Next by Date: **Re: What is the procedure for creating a starkit base for 8.4.11?**
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