

# problems with running 32-bit tclsh on Windows x64

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Hi!

On a MS Windows XP Pro. x64 (64-bit) Edition I installed ActiveState ActiveTcl 8.4.14.0 (the 32-bit x86 distribution that is available as a free download).

I noticed problems with invoking some system tools from the Tcl scripts (which run in a 32-bit tclsh process). The problems are caused by the way the WOW64 subsystem works in Windows x64. Namely, the "%SystemRoot%\system32" directory is used for 64-bit DLLs and EXEs, while the "%SystemRoot%\SysWOW64" directory is used for 32-bit DLLs and EXEs.

Some of the system files are present in both directories, i.e. they have 64-bit and 32-bit versions, but some have only 64-bit version.

When executing 32-bit applications, the WOW64 subsystem makes files in %SystemRoot%\system32 inaccessible to the application. The application sees %SystemRoot%\sysWOW64 as %SystemRoot%\system32.

For example it is not possible to invoke ntbackup.exe from a Tcl script as there is only 64-bit version of ntbackup.exe (in %SystemRoot%\system32).

Is there a workaround for this problem besides copying the inaccessible files from %SystemRoot%\system32 to another directory that is accessible to 32-bit applications?

I hope some day the 64-bit binary distributions of the ActiveTcl package will be available as a free download.

— rpr. /Robert Premuz/

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