

Re: Windows env-Bug?

Source: <http://coding.derkeiler.com/Archive/Tcl/comp.lang.tcl/2007-07/msg00856.html>

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On Thu, 26 Jul 2007, Joe English wrote:

David Gravereaux wrote:

Currently, a DLL (in the chain of things) might call win32's
SetEnvironmentVariable() which is not reflected by libc's cache of the real

....

That's another reason I think Tcl's treatment of ::env
ought to be changed. Instead of trying (and often failing)
to keep ::env in sync with the system environment at all times,
Tcl could initialize ::env from the system environment
at program startup only.

Slave interps and new threads would inherit ::env from their
parent interp, and the current interp's ::env would be used
to initialize the system environment for child processes
spawned via [exec], [open "|..."], and the like.

Decoupling ::env from the system environment after initialization
would also solve a number of thread-safety problems.

What do you mean by "Decoupling"?

Controlling (and not "monitoring") the process environment is one of the
basic methods of the "interprocess communication", its one way to
forward informations to subprocesses and change information on current
process level.

The "current process level" arguments is discussed controversly, I don't
know a standard for that as the \$env mechanims has been created very
long before threads have been introduced.

In my specific situation I have to create more that 100 environment

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variables which are required by the subprocess (configuration options). One specific reason for using Tcl is, that some unix tools (awk, sed,) fail by working too long variable values and I think this may also be a problem under windows in some situations (eg. very a long PATH variable?).

Tcl has no problem with very long lists, variable contents ... an also allows platform indepenent path handling.

Thus it is the perfect platform independent "configuration machine" in this situation and allows very convenient and efficient "environment han