About This Guide

Tcl is a simple interpretive programming language designed for rapid development of user interface applications. SGITCL is a bundled product in IRIX™ 6.2 that includes extended Tcl and various user interface libraries.

This guide describes the installation and use of SGITCL, and discusses particulars of the SGITCL implementation.

What This Guide Contains

Here is an overview of the material in this book.

- Chapter 1, "What Tcl Offers," describes the advantages of working with Tcl and offers an introduction to various programming tools related to Tcl.
- Chapter 2, "Common Tcl Extensions," enumerates available Tcl extensions and related components that are included with SGITCL.
- Chapter 3, "Custom SGITCL Extensions," lists the Tcl extensions that are available only with SGITCL.
- Chapter 4, "Using Tcl Motif," offers an extended description of Tcl Motif, which allows you to produce real Motif™ applications.
- Appendix A, "Extending Tcl," describes how to extend Tcl yourself, using C or C++ programs bound as Tcl procedures.

Intended Audience

The primary audience for this manual is composed of system administrators who want to modify configuration and support scripts written in Tcl. The secondary audience is composed of developers who are programming in Tcl on the Silicon Graphics platform.

Additional Reading

John Ousterhout, *An Introduction to Tcl and Tk*, Addison-Wesley, 1993.
This is the standard book on Tcl and Tk written by the author of the language.

Brent Welch, *Practical Programming with Tcl and Tk*, Prentice-Hall, 1995.
This newer book contains lots of code examples, mostly focused on Tk.

Internet Resources for Tcl

The Web page http://www.sco.com/Technology/tcl/Tcl.html is the best starting point.

The Usenet newsgroup comp.lang.tcl is quite active and often helpful.

Conventions Used in This Guide

These are the typographic conventions used in this guide.

Purpose	Example
Names of Tcl keywords and functions, and Motif class names	Note that the **expr** function takes only a single argument.
Names of commands and options that you enter on the command line	The windowing shell *wishx* allows you to run Tcl/Tk interactively.
Titles of manuals	Refer to the *IRIXpro Administrator's Guide*.
A term defined in the hypertext glossary	Tcl is an *embeddable* language.
Filenames and pathnames	The compiler automatically includes *libc.so* and *libm.so* from */usr/lib*.
Code or commands you type as input, with variable elements in italic	**`cc -g`** *sourcename*`.c -ltk -ltcl`
Exact quotes of computer output	`Error: invalid command name`