

7th USENIX Tcl/Tk Conference
February 14-18, 2000
Austin, Texas, USA

Technical Sessions
Wednesday, Feb. 16 to Friday, Feb. 18

Wednesday, February 16

9:00 am - 9:15 am

Opening Remarks & Best Paper Awards

De Clarke, UCO Lick Observatory, and Tom Poindexter, Talus Technologies Inc., Program Co-Chairs

9:15 am - 10:30 am

Keynote Address

Tcl in AOL Digital City: The Architecture of a Multithreaded High-Performance Web Site
Jim Davidson, America Online, Inc.

Today's dynamic, high-performance, database-driven Web sites require a platform that is fast, scalable, and provides for rapid application development and publishing. To address these challenges, AOL's Digital City uses a Tcl-enabled multithreaded Web server called AOLserver. This talk will describe the collection of optimized AOLserver Tcl extensions and the flexible Tcl-embedded HTML template architecture which power the Digital City service and publishing environment. In particular, it will highlight the advantages and pitfalls of scalable, multithreaded Tcl application development.

Jim Davidson is Vice President of Technology at AOL's Digital City. Before he came to AOL, he was chief architect of Navisoft's Naviserver, the multithreaded, Tcl and database-driven Web server which has evolved into the latest AOLserver. He has a Bachelor's degree in Physics from the University of California, Santa Barbara.

10:30 am - 11:00 am

Break

11:00 am - 12:30 pm

Middleware

Session Chair: *Melissa Chawla, Scriptics Corp.*

Rapid CORBA Server Development in Tcl: A Case Study
Jason Brazile and Andrej Vckovski, Netcetera AG

AGNI: A Multi-threaded Middleware for Distributed Scripting
M. Ranganathan, Mark Bednarek, Fernand Pors, and Doug Montgomery, National Institute of Standards and Technology

Introducing QoS Awareness in Tcl Programming: QTcl
Roberto Canonico, Maurizio D'Arienzo, Simon P. Romano, and Giorgio Ventre, Università di Napoli

CollabWiseTk: A Toolkit for Rendering Stand-alone Applications Collaborative
Hemang Lavana and Franc Brglez, North Carolina State University

12:30 pm - 2:00 pm
Lunch (on your own)

2:00 pm - 4:00 pm
Tcl Update
John Ousterhout, CEO, and Jeffrey Hobbs, Tcl Ambassador, Scriptics Corp.

4:00 pm - 4:30 pm
Break

4:30 pm - 5:30 pm
Testing and Integration
Session Chair: *Dave Griffin, SiteScape, Inc.*

GDBTk: Integrating Tk into a Recalcitrant Command-line Application
James Ingham, Cygnus Solutions, Inc.

TclTk: A Strong Basis for Complex Load Testing Systems
Ahmet C. Keskin, Till I. Patzchke, and Ernst vonVoight, Patzschke + Rasp Software AG

Using Tcl to Build a Buzzword-Compliant Environment That Glues Together Legacy Analysis Programs
Carsten H. Lawrenz and Rajkumar Madhuram, Siemens Westinghouse Power Corp.

Thursday, February 17

9:00 am - 10:30 am
Web Technologies
Session Chair: *Cameron Laird, Phaseit, Inc.*

Proxy Tk: A Java Applet User Interface Toolkit for Tcl
Mark Roseman, TeamWave Software, Ltd.

The Tcl Web Server
Brent Welch, Scriptics Corp.

TkGecko: A Frill-Necked Lizard
Steve Ball, Zveno Pty. Ltd.

Scriptics Connect: An XML Integration Server Based on Tcl
Scott Stanton, Eric Melski, and John Ousterhout, Scriptics Corp.

10:30 am - 11:00 am
Break

11:00 am - 12:00 pm
Panel

The Tcl Community of the Next Century

Panel: *Jean-Claude Wippler, Equi4 Software; Matt Newman, Sensus Consulting, Ltd.; Cameron Laird, Phaseit, Inc.; Jeffrey Hobbs, Scriptics Corp.*

Moderator: *Tom Poindexter, Talus Technologies, Inc.*

A one-hour panel discussion of the Tcl community. A moderator and four speakers will discuss:

- a. what Tcl/Tk resources are offered by the community (with URLs displayed by overhead projector or video projector) and whom we have to thank for them
- b. what resources are offered by Scriptics
- c. what shift, if any, there is towards Scriptics offering more resources
- d. what this implies for the Tcl community, and what the relationship is or should be between the community and Scriptics
- e. how we imagine Tcl being maintained and supported in the new century

After an initial 30 minutes during which speakers may concisely state their affiliations and opinions, the panel will take questions from the audience.

12:00 pm - 1:30 pm
Conference Lunch

1:30 pm - 2:00 pm
Tcl Balderdash

Want to know more about the wealth of online Tcl resources? In this panel-style presentation, Tcl community leaders will be asked to prepare a list of Tcl resources, some real and some imaginary; the audience will vote on which ones they believe in. For the real resources, URLs will be shown.

2:00 pm - 3:00 pm
User Interface and Applications

Session Chair: *Dave Beazley, University of Chicago*

Supporting Information Awareness Using Animated Widgets
Scott McCrickard and Q. Alex Zhao, Georgia Institute of Technology

Collaborative Client-Server Architectures in Tcl/Tk: A Class Project Experiment and Experience
Franc Brglez, Hemang Lavana, Zhi Fu, Debabrata Ghosh, Lorie Moffitt, Steve Nelson, J. Marshall Smith, and Jun Zhou, North Carolina State University

Scripted Documents
Jean-Claude Wippler, Equi4 Software

3:00 pm - 3:30 pm

Break

3:00 pm - 8:00 pm

Posters Session & Texas Tcl Shoot-Out Judging

Posters, demonstrations, and presentations of projects or preliminary results that are appropriate for small groups make up this session. Attendees will have a chance to hear about exciting projects and talk with the authors about their work. To submit a poster or demonstration proposal, see the Call for Papers; the deadline is December 8, 1999.

The judging for the Texas Tcl Shoot-Out coding contest will also be conducted at this time.

3:30 pm - 4:30 pm

Work-in-Progress Session (WiPs)

Short, pithy, and fun, Work-in-Progress reports introduce interesting new or on-going work. Fast paced and spontaneous, the WiPs feature new ideas or novel solutions to old problems. The number of presenters is limited, so reserve your WiPs slot by sending a note to tcl2kwips@usenix.org. Work-in-Progress reports are generally five-minute presentations; really interesting work can get more air time.

Friday, February 18

9:00 am - 10:30 am

Extending Core Tcl

Session Chair: *Matt Newman, Sensus Consulting Ltd.*

The Tcl Extension Architecture
Brent Welch and Michael Thomas, Scriptics Corp.

XOTcl—An Object-Oriented Scripting Language
Gustav Neumann and Uwe Zdun, University of Essen

A Multi-Threaded Server for Shared Hash Table Access
Andrej Vckovski and Jason Brazile, Netcetera AG

Feather

Paul Duffin, IBM Corp.

10:30 am - 11:00 am

Break

11:00 am - 12:30 pm

Applications Show & Tell

The Applications Show & Tell session is a chance for your bold/original/crazy/cool/huge/tiny Tcl/Tk application or idea to be seen briefly by your peers. Participants should prepare one viewgraph (preferably with one or two screen shots for Tk apps, and a URL if applicable) and a very brief (2-5 minute) commentary. The focus can be current work, updates to previous work, grand ideas for future work, etc. No app is too small or too large to display. Show the world what you are doing with Tcl/Tk!

12:30 pm - 1:30 pm

Closing Remarks, Best Poster Award, Texas Tcl Shoot-Out Awards, & Town Meeting