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## Creating and Running Tcl Scripts

You can develop scripts to automate common Quartus II software tasks, such as creating a project, making assignments, compiling, performing timing analysis, and custom reporting. You can run Tcl commands and scripts to control the Quartus II software from the command line, the Quartus II Console, the Tcl Scripts dialog box, or the Tasks window.

Use the **Tcl Script File (.tcl)** containing the settings and assignments from an existing project, so that you can use them in another project. You can also add project creation and compilation commands to the .tcl file so that it contains the entire flow for the project.

If you are new to Tcl, the easiest way to start writing Tcl scripts to control the Quartus II software is to cut and paste examples from Help into your scripts. The `quartus_sh --qhelp` command starts a help browser, and lists commands by packages. Use the `help -tcl` command to access information about other types of Tcl help.

In the Tcl Console, you can use the `help <package_name>` command to view help for a specified Tcl package, which includes a list of available commands. You can use the `help <command_name>` command to view long help for a specified Tcl command. Long help displays syntax, and includes argument descriptions, examples, and a list of possible return values.

There are two types of arguments for a Tcl command. A positional argument, such as `<project_name>` in `project_open <project_name>`, constitutes a value placeholder. An option argument, such as `-device <device_name>`, is composed of both an option name and a value placeholder. In an option argument, the value is determined by the option specified beforehand. Refer to [About Command Line Executables](#) for more information. If you use incorrect arguments for a command, Help displays the correct usage.

[+](#) To generate a Tcl script from a Quartus II Settings File (.qsf):

[+](#) To run a Tcl command or script from command line:

1. At the command prompt, type the following command to enter the Quartus II Tcl scripting shell:

```
<quartus executable name> -s
```

2. Type a command at the Tcl prompt.

[+](#) To run a Tcl command or script from the Tcl Console:

[+](#) To run a Tcl script from the Tcl Scripts dialog box:

[+](#) To run Tcl script from the Tasks window:



More information is available on [Tcl](#) on the Altera website.

**See Also** ▶

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