How to install Tcllib

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Introduction

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The tcllib distribution, whether a snapshot directly from CVS, or

officially released, offers a single method for installing tcllib,

based on Tcl itself.

This is based on the assumption that for tcllib to be of use Tcl has

to be present, and therefore can be used.

This single method however can be used in a variety of ways.

0 For an unwrapped (= directory) distribution or CVS snapshot

a. either call the application 'installer.tcl' directly,

b or use

% configure ; make install

The latter is provided for people which are used to

this method and more comfortable with it. In end this

boils down into a call of 'installer.tcl' too.

1. A starpack distribution (window-only) is a self-extracting

installer which internally uses the aforementioned installer.

2. A starkit distribution is very much like a starpack, but

required an external interpreyter to run. This can be any tcl

interpreter which has all the packages to support starkits

(tclvfs, memchan, trf).

3. A distribution in a tarball has to be unpacked first, then any

of the methods described in (0) can be used.

Usage of the installer

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The installer selects automatically either a gui based mode, or a

command line based mode. If the package Tk is present and can be

loaded, then the GUI mode is entered, else the system falls back to

the command line.

Note that it is possible to specify options on the command line even

if the installer ultimatively selects a gui mode. In that case the

hardwired defaults and the options determine the data presented to the

user for editing.

Command line help can be asked for by using the option -help when

running the installer (3) or the distribution itself in the case of

(1) or (2).

The installer will select a number of defaults for the locations of

packages, examples, and documentation, and also the format of the

documentation. The user can overide these defaults in the GUI, or by

specifying additional options.

The defaults depend on the platform detected (unix/windows) and the

executable used to run the installer. In the case of a starpack

distribution (1) this means that \_no defaults\_ are possible for the

various locations as the executable is part of the distribution and

has no knowledge of its environment.

In all other cases the intepreter executable is outside of the

distribution, which means that its location can be used to determine

sensible defaults.

Notes

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The installer will overwrite an existing installation of tcllib 1.6

without asking back after the initial confirmation is given. And if

the user chooses the same directory as for tcllib 1.4, or 1.3, etc.

then the installer will overwrite that too.