Tcllib installation directory layout

====================================

This document describes the possible layouts for an installed tcllib,

discusses their pro and contra and makes a choice for Tcllib 1.4. A

roadmap of changes in the future is made available as appendix.

[L1/D] Deep layout

------------------

This is the layout of Tcllib 1.3 (and versions before that).

A single directory tcllib<version> is created, and all

subdirectories of the 'modules' subdirectory in the

distribution is copied into it. This is restricted at large to

\*.tcl files, with exception made for some modules with special

needs.

Pro:

Contra:

Makes the handling of the various package indices,

well, not difficult, but uncomfortable.

[L2/Fa] Flat layout 1

---------------------

A directory is created for each module of tcllib.

Pro:

Handling of package indices is easier than for L1/D, a

toplevel index file with all its problems is not

required anymore.

Contra:

Directories should be versioned to avoid conflicts

between multiple releases. modules have no

version. This can be faked for modules containing one

package, but not for the modules with more.

[L2/Fb] Flat layout 2

---------------------

A directory is created for each package in tcllib.

Pro

Handling of package indices is easy, one per package.

Contra:

Modules containing more than one package are difficult

to handle. The system has to split them into the

individual packages. This rendered very difficult

because of shared package index files.

This can be solved by moving tcllib (back) towards of

one package per module. When that goal is reached

L2/Fa and L2/Fb become the same, and the contra for

L2/Fa vanishes too as an exact version number can be

associated with each directory.

Chosen layout for Tcllib 1.4

----------------------------

L2/D

Despite the problems with package indices the contras against

the flat structures are too strong at this point in

time. Automatic solutions are not really possible, or require

a very high effort.

Roadmap

-------

Change the module directories of tcllib to contain exactly one

package per directory, with appropriate index (and meta data).

This not only makes sense for easier handling of installation

and package indices, but also in the greater context of

wrapping code for deployment.

-----------------------------------

This document is in the public domain.

Andreas Kupries <andreas\_kupries@users.sf.net>