IronTcl: Simple, Stable, and Secure

Joe Mistachkin @ Tcl 2016
https://www.irontcl.com/

What is IronTcl?

- Binary distribution of Tcl/Tk.
- Based on official Tcl/Tk sources.
- Compiled with latest MSVC compiler.
- Carefully tested.
- Digitally signed.
- Available for x86 and x64.
- Available for Windows XP or later now.
- Other platforms may follow.

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What is included?

- Tcl/Tk libraries (*.dll) and shells (*.exe).
- Tcl/Tk headers (*.h) and import libraries (*.lib).
- Tcl/Tk core script libraries (*.tm, *.tcl).
- Encodings (*.enc) and time zone files (lib/ tcl8.x/tzdata/*).
- Documentation (*.html, *.css, *.chm).

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What about debugging?

- Full debugging builds will be available for each release.
- The provided symbols (*.pdb) will contain all available debugging information.

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What about extensions?

- The "dde" and "registry" extensions are included.

- The TLS extension is also included.

- Other extensions will be made available via the online package repository.

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What about security?

- How do you know that a set of ActiveTcl binaries are genuine?

  – Since the binaries are not digitally signed, there is no way.

- How do you know that a set of IronTcl binaries are genuine?

  – They are digitally signed with a trusted code-signing certificate.

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Why?

- Existing binary distributions of Tcl/Tk for Windows:

    - Often lag behind the Tcl/Tk source releases.

    - Distributed under extremely restrictive licenses.

    - Commercial use can be quite expensive and require careful compliance tracking.

    - Are **not** signed with Authenticode, OpenPGP, or anything else.

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Why? (continued)

- Other problems:

  - Typically use proprietary installers.

  - Installation should not be a requirement.

  - Deployment in the "application-local" style should be supported (e.g. via xcopy, including only what is needed).

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Licensing Summary

- Simple, flat, per-year subscription pricing.

- No quotes, no tiered pricing, no gimmicks.

- Completely royalty-free redistribution rights for all provided files.

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Why pay when I can download the competition for free?

- Simply being able to download something for "free" does not mean you can easily (or legally):

  – Redistribute it.

  – Use it commercially.

  – Use it in production.

  – Get support for it.

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ActiveTcl License

- See: https://urn.to/r/activetcl
- <snip> The use of the Software is unsupported and is for non-commercial or non-production use. Support is available from ACTIVESTATE under a separate agreement, see Part 3.d. To use the Software for internal-facing or external-facing production servers you require a Business Edition license, see Part 4.c. For redistribution of the Software, You will require an OEM license, see part 4.b.

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ActiveTcl License (continued)

- 3b. <snip> "Wrapped Application" means a single-file executable wherein all binary components are encapsulated in a single binary however ***You may not expose the base programming language as a scripting language within your own application program to end users. [ed: emphasis mine]***

ActiveTcl License (continued)

- 4a. <snip> Except as expressly provided herein, you may not:
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ActiveTcl License (continued)

- Is the following site compliant with the license terms?

https://urn.to/r/chocotcl

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ActiveTcl License (continued)

- Don't know?

- Neither do I and *that's* the point.

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You really do get what you pay for.

- Even if you pay for a "Business" or "OEM" license, many of these onerous restrictions may still be imposed.

- Ongoing costs of auditing and maintaining compliance with these licenses may be burdensome and in time could exceed the initial licensing costs.

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- Simple, flat, per-year subscription pricing.

- Completely royalty-free redistribution rights for all provided files.

- Your rights to use and redistribute the IronTcl files do not stop when your subscription expires.

- You may renew your subscription to receive further updates.

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IronTcl Support

- **Satisfaction is guaranteed** or your money back, pro-rated on a whole-month basis.

- Communicate directly with software engineers that have extensive production experience with Tcl, Tk, and related technologies.

- Availability options up to 24 / 7 / 366, via e-mail, telephone, live chat, screen sharing, etc.

- Service-level agreement (SLA) options.

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Questions & Answers

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