Questions

Here are questions about *Tcl: An Embeddable Command Language* by John K. Ousterhout.

1. What applications could benefit from a language like Tcl? What would you use it for?

2. Characterize the control flow in a Tcl-enhanced application. What happens after `main()` is called?

3. If you know Lisp or Scheme: do you agree that Tcl shares important characteristics with Lisp, as claimed by Ousterhout?

4. Assume you want to add a new datatype to Tcl that represents a database connection. How do you implement this?

5. Ousterhout proposes Tcl for communication between applications. How does this work? Do you know (non-Tcl) applications that communicate this way?

6. Tcl, at least in its early incarnations, has the reputation of being slow. Does this matter? Speculate about reasons.

7. What is the most important design aspect for an embedded language, besides the language itself?

Small-group work

As a reminder, here is our procedure to tackle questions during our meetings.

1. Divide into groups. We will try to form groups that are diverse, so that each group contains people with different degree f experience and research interests. Once the groups have been formed, introduce yourselves to each other.

2. Choose a recorder. Agree on one person to record the views expressed in your group, in particular

   - decisions the group makes collaboratively,
   - significant dissent.

3. Discuss questions; use the black board, a laptop, or whatever you deem necessary to structure your answers.