

State of Tk

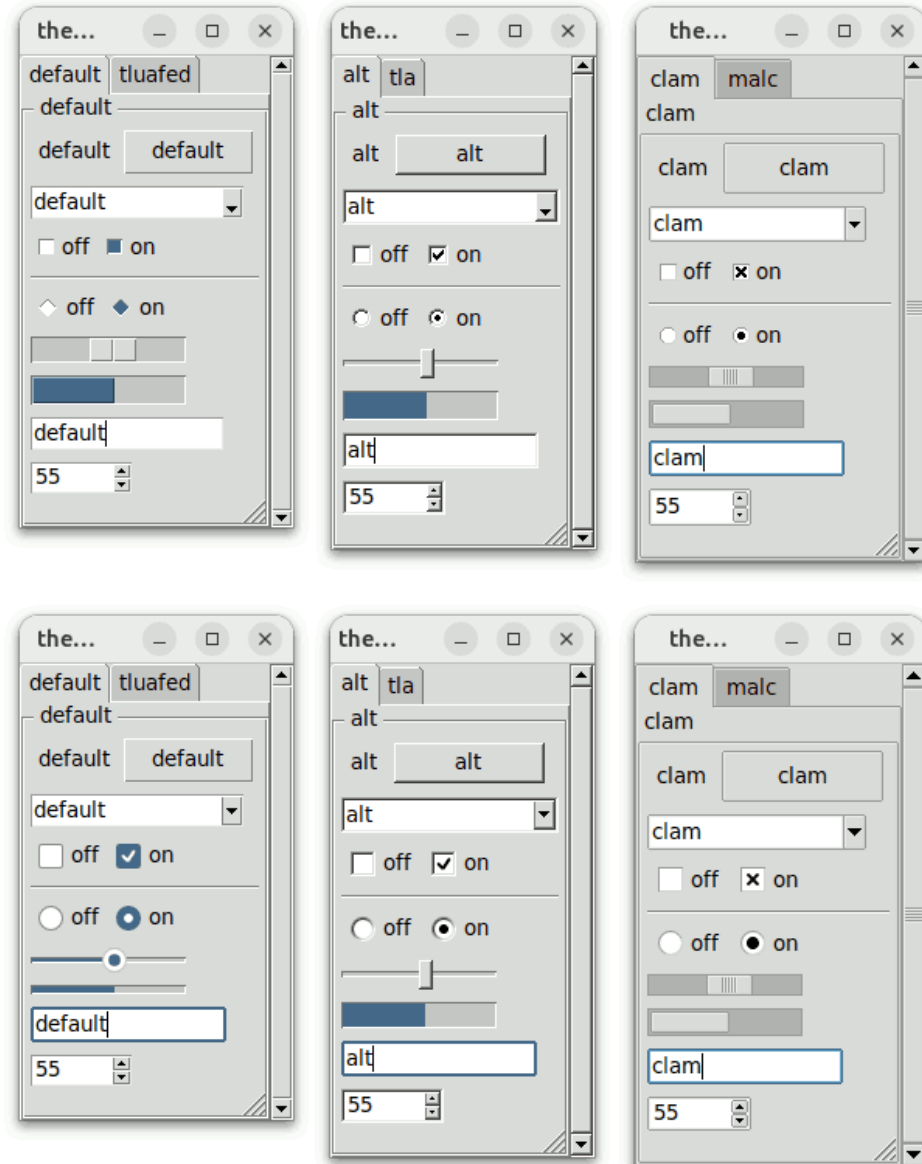
- Highlights
- Releases
- Changes since last meeting
- Other language bindings
- TCT
- Future




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Why do you want Tk9?

- Greatly improved MacOS visual engine
- Full GUI Scalable with SVG images
- Reformed look
- `tk sysray`: Platform independent system tray
- `Tk print` prints text and canvas widget contents
- `wm iconbadge` overlays a number or exclamation mark over taskbar icon



TIP 713: release calender 8.6



2024-09-13 8.6.15

- `Ttk::treeview` last item painting

2024-12-11 8.6.16

2025-08 8.6.17

- Couple of bugs and beautiful crashes...

2026-04 8.6.18 Last 8.6 release

TIP 713: release calender 9.0.x

2024-10-25 9.0.0 released

2024-12-21 9.0.1 released

- TIP 706: public text "In context" functions to have new text widget as extension
- Fix "~/.Xdefaults" paths

2025-07-02 9.0.2 Just released

- `ttk::panedwindow` sash now visible!
- `tk print` enhancements

2025-09 9.0.3

2026-01 9.0.4

2026-05 9.0.5

2026-09 9.0.6

2026-12 9.0.7 Last 9.0 release



Migration to 9.0

Migration core wiki page:

<https://core.tcl-lang.org/tk/wiki?name=Migrating+scripts+to+Tk+9>

<https://core.tcl-lang.org/tk/wiki?name=Migrating+C+extensions+to+Tk+9>

- Default values changed from pixel to points to be scalable.

Example: `ttk::scale -gripsize`

- Default colours changed from fix to symbolic to support (MacOS) dark theme.

Example: `polygon -fill`


- `Tk_InitStubs(interp, "8.6-10", 0)`

Migrated extensions

<https://wiki.tcl-lang.org/page/Porting+extensions+to+Tcl+9>

- All major packages ported
 - Main issue is the TCL migration, as Tk is very compatible
 - Maintainers in the conference:
 - Andreas: Tklib
 - Harald: tksvg
- > Quick migration was surprising
- > Compatibility project Tk 8.7 was stopped

TIP 713: release calender 9.1



2025-07 9.1.0a0 First alpha

2025-09 9.1a1

2026-01 9.1a2

2026-05 9.1b1 Feature freeze

2026-09 9.1.0 Productive

Tk 9.1 features

- MS-Win: remove Windows XP variants of `tk_getOpenFile` & friends
- TIP698: No negative values for many options.
Example: `grid $w -borderwidth -5`
- TIP704: canvas scaling aware
- TIP719: new states to `ttk::treeview` items, to allow custom node images
`ttk::style element create Treeitem.indicator \`
`image [list ImgClosed open ImgOpen]`
- TIP725: `::tk::mac::GetInfoAsJSON`

TCL 9.1 potential features

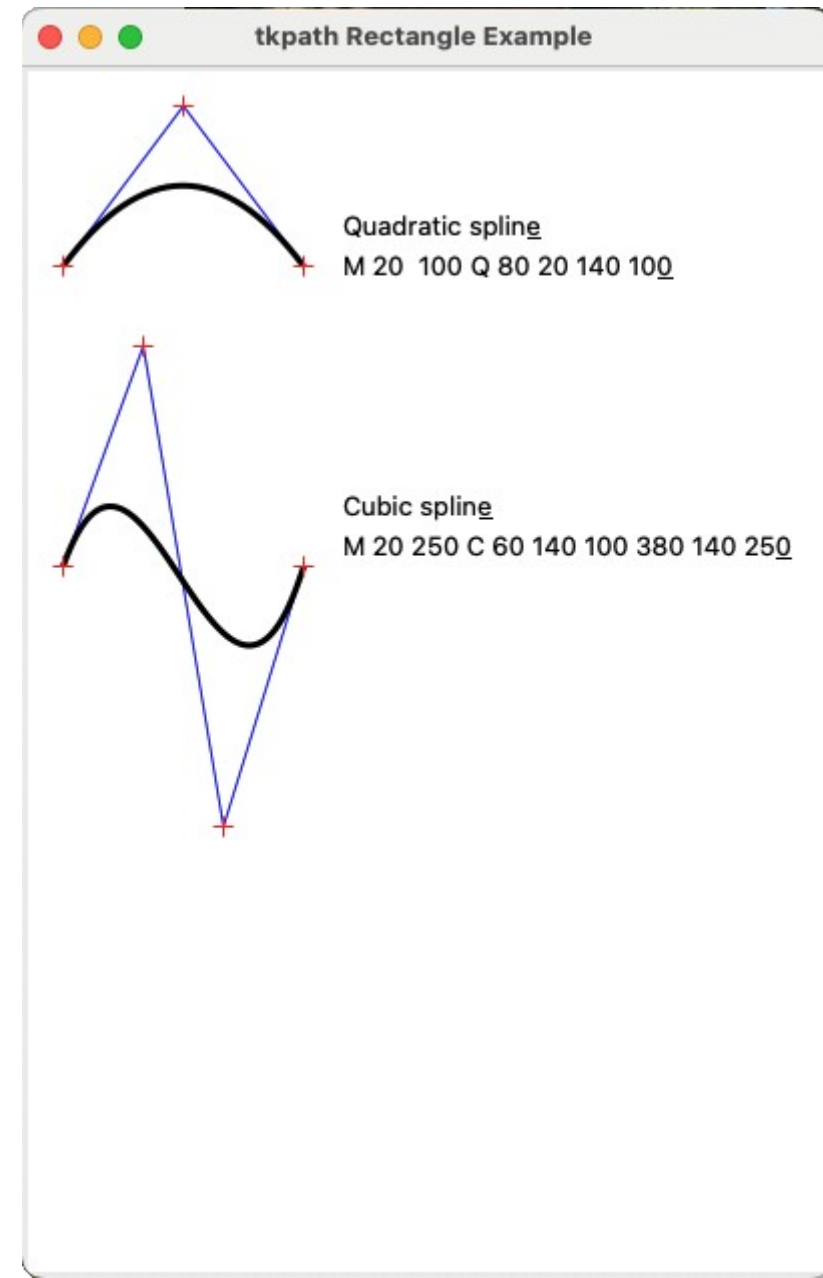
- TIP714: `tk image types`
- TIP687: `-locale` for `text/entry` widget
Word break, glyph break other Unicode related features probably with `unicode` command
- MacOS platform enhancements
- Visual enhancements
- `"image"` command as independent package
- `Tk print` enhancements

Rtext: revised text widget

- High speed eliding (as current may take a minute on Widget resize)
- Now a loadable package to test:
<https://chiselapp.com/user/fvogel/repository/rtext/home>
- Branch and bugs in tk ticker (see link above)

Smooth canvas

- Canvas lines are pixels
- Androwish has a smoothed standard canvas
- Tkpath features smooth edges and is just ported to Tk9
Manfred reported a drop-in replacement, René likes the advanced features, but had coordinate and binding troubles



Dark mode

- On MacOS, the default colours are defined in dependency of active dark or light mode
- Packages may redefine all colors to get a dark mode:
Example: `AWDark`