

Seminar Configurable Systems

Prof. Zeller / Christian Lindig

Tcl

Assignment

1. Read *Tcl: An Embeddable Command Language* by John K. Ousterhout. The paper was presented at the 1990 USENIX conference that is oriented towards systems and practical problems.

I encourage you to read papers in small groups or to discuss them after you have read them on your own.

2. Prepare a one-page document that summarizes the paper. You should devote about half of your document to the summary of the paper *in your own words*. The rest you can use to judge the paper's strengths and weaknesses, and to offer some opinion.

Here are some generic questions that you might want to answer in your summary:

- (a) What is the problem being solved or discussed?
- (b) What are the main ideas or concepts presented? Most papers have one or two good ideas that will last; try to identify them.
- (c) Do you find the paper convincing? What are the main claims of the author and does he provide evidence for them?
- (d) Try to focus on concepts and don't get carried away by syntax which is always tempting when it comes to languages.

Note all questions about the paper that you cannot answer yourself; we will try to answer them in class.

All writing assignments may be completed in German or English. You will receive extra credit for writing in a foreign language.

Your summary is always due on the Tuesday before the next meeting, 11:30 am at my office (307/45). Please provide me with a printout of your summary and don't forget to put your name on it.

3. Tcl has become popular during the nineties; you can find several books about it in the library. The definite web site for Tcl is <http://www.scriptics.com/>.
4. In general, I do not accept submissions by email. However, if you cannot stop by my office and therefore decide to send me an email with your submission, send it as a PDF or plain text file.