Something about TCL

- Introduction to the language and the meeting -

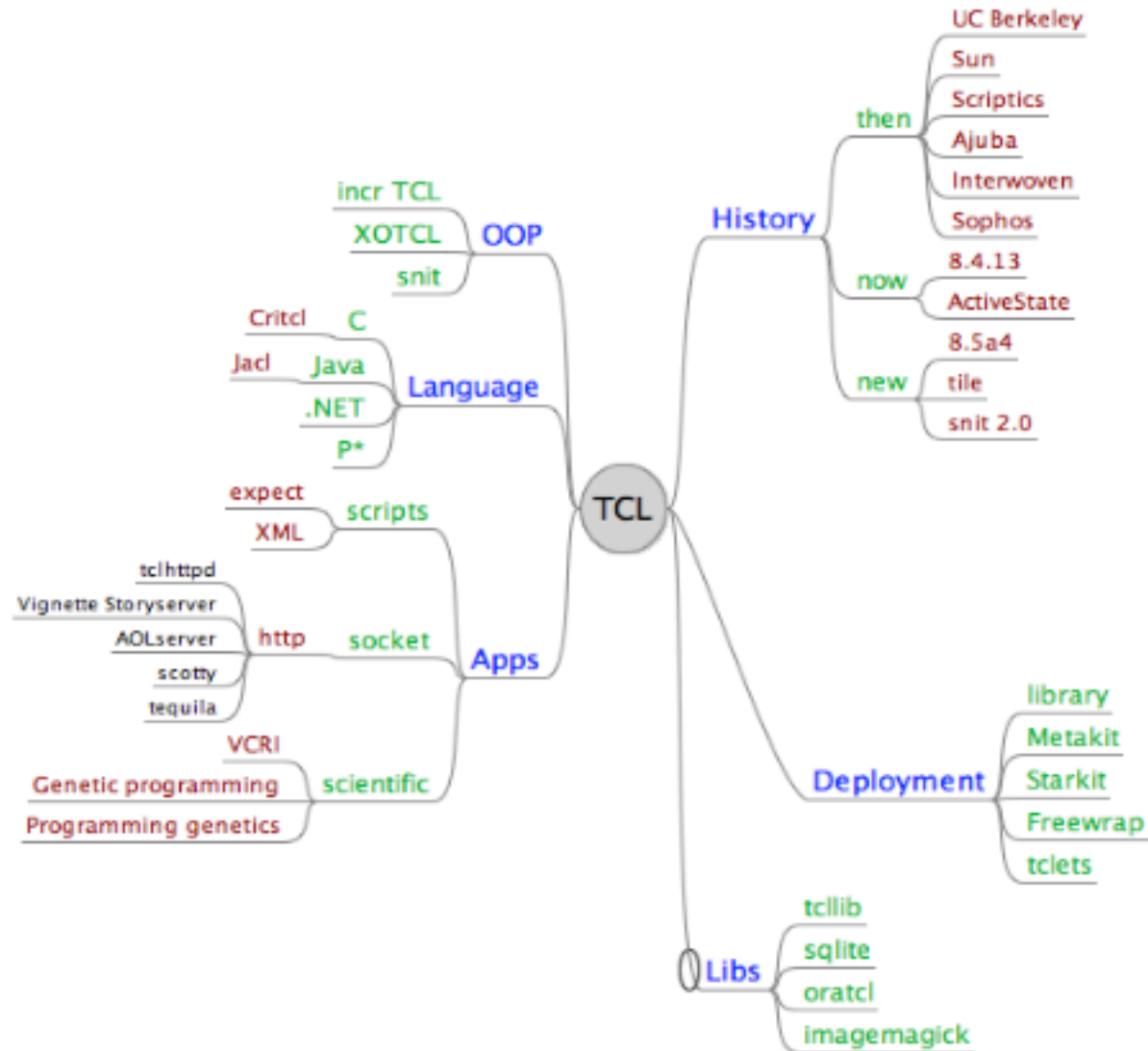

Axel Nagelschmidt http://axn.atspace.org/tcl.html

What is TCL?

☐ TCL is an easy to use scripting language by John Ousterhout, nowadays often called a dynamic language

☐ Written in C, it is easy to extend by commands writtein in C

☐ It can also be included into existing C applications, thus giving them an easy to use scripting inferface

☐ It is open source software under the BSD license, and can be used free of charge for any purpose

☐ It is easy extendable for new control structures

☐ Several OO extensions exist, thus making the creation of complex applications possible

☐ Unicode, sockets + cross platform compatitbility make it ideal for shared applications in heterogenous networks

☐ Applications can be bundled and deployed - even cross platform - as packed executables or packages

☐ The accompanying graphical extension TK is easy to use, and used by many other languages as well

☐ Bindings for other graphical libraries and wigdet sets exists, with support for themes and platform-native look

☐ Scripts are easy to develop and maintain, making it an ideal language for rapid application development
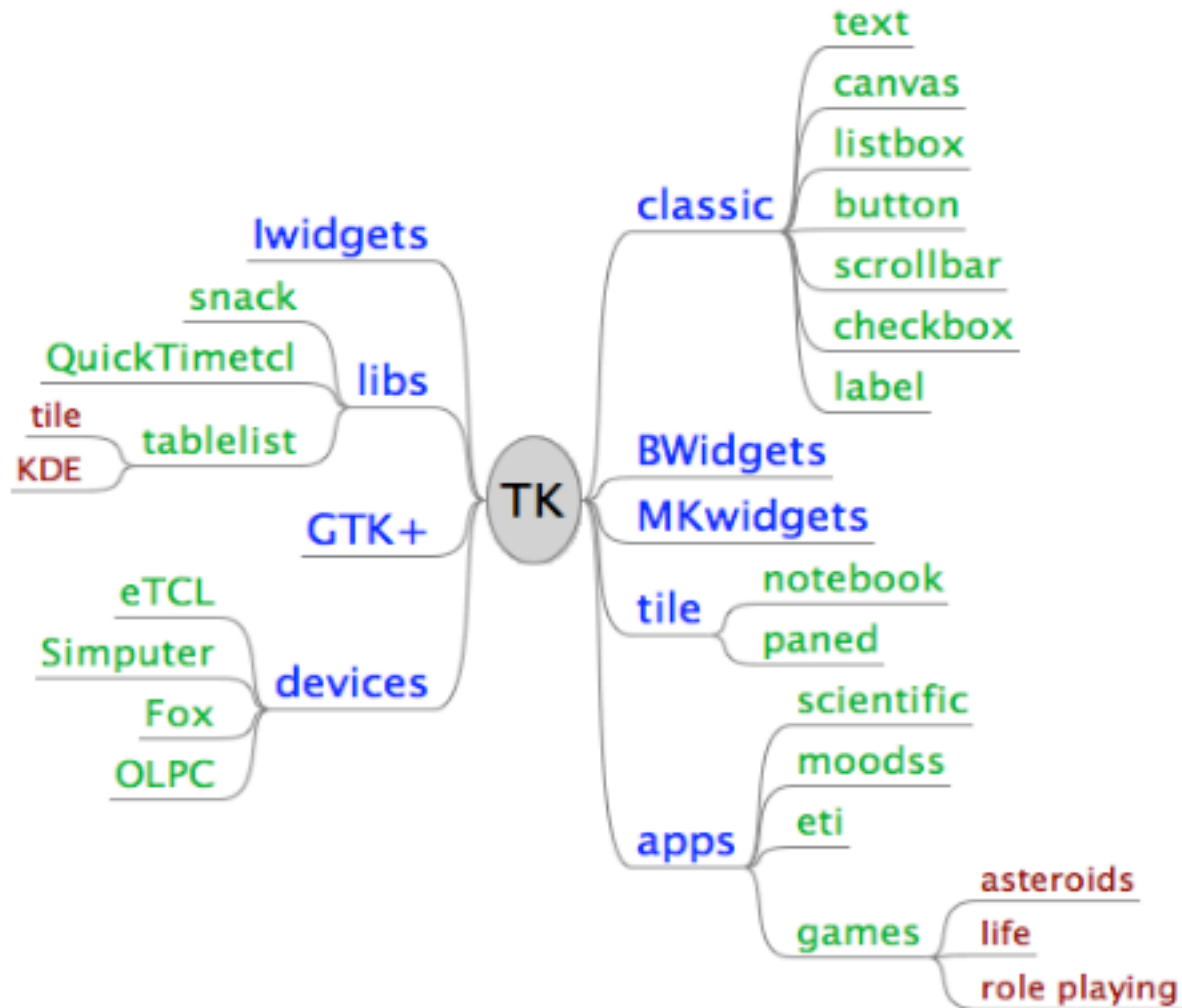
But i heard that TCL is nearly dead?

☐ TCL is actively being used in several major EDA design tools (it was designed for this purpose)

☐ IBM used it in 2006 to present their simulation of the new CELL processor

☐ Eurocontrol uses it in their air traffic control centre which uses SNMP agents, display and process monitoring

☐ LPISIM, an examination simulation for linux certification is written in TCL/TK

☐ expect, a TCL tool for automating interactive applications such as telnet, ftp, fsck, rlogin, tip is in wide use

☐ TCL / TK comes bundled with allmost all prominent Linux distributions and Mac OS X

☐ A quality assured distribution is maintained by ActiveState, a company specialised on dynamic languages

☐ TCL has won the ACM Software System Award, (like UNIX, the WWW, Postscript and Smalltalk)

☐ TCL has won the USENIX Software Tools User Group (STUG) Award

☐ "Much of my programming in the past few years has been in Tcl/Tk, since I've been doing user interfaces for several different systems, (...). I've also done experimental versions of some of these in Java and Visual Basic"
  Brian W. Kernighan

☐ news://comp.lang.tcl is widely respected as being an extreme helpful newsgroup for TCL/TK

Mindmap on TCL

Mindmap TK

One last reason: TCL programming is fun!