

TCL Expect: Yet another way to ~~do the wrong~~ thing develop GUI for R

Ivailo Partchev
University of Jena, Germany

Point-and-click interfaces, as opposed to a sensible command language, will always have their supporters and critics. We present an approach to developing a point-and-click interface based on the TCL/TK extension, Expect.

Compared to the internal support of TCL/TK through packages like tcltk, rpanel, tkrplot, and others, the Expect approach is slower and less appropriate for animated displays. On the positive side, applications are very easy to develop, the very existence of R is hidden from the user, and the interactive nature of R is exploited fully.

As an example, we present a toy application (a t-test or a regression), and a larger application for the analysis of treatment effects in experimental and quasi-experimental research.

References

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