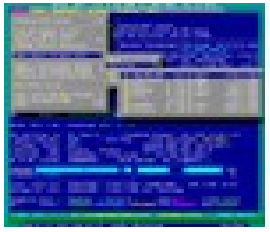
TxWin native scripting

Jan van Wijk

TxWin native scripting language

as available in DFSee 9.03 and up,
and TxWin starting from version 2

FSYS - Software



TxWin

Presentation contents

- DFSee scripting history, design goals and alternatives
- High level layout of TxScript programs
- Script parameters and variables
- Expressions, available operators
- Built-in functions
- Control structures, program flow
- Expression substitution in commands
- Example scripts fragments, from DFSee usage

Who am I ?

Jan van Wijk

- Software Engineer, C, Rexx, Assembly, PHP
- Founded FSYS Software in 2001, developing and supporting DFSee from version 4 to 14.x
- First OS/2 experience in 1987, developing parts of OS/2 1.0 EE (Query Manager, later DB2)
- Used to be a systems-integration architect at a large bank, 500 servers and 7500 workstations
- Developing embedded software for machine control and appliances from 2008 onwards

Home page: **https://www.dfsee.com**

Dfsee scripting history

- Over time, to automate repeating and more complex tasks, several scripting methods have been (and still are!) used with DFSee:
  - BAT/CMD/SHELL scripts, calling DFSee
  - Rexx subcmd environment for the OS/2 version
  - Native scripting, being a simple list of DFSee commands, executed sequentially, with simple error handling and parameter substitution

TxScript design goals

- Backwards compatible with existing .DFS scripts as far as possible, allowing re-use
- Direct access to much DFSee internal info, including disk sectors from a script
- Powerful expressions, variables and functions
  Can be used from and in the (DFSee) command-line too
- Conditional and looping control to allow more intelligent and powerful scripts

Note: For 'DFSee' you can read any hosting program that uses the TxScript engine from the TxLib library

Do we need another language ?

- Trying to avoid re-inventing yet another wheel, some alternatives have been considered:
  - Rexx, as used in OS/2 version already
  - Python, clean OO type language
  - Perl, very powerful, hackers heaven :-)
  - PHP, Ruby etc as used in WEB environments
- All had problems with integration in the hosting program (DFSee), availability on all required platforms, or added complexity for install etc.
- Developing a new language is fun, so YES :-)

High level layout of TxScript

- LINE-oriented, but ignores whitespace usage within and between lines. Each line is either:
  - A comment line (ignored mostly :-)
  - An interpreter 'pragma' altering its behaviour
  - Program flow statements like IF or WHILE
  - An assignment to one or more script variables
  - A command to be passed to the host (DFSee) to be executed, including substitution of expressions

Example for script layout

```
;script example

;;defaultparam 1 5

IF  $1 < $_parts

  Say $1 is OK!

ENDIF
```

- A comment line
- A pragma
- Control statement with an expression
- A command to be executed by DFSee
- End of the Control statement

Script parameters and variables

- Parameters to the script are positional, and named $1 through $9, $0 is the scriptname
- Variables follow the 'Perl' syntax where possible, with a subset of the functionality
  - $variable — a scalar variable
  - $array[index] — scalar taken from an array
  - %array — whole array
  - $hash{key} — scalar taken from a hash
  - #hash — whole hash variable

System variables

- Variablenames starting with '$_' are system variables (DFSee) and are read-only
  - They come as scalar and scalar-from-array variants
- Some examples (there are dozens :-)
  - $_parts — total number of partitions, 1..n
  - $_disk — current opened disk number
  - $_this — sector number for current sector
  - $_d_size[X] — size in sectors for disk nr X
  - $_p_fsform[Y] — FS-format for partition nr Y
  - $_b_sector[Z] — Contents of sector nr Z, in a (512 byte) binary string

Expression and variable values

- Variable and expression values are either:
  - A string of arbitrary length, may contain any character value from 0..255, allowing binary data manipulation
  - A 64-bit signed integer value, allowing huge numbers while maintaining the exact integer value
- Expression operators and built-in functions automatically convert between these
  - Other types like floating-point may be added later

Expressions, operators, functions

- Expression syntax and semantics are pretty close to those defined in 'Perl' and 'C' but are not exactly identical
- Operators work on 1, 2 or 3 operands:
  - Unary, like + - ! NOT — 1 operand
  - Binary, like + * < = — 2 operands
  - Ternary, (cond) ? exp1 : exp2 — 3 operands
- Textual operators like 'AND' must be uppercase!
- Functions take zero or more arguments and return a value (in an expression)

Operator precedence, high to low

$name[]++ --	Variable, indexed, auto increment/decrement
Atom, Term	String, number, function nested-expr or ternary
- + ! ~	Unary operators
* / %	Binary multiply/division
+ -	Binary plus/minus
x	String replication
.	String concatenation
<< >>	Numeric bit-shift
== != < > <= >=	Numeric compare
=== !==	Same value AND type
EQ NE LT GT LE GE	String compare

Operator precedence, part 2

&	Bitwise AND
^	Bitwise XOR
|	Bitwise OR
&&	Logical AND (C-style)
||	Logical OR (C-style)
=	Assignment
,	Comma, multi-expression
NOT	Logical NOT (Perl style)
AND	Logical AND (Perl style)
OR	Logical OR (Perl style)

Built-in functions, A-F

abs	Absolute value, numeric
b32	Clip to 32-bit unsigned
b2asc	Binary string to ASCII
b2int	Binary string to reversed int
chr	ASCII value for number
canceled	Test for canceled last operation
confirmed	Confirmation Yes/No/Cancel
defined	Is variable defined
drivefs	FS-name for drive letter
drivelabel	Label string for drive letter
drives	All drive letters in string
drivespace	Freespace in KiB for drive
exists	File exists
filext	Set default file extension
fnbase	Extract filename without ext

Built-in functions, G-M

fnfile	Extract filename without path
fnpath	Extract path only, no filename
getcwd	Get current working directory
h2asc	Get string from hex-ascii str
h2int	Get integer from hex-ascii str
i2dec	Convert int to decimal str
i2hex	Convert int to hexadecimal str
index	Find substring in string
lc	Return lowercased string
left	Left adjust string, pad/clip
length	Get length of string
makedir	Create full directory path
max	Ret maximum of values
min	Ret minimum of values
message	Message popup, until [OK]

Built-in functions, O-Z

ord	Numeric value 1st char in str
prompt	Popup question, return string
replace	Replace characters in string
sec2gib	Get GiB value for #sectors
sec2kib	Get KiB value for #sectors
sec2mib	Get MiB value for #sectors
reverse	Reverse characters in string
right	Right adjust string pad/clip
rindex	Reverse find substring in str
strip	Strip leading/trailing chars from a string (default spaces)
substr	Extract substring from string
uc	Return uppercased string
undef	Undefine (free) a variable releasing any used storage

Control structures, branching

IF (condition)

  statement-list

ELSEIF (condition)

  statement-list

ELSE

  statement-list

ENDIF

- Like the Perl IF, not using a {} block but an ENDIF keyword
- () parenthesis on conditions optional
- Any number of the ELSEIF clause
- ELIF, ELSIF and ELSEIF accepted

Control structures, looping

```
WHILE  (condition)
   statement-list
ENDWHILE  label
```

```
FOR init;condition;iterator
   statement-list
ENDFOR  label
```

```
DO  label
   Statement-list
UNTIL (condition)
```

- 'C' like, explicit END replaces any {} block
- () parenthesis on conditions optional
- 'break' exits the loop, can take a 'label' too
- 'continue' skips code upto the loop iterator
- Labels are optional

Control structures, more looping

```
LOOP
   Statement-list
ENDLOOP
```

- Endless loop, no condition at all

```
LOOP
  EXIT label WHEN (cond1)
   Statement-list
   IF  (condition2)
     Statement-list
     break    label
   ENDIF
   Statement-list
  EXIT label WHEN (cond3)
ENDLOOP  label
```

- LOOP with one or more exit conditions at arbitrary positions
- Mainly useful when using the LABELS in nested loops :)

Command expression substitution

- Transparent, replacing expressions by the result of the expression, when starting with a variable:
  - $_this + 100
  - Wipe z $start $_d_cylsize * 25
  - Say You have $_parts partitions on $_disks disks
- Explicit, enclose in ***double*** curly brackets if NOT starting with a variable, or any conflicting syntax:
  - Restore {{$imgfile}} -P:$partition ; -P conflicting
  - Say we are in: {{getcwd()}} ; not a variable

Miscellaneous comments

- Keywords are case-insensitive (IF, WHILE)
- Parenthesis on conditions are optional
- Conditions must be on a single line,
  or use explicit line continuation
- Lines are 'continued' using '\' as last char
  allowing long expressions to be spread
  over more than one physical line

Miscellaneous comments

- Script syntax is checked BEFORE running any statement, except expressions to be substituted in commands (to be refined :-)
- Single '$' characters in commands will be left 'as-is' so can be used freely, but when directly followed by any alphabetic a-z/A-Z it could be mistaken for a variable and you need to escape that by doubling the '$' character as: '$$'
- There may be application level mechanisms too, that allow switching variable substitution on/off. Would result in better readable commands ...

Considered improvements

- User defined functions or subroutines
- More/better array and hash variable handling and manipulation (perl like)
- Floating point variables
- Basic file-I/O, read/write text and binary

Example code fragments - 1

Set default parameters, in named variables

```
;;defaultparam 1 0    ;disk to work on, 0 = auto
;;defaultparam 2 '$0' ;default image name
;;defaultparam 3 2    ;minimum number of disks
;;defaultparam 4 99   ;maximum number of disks
;
log $0                ;same as scriptname
$stick    = $1
$image    = $2
$dmin = $3
$dmax = $4
$stickmsg = "bootable multi-ISO, (USB) disk"
```

Example code fragments - 2

Check DFSee version and number of disks

```
if $_version >= 1000
  if ($_disks >= $dmin) && ($_disks <= $dmax)

    ;  ... do the real work ...

  else
    confirm Need $dmin to $dmax disks, got: $_disks
  endif
else
  confirm Script needs DFSee 10.x (this is $_version)
endif
```

Example code fragments - 3

Get size + number smallest accessible disk (taken from the DFSUSB32.DFS script)

```
$size = 99999999
for $disk = 1; $disk <= $_disks; $disk++
    if $_d_size[ $disk] < $size
      if $_d_access[ $disk]
        $stick = $disk
        $size = $_d_size[ $stick]
      endif
    endif
endfor
```

Example code fragments - 4

;Create a FAT32 partition on a memory stick

```
cr -d:$stick pri fat32 -M -o -L:"-v:Sdata -p:Stick2 -l:*"
if $_rc == 0
  'format' -f:32 -v:DfStickdata
  if $_rc == 0
    lvm -n:DFSeeUSBStickBIG -d:$stick
    $exitmsg = FAT32 created and formatted."
  else
    $exitmsg = Create FAT32 partition failed!"
  endif
endif
part -d:$stick
```

Example – recovery script core

```
confirm -y Recreate $parts partitions on disk $work
if $_rc == 0
  $done = 0
  while (1) ;single pass, allow break from section
     ;  ... multiple recovery sections here (see next slide)
     break
  endwhile
  part -d -n
  if $done == $parts
    confirm $done partitions done~~Press a key to exit
  endif
else
  confirm Recovery canceled by user
endif
```

Example – recovery script section

```
;add one section for every partition, with specific message
cr  pri bmgr  1  -a:0,c  -F -I-
if $_rc == 0
  $done++
else
  confirm Create partition $done +1 failed $abortmsg
  break
endif
cr log hpfs 2000 -at:6001,c -L:"-v:eCS -p:Boot -l:C -menu"
if $_rc == 0
  $done++
else
  confirm Create partition $done +1 failed $abortmsg
  break
endif
```

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Questions ?

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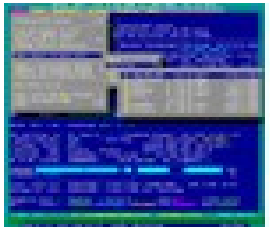

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