

## Ruby master - Feature #8539

### Unbundle ext/tk

06/18/2013 12:25 AM - naruse (Yui NARUSE)

<b>Status:</b>	Closed	
<b>Priority:</b>	Normal	
<b>Assignee:</b>		
<b>Target version:</b>		
<b>Description</b>		
How about unbundling ext/tk from Ruby repository?		
ext/tk is a bundled extension library for GUI programming with tk. It is introduced in 1999 and long maintained with CRuby itself.		
But nowadays its maintenance is not so active. Moreover ext/tk is not the de facto standard over Ruby GUI though it is bundled for 14 years. (maybe because tk is not de facto of GUI toolkit) GUI libraries for Ruby should compete in the wilds.		
So I propose unbundling ext/tk. It should be another repository for example on github and people should install it as gem.		
How do you think?		
<b>Related issues:</b>		
Related to Ruby master - Bug #12681: Gemfied tk issue		<b>Closed</b>
Related to Ruby master - Feature #5481: Gemifying Ruby standard library		<b>Assigned</b>
Is duplicate of Ruby master - Feature #8526: gemify tk		<b>Closed</b>

### Associated revisions

#### Revision 303dc3c5 - 08/09/2016 06:44 AM - naruse (Yui NARUSE)

- ext/tk: Tk is removed from stdlib. [Feature #8539] <https://github.com/ruby/tk> is the new upstream.

git-svn-id: svn+ssh://ci.ruby-lang.org/ruby/trunk@55844 b2dd03c8-39d4-4d8f-98ff-823fe69b080e

#### Revision 55844 - 08/09/2016 06:44 AM - naruse (Yui NARUSE)

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### History

#### #1 - 06/18/2013 12:33 AM - rosenfeld (Rodrigo Rosenfeld Rosas)

I believe it is interesting to have at least one lightweight GUI framework bundled with Ruby to allow simple scripting to happen without the need for end-users to have to perform additional steps besides installing Ruby, just like it happens with the JVM...

Having said that, I have really never used Tk before or done anything but experiments on GUI using Ruby, so I wouldn't be upset if it is removed from Ruby. It's just that I can understand that some people would appreciate some built-in GUI support bundled with Ruby itself...

**#2 - 06/18/2013 01:24 AM - Anonymous**

+1

**#3 - 06/18/2013 06:53 AM - phluid61 (Matthew Kerwin)**

+1

**#4 - 06/18/2013 07:37 AM - jonforums (Jon Forums)**

A good idea if the new maintainer appreciates (and understands why great multi-platform support is strategic to Ruby the language) the fine cross-platform work Kou and the other Ruby-GNOME2 members do for the gtk2 gem by providing a self-contained mingw binary gem for MRI Windows users.

But, how embarrassing for MRI if it's Tk GUI toolkit gem was kinda-sorta-not-really-multi-platform and only supported, say, Linux and OS X.

Is the key issue bit rot (Tcl/Tk 8.6.0 released in 12/2012) in core, or something more strategic like continued interest in pushing as many extensions from core into gems?

**#5 - 06/18/2013 10:20 AM - naruse (Yui NARUSE)**

jonforums (Jon Forums) wrote:

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But, how embarrassing for MRI if it's Tk GUI toolkit gem was kinda-sorta-not-really-multi-platform and only supported, say, Linux and OS X.

As far as I understand, people can also use Ruby/Tk on Windows if they install Tcl/Tk for Windows. And on OS X (and Linux) people also need to install Tcl/Tk and X11.

Is the key issue bit rot (Tcl/Tk 8.6.0 released in 12/2012) in core, or something more strategic like continued interest in pushing as many extensions from core into gems?

Once we had an idea that Ruby distribution should be all-in-one package for every basic use cases as rosenfeld says in [ruby-core:55533]. But now we have rubygems and it is good for libraries which is on different timeline. Therefore we have such reactions.

**#6 - 06/18/2013 11:05 AM - jonforums (Jon Forums)**

naruse (Yui NARUSE) wrote:

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Yes, and the Tcl/Tk folks have made it easy to automate downloading and building the Tcl/Tk libraries on Windows (using MSYS/mingw environment) for use by ext/tk. For example:

[https://github.com/jonforums/buildlets/blob/master/build\\_tcltk.ps1](https://github.com/jonforums/buildlets/blob/master/build_tcltk.ps1)

The remaining issue on Windows is to ensure the built Tcl/Tk goodies are moved (install time) to correct filesystem locations and patch up for library dirs like we do with RubyInstaller:

<https://github.com/oneclick/rubyinstaller/blob/master/resources/patches/tk/0002-Use-Tcl-Tk-from-different-directory.diff>

As background, RubyInstaller users wanting Tk support select the feature during install time. I placed a checkbox in the installer GUI that controls whether pre-built Tcl/Tk artifacts (integrated in the installer) are installed into a lib/tcltk subdir of the user's Ruby install dir. None of this matters for Linux or OS X, but this ease-of-install capability is critical to ensure Windows users have a good experience with Ruby Tk, and we're not flooded with support/maintenance issues.

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I very much support extracting ext/tk into a gem as long as (a) no user loses access to cross-platform Tk GUI functionality, and (b) the gem install for Windows users is as easy as it is with the gtk2 mingw binary gem.

**#7 - 06/18/2013 12:26 PM - naruse (Yui NARUSE)**

jonforums (Jon Forums) wrote:

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Once we had an idea that Ruby distribution should be all-in-one package for every basic use cases as rosenfeld says in [ruby-core:55533]. But now we have rubygems and it is good for libraries which is on different timeline. Therefore we have such reactions.

I very much support extracting ext/tk into a gem as long as (a) no user loses access to cross-platform Tk GUI functionality, and (b) the gem install for Windows users is as easy as it is with the gtk2 mingw binary gem.

- (a) normal gemify would do it
- (b) if someone make binary gem, or add install-time downloading tk feature, or Rubyinstaller bundle tk binary gem

**#8 - 06/18/2013 01:23 PM - nagai (Hidetoshi Nagai)**

From: "naruse (Yui NARUSE)" [naruse@airemix.jp](mailto:naruse@airemix.jp)  
Subject: [ruby-core:55537] [ruby-trunk - Feature #8539] Unbundle ext/tk  
Date: Tue, 18 Jun 2013 10:20:30 +0900  
Message-ID: [redmine.journal-40021.20130618102029@ruby-lang.org](mailto:redmine.journal-40021.20130618102029@ruby-lang.org)

And on OS X (and Linux) people also need to install Tcl/Tk and X11.

Additional information.  
Ruby/Tk supports Aqua version (without X11) of Tk on OS X.  
At least a few years ago, it worked.  
However, I don't know whether it works now, because I'm not a Mac user.  
It is very hard that I know all troubles on each change of Ruby, Tcl/Tk, operating system, and so on, without users' reports.

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Hidetoshi NAGAI ([nagai@ai.kyutech.ac.jp](mailto:nagai@ai.kyutech.ac.jp))  
Department of Artificial Intelligence, Kyushu Institute of Technology

**#9 - 01/30/2014 02:04 AM - hsbt (Hiroshi SHIBATA)**

- Target version changed from 2.1.0 to 2.2.0

**#10 - 08/09/2016 06:44 AM - naruse (Yui NARUSE)**

- Status changed from Open to Closed

Applied in changeset r55844.

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- ext/tk: Tk is removed from stdlib. [Feature #8539] <https://github.com/ruby/tk> is the new upstream.

**#11 - 08/26/2016 04:41 PM - vo.x (Vit Ondruch)**

- Related to Bug #12681: Gemified tk issue added

**#12 - 02/08/2017 09:58 AM - hsbt (Hiroshi SHIBATA)**

- Related to Feature #5481: Gemifying Ruby standard library added