

Wapp

A Library For Writing Web Apps That Are...

- Easy to build
- Easy to maintain
- Powerful
- Secure

<https://wapp.tcl.tk/>

You might benefit from Wapp if...

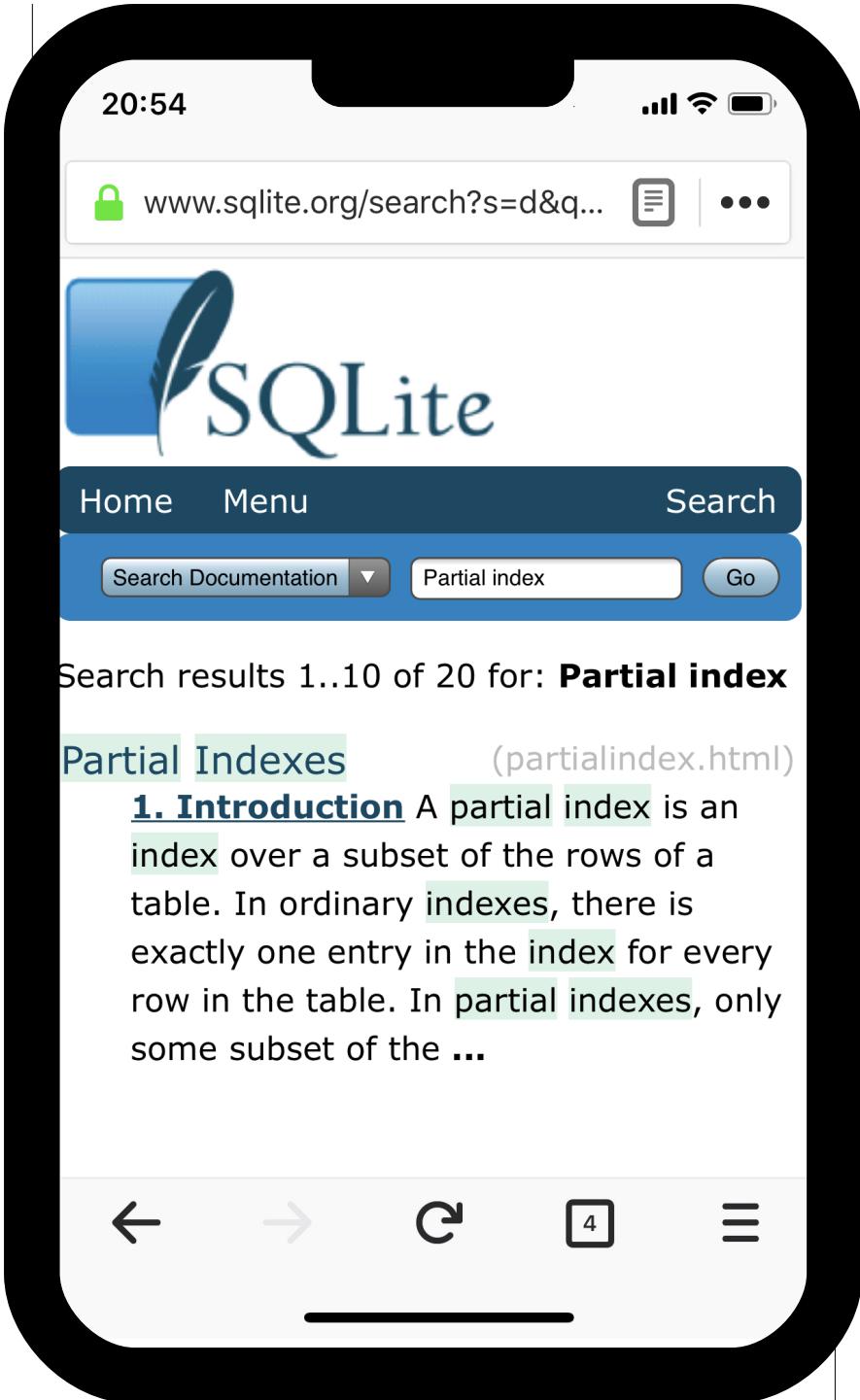
- Your primary job is something other than designing and maintaining websites
- You want a simple platform for experimenting with web technologies
- You need small accessory apps on a larger website
- You need to embed web-based command and control into a larger TCL application
- You don't want to waste time worrying about potential vulnerabilities

Easy To Learn

- Very small API - completely described on a one-page cheat-sheet
 - <https://wapp.tcl.tk/home/doc/trunk/docs/quickref.md>
- “Hello World” is 6 lines of Tcl (2 of which are the #! and the “package require Wapp”)
- Requires just “tclsh” (8.6+) and “wapp.tcl”
- Up and running in 5 minutes or less

Flexible, Cross-platform Deployment

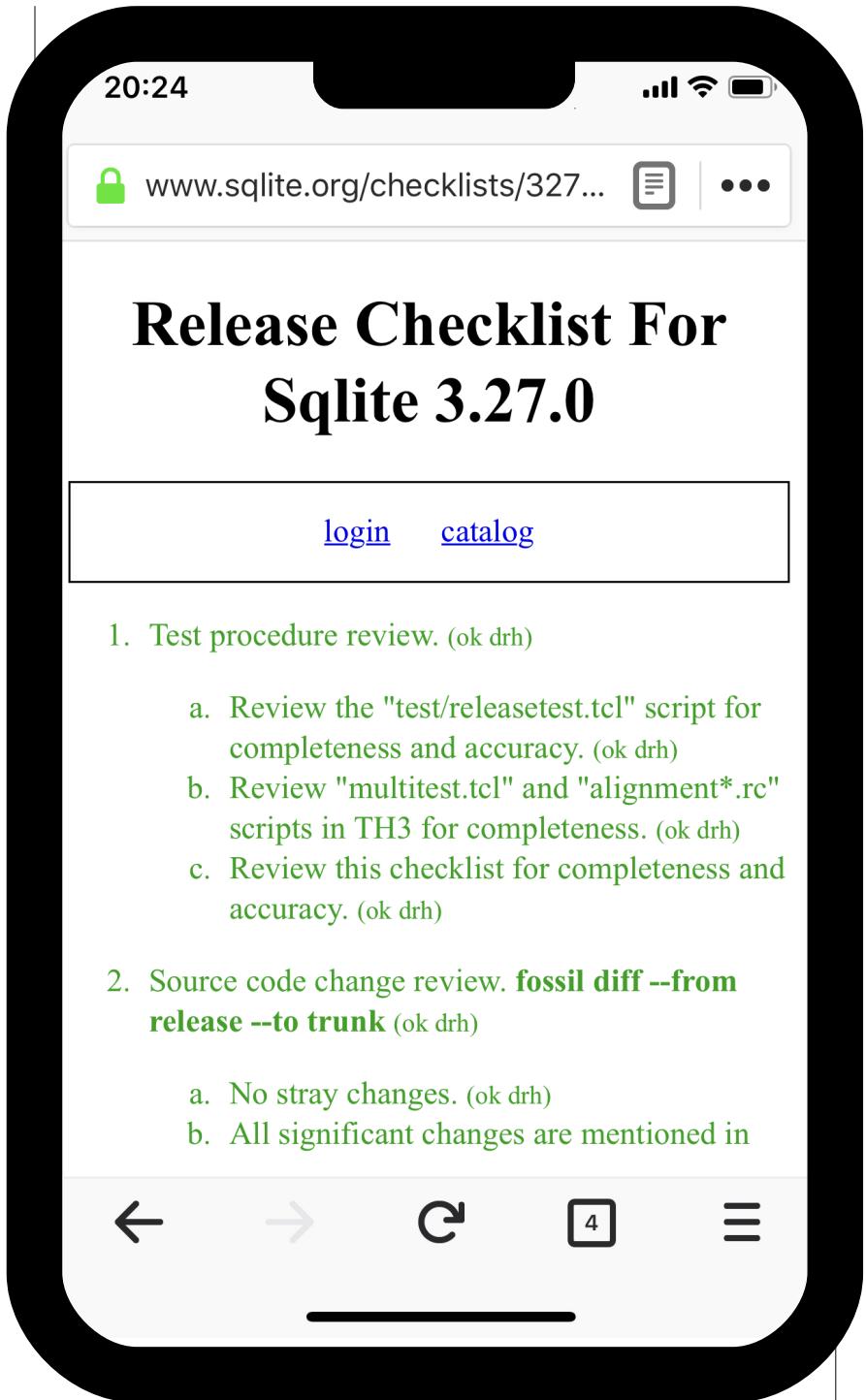
- `tclsh myapp.tcl`
 - Pops up in your desktop web-browser
- `tclsh myapp.tcl --server 8080`
 - Stand-alone server
- `tclsh myapp.tcl --scgi 9001`
 - SCGI server
- Make `myapp.tcl` executable and put it in your CGI directory



<https://sqlite.org/search>

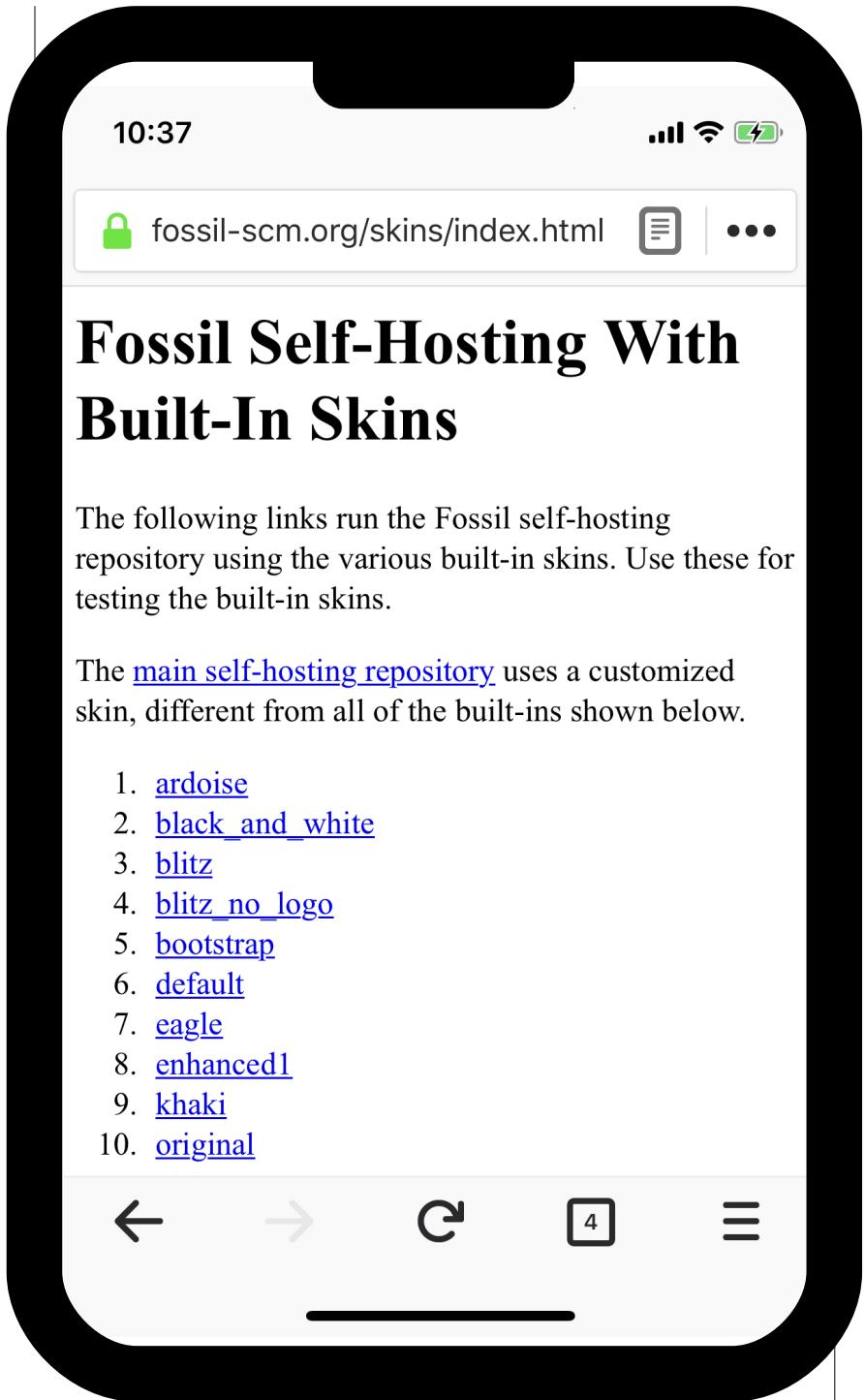
- Originally 353 lines¹ of Tcl with bits of TclLib for decoding CGI
- Converted to 237 lines of Wapp
- Easier to maintain
- Fixed security issues
- Added capabilities
- Now runs stand-alone in addition to CGI

¹ All code size measurements are source-lines-of-code (SLOC), exclusive of whitespace and comments.



<https://sqlite.org/checklists>

- Originally 1737 lines of C code
- Rewritten as 627 lines of Wapp
- Much easier to maintain
- Many new capabilities using XMLHttpRequest
- Cross-platform



<https://fossil-scm.org/skins/>

- 28 lines of code, more than half of which is just the text at the top of the webpage.
- Sometimes you just need a page that lists the files in a directory, with hyperlinks and some explanatory text

Hello, World!

hw.tcl:

```
#!/usr/bin/tclsh
source wapp.tcl
proc wapp-default {} {
    wapp-trim {<h1>Hello, World!</h1>\n}
}
wapp-start $argv
```

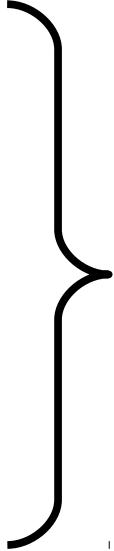
*994 lines, 30760 bytes
loads in 250 microsec*

tclsh hw.tcl

“Hello, World” plus environment

```
source wapp.tcl
proc wapp-default {} {
    set B [wapp-param BASE_URL]
    wapp-trim {
        <h1>Hello, World!</h1>
        <p>See the <a href='%html($B)/env'>Wapp
            Environment</a></p>
    }
}
proc wapp-page-env {} {
    wapp-allow-xorigin-params
    wapp-subst {<h1>Wapp Environment</h1>\n<pre>\n}
    foreach var [lsort [wapp-param-list]] {
        if {[string index $var 0]=="."]} continue
        wapp-subst {$var = %html([list [wapp-param $var]])\n}
    }
    wapp-subst {</pre>\n}
}
wapp-start $argv
```

Parameters

- CGI Variables
 - Query parameters
 - POST parameters
 - Cookies
- 
- wapp-param NAME DFLT
 - wapp-param-exists NAME
 - wapp-param-list
 - wapp-set-param NAME VAL
 - wapp-allow-xorigin-params

Parameters

- CGI Variables
 - Query parameters
 - POST parameters
 - Cookies
- 
- BASE_URL
 - DOCUMENT_ROOT
 - REMOTE_ADDR
 - HTTP_USER_AGENT
 - SAME_ORIGIN
 - SELF_URL

Parameters

- CGI Variables
- **Query parameters**
- POST parameters
- Cookies

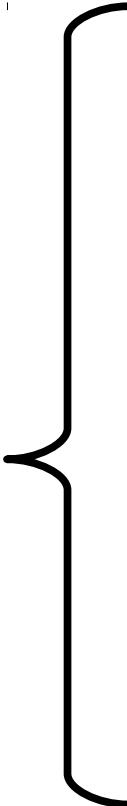
- Lower-case only - may not impersonate a CGI variable
- Only if same-origin or if wapp-allow-xorigin-params
- Automatically decoded

Parameters

- CGI Variables
- Query parameters
- POST parameters
- Cookies

- Automatically decoded
- x-www-form-urlencoded or form-data
- Lower-case only

Parameters

- CGI Variables
 - Query parameters
 - POST parameters
 - Cookies
- Automatically decoded
 - Lower-case only
- 

Summary Of API

- wapp-start \$argv
- wapp-subst {TEXT}
- wapp-trim {TEXT}
- wapp-param NAME ?DFLT?
- wapp-set-param NAME VALUE
- wapp-param-exists NAME
- wapp-param-list \$glob
- wapp-allow-xorigin-params
- wapp-mimetype \$type
- wapp-reply-code \$code
- wapp-redirect \$url
- wapp-reset
- wapp-set-cookie NAME VALUE
- wapp-clear-cookie NAME
- wapp-cache-control \$control
- wapp-content-security-policy \$x
- wapp-debug-env

CGI vs Server

- Separate process for each request
- High concurrency
- Higher startup cost
- Every instance in its own address space
- Uses fileevent to handle multiple inputs
- Single-threaded during page generation
- Low per-page startup cost
- Global variables preserved

tclsh or wapptclsh?

- wapptclsh understands “package require Wapp”
- wapptclsh has SQLite3 built-in
- wapptclsh is statically linked and works inside of a chroot jail or other sandbox
- wapptclsh omits script-based commands (ex: clock)

Tcl 8.6 or 8.7

8.6:

```
proc wapp-subst {txt} {
    global wapp
    regsub -all {%(html|url|qp|string|unsafe){1,1}?(|%)\((.+)\)\2} $txt \
        {[wappInt-enc-\1 "\3"]} txt
    dict append wapp .reply [uplevel 1 [list subst -novariables $txt]]
}
```

8.7:

```
proc wapp-subst {txt} {
    global wapp
    regsub -all -command \
        {%(html|url|qp|string|unsafe){1,1}?(|%)\((.+)\)\2} $txt wappInt-enc txt
    dict append wapp .reply [subst -novariables -nocommand $txt]
}
```

More Examples

- <https://wapp.tcl.tk/demo/self>
- <https://wapp.tcl.tk/demo/fileupload>
- <https://wapp.tcl.tk/demo/tableajax>

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Summary

- Wapp simplifies writing and maintaining small utility web applications
 - Small API for a short learning curve
 - Cross-platform
 - Secure by default
 - Full power of TCL
 - Permissive license
- Patches and suggests welcomed!
- <https://wapp.tcl.tk/>



The rest is just backup slides...

