# A basic introduction to script languages

A script file is a list of commands which a shell interpreter reads and executes. The first line in a script file generally has a line which indicates what interpreter to run. The rest of the file is just a sequence of commands, most often just like those you can run on your command line. Script languages include some method for manipulating variables and data.

Those of you who use UNIX a lot are familiar with scripts. The two most popular shells are the C shell (csh) or the Korn shell (ksh). An example of script for the csh is shown below:

```
#!/bin/csh -f
echo
chmod 444 $1
echo
echo mode has been changed...
echo
```

This script is called "hide". It changes the permission on a file to read only. For example,

```
-> hide my_file.c
```

changes "my_file.c" to a read only file

In the design automation field, the most popular scripting language is the *tool command language* (Tcl), which is commonly pronounced "tickle". Your initialization and synthesis scripts are written in Tcl.