What is \textit{Tk}? 

If \textit{Tkinter} is the Python interface to the \textit{Tk} GUI toolkit, what is \textit{Tk}? 

\begin{itemize}
  \item \textit{Tk} started life as Tcl extension (1991). It is now written in C.
  \item \textit{Tk} is a high-level windowing toolkit. You can interface with it directly using C or other languages.
  \item \textit{Tk} interfaces are also available in Python, Ruby, Perl, Tcl, and probably other other languages.
  \item What \textit{Tk} itself is interfacing with depends on your system:
    \begin{itemize}
      \item Mac: \textit{Tk} provides interfaces to the MacOS windowing system.
      \item Windows: \textit{Tk} provides interfaces to the Microsoft windowing system.
      \item Other platforms: \textit{Tk} 8.X attempts to look like the Motif window manager, but without using Motif libraries. Prior to that it interfaced with the X window system.
    \end{itemize}
\end{itemize}

Let it suffice to say that \textit{Tk} provides a high-level means of accessing your system’s windowing infrastructure.