Facebook Fan Page Archiving Script

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# Overview

This public domain PowerShell script was created as a way to retain a record of all posts and comments published to a Facebook fan page wall. The data is saved in JSON files which are human readable. No effort to de-duplicate data is made.

# System Requirements

* Microsoft Windows Operating system
  + Windows Server 2008 with Service Pack 1 or 2
  + Windows Server 2003 with Service Pack 2
  + Windows Vista with Service Pack 1 or 2
  + Windows XP with Service Pack 3
* Microsoft .NET Framework 2.0 with Service Pack 1 or higher
* Microsoft [Windows Management Framework Core](http://support.microsoft.com/kb/968929) (WinRM and PowerShell 2.0)

# Facebook Setup

* Create a Facebook account (you may use an existing account)
* Log in to Facebook and create a new fan page (you may use an existing fan page)  
  Record the fan page ID which can be found at the end of the initial URL to your page  
  (e.g. http://www.facebook.com/?ref=home#!/pages/*pagename*/**1359943364218674**)
* Go to <http://www.facebook.com/developers/> and click the [Allow] button to allow the Facebook developer application access to your Facebook account basic information
* Create a new application by clicking [+ Set Up New Application]
* Enter an Application Name, select Agree (to the terms), and click [Create Application]  
  Note: you may receive a 404 or 500 error message. Your application will be created regardless of error messages.
* Go back to <http://www.facebook.com/developers/> and click on the new application you just created. It will appear under the My Applications section.
* Record the Application ID and Application Secret (to be entered into the PowerShell script later)

# Script Setup

* Modify the script inputs in the facebook-fan-page-feed-archiver.ps1 file using a text editor to reflect the Facebook information collected above and the desired backup location and frequency.
* Install the prerequisite software listed in the system requirements above on the workstation or server that will be running this script.
* Create a local Windows user account on the workstation or server where the script will run (an Active Directory account may be used) and add it to the local Administrator user group. Grant the new user change permission to the location designated in the $path value in the facebook-fan-page-feed-archiver.ps1.
* Create a new text document and rename its file extension to .cmd (this will be the command script to launch the PowerShell script). Add the following command and then save the file:  
  %SystemRoot%\system32\WindowsPowerShell\v1.0\powershell.exe –ExecutionPolicy RemoteSigned e:\facebook-archiver.ps1  
  (where “e:\” is the path to the PowerShell script and “facebook-archiver.ps1” is the name of the script)
* Create a scheduled task in Windows to run the command script created in the previous step at the desired interval (should match up with the value of $minutesback in the script. Use the user account created in the step above that was added to the local Windows administrator security group.
* Run the task to ensure it successfully downloads posts and comments and the files are copied to the location specified in the $path value in the script.

# Support

This script and accompanying documentation is provided as is for the benefit of the community. Please see <https://github.com/City-of-Bellingham/SocialMediaArchivers> to report problems and contribute to the project.