



Useful Commands

Update-Help	Downloads and installs newest help files
Get-Help	Displays information about commands and concepts
Get-Command	Gets all commands
Get-Member	Gets the properties and methods of objects
Get-Module	Gets the modules that have been imported or that can be imported into the current session

Operators

Assignment Operators

=, +=, -=, *=, /=, %=, ++, -- Assigns one or more values to a variable

Comparison Operators

-eq, -ne	Equal, not equal
-gt, -ge	Greater than, greater than or equal to
-lt, -le	Less than, less than or equal to
-replace	changes the specified elements of a value

"abcde" -replace "bc", "TEST"

-match, -notmatch	Regular expression match
-like, -notlike	Wildcard matching
-contains, -notcontains	Returns TRUE if the scalar value on its right is contained in the array on its left

1,2,3,4,5 -contains 3

-in, -notin	Returns TRUE only when test value exactly matches at least one of the reference values.
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"Windows" -in "Windows", "PowerShell"

Bitwise Operators

-band	Bitwise AND
-bor	Bitwise OR (inclusive)
-bxor	Bitwise OR (exclusive)
-bnot	Bitwise NOT
-shl, -shr	Bitwise shift operators. Bit shift left, bit shift right (arithmetic for signed, logical for unsigned values)

Other Operators

-Split	Splits a string
"abcdefghi" -split "de"	
-join	Joins multiple strings
"abc","def","ghi" -join ","	
..	Range operator
1..10 foreach {\$_ * 5}	
-is, -isnot	Type evaluator (Boolean). Tells whether an object is an instance of a specified .NET Framework type.
42 -is [int]	
-as	Type convertor. Tries to convert the input object to the specified .NET Framework type.
\$a = 42 -as [String]	
-f	Formats strings by using the format method of string objects
1..10 foreach { "{0:N2}" -f \$_ }	
[]	Cast operator. Converts or limits objects to the specified type
[datetime]\$birthday = "1/10/66"	

,	Comma operator (Array constructor)
.	Dot-sourcing operator runs a script in the current scope
. c:\scripts\sample.ps1	
\$ ()	Subexpression operator
@ ()	Array subexpression operator
&	The call operator, also known as the "invocation operator," lets you run commands that are stored in variables and represented by strings.
\$a = "Get-Process"	
& \$a	
\$sb = { Get-Process Select -First 2 }	
& \$sb	
Logical Operators	
-and, -or, -xor, -not, !	Connect expressions and statements, allowing you to test for multiple conditions
Redirection Operators	
>, >>	The redirection operators enable you to send particular types of output (success, error, warning, verbose, and debug) to files and to the success output stream.
Output streams	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * All output 1 Success output 2 Errors 3 Warning messages 4 Verbose output 5 Debug messages
# Writes warning output to warning.txt	
Do-Something 3> warning.txt	
# Appends verbose.txt with the verbose output	
Do-Something 4>> verbose.txt	
# Writes debug output to the output stream	
Do-Something 5>&1	
# Redirects all streams to out.txt	
Do-Something *> out.txt	



Arrays

"a", "b", "c"	Array of strings
1,2,3	Array of integers
@()	Empty array
@(2)	Array of one element
1,(2,3),4	Array within array
,"hi"	Array of one element
\$arr[5]	Sixth element of array*
\$arr[2..20]	Returns elements 3 thru 21
\$arr[-1]	Returns the last array element
\$arr[-3..-1]	Displays the last three elements of the array
\$arr[1,4+6..9]	Displays the elements at index positions 1,4, and 6 through 9
@(Get-Process)	Forces the result to an array using the array sub-expression operator
\$arr=1..10	
\$arr[((\$arr.length-1)..0]	Reverses an array
\$arr[1] += 200	Adds to an existing value of the second array item (increases the value of the element)
\$b = \$arr[0,1 + 3..6]	Creates a new array based on selected elements of an existing array
\$z = \$arr + \$b	Combines two arrays into a single array, use the plus operator (+)

*Arrays are zero-based

Associative Arrays (Hash tables)

\$hash = @{} @{foo=1; bar='value2'}	Creates empty hash table Creates and initialize a hash table
[ordered]@{a=1; b=2; c=3}	Creates an ordered dictionary
\$hash.key1 = 1	Assigns 1 to key key1

\$hash.key1	Returns value of key1
\$hash["key1"]	Returns value of key1
\$hash.GetEnumerator sort Key	Sorts a hash table by the Key property
[pscustomobject]@{x=1; y=2}	Creates a custom object

Comments

This is a comment because # is the first character of a token

\$a = "#This is not a comment..."
\$a = "something" # ...but this is.

Write-Host Hello#world

Block Comments

<# This is
A multi-line comment #>

Object Properties

An object's properties can be referenced directly with the "." operator.

\$a = Get-Date
\$a | Get-Member -MemberType Property
\$a.Date
\$a.TimeOfDay.Hours
\$a | Get-Member -MemberType Property -Static

Static properties can be referenced with the "::" operator.

[DateTime]::Now

Methods

Methods can be called on objects.

\$a = "This is a string"
\$a | Get-Member -MemberType Method
\$a.ToUpper()

\$a.Substring(0,3)

\$a | Get-Member -MemberType Method -Static

Static methods are callable with the "::" operator.

[DateTime]::IsLeapYear(2012)

Strings

"This is a string, this \$variable is expanded as is \$(2+2)"
'This is a string, this \$variable is not expanded'

@
This is a here-string which can contain anything including carriage returns and quotes. Expressions are evaluated: \$(2+2*5). Note that the end marker of the here-string must be at the beginning of a line!
"@

'@
Here-strings with single quotes do not evaluate expressions: \$(2+2*5)
'@

Variables

Format: \${scope:]name or \${anyname} or \${any path}

\$path = "C:\Windows\System32"
Get-ChildItem \${env:ProgramFiles(x86)}
\$processes = Get-Process

\$global:a = 1 # visible everywhere
\$local:a = 1 # defined in this scope and visible to children
\$private:a = 1 # same as local but invisible to child scopes
\$script:a = 1 # visible to everything in this script
Using scope indicates a local variable in remote commands and with Start-Job
\$localVar = Read-Host "Directory, please"
Invoke-Command -ComputerName localhost -ScriptBlock {
dir \$using:localVar }
Start-Job { dir \$using:localVar -Recurse}
\$env:Path += ";D:\Scripts"

Windows PowerShell 3.0 Language Quick Reference

Created by <http://powershellmagazine.com>



PowerShellMagazine

Get-Command -Noun Variable # the Variable Cmdlets
Get-ChildItem variable: # listing all variables using the variable drive

strongly-typed variable (can contain only integers)
[int]\$number=8

attributes can be used on variables
[ValidateRange(1,10)][int]\$number = 1
\$number = 11 #returns an error

flip variables
\$a=1;\$b=2
\$a,\$b = \$b,\$a

multi assignment
\$a,\$b,\$c = 0
\$a,\$b,\$c = 'a','b','c'
\$a,\$b,\$c = 'a b c'.split()

create read only variable (can be overwritten with - Force)
Set-Variable -Name ReadOnlyVar -Value 3 -Option ReadOnly

create Constant variable (cannot be overwritten)
Set-Variable -Name Pi -Value 3.14 -Option Constant

Windows PowerShell Automatic Variables (not exhaustive)

\$\$	Last token of the previous command line
\$?	Boolean status of last command
\$^	First token of the previous command line
\$_, \$PSItem	Current pipeline object
\$Args	Arguments to a script or function
\$Error	Array of errors from previous commands
\$ForEach	Reference to the enumerator in a foreach loop
\$Home	The user's home directory

\$Host	Reference to the application hosting the POWERSHELL language
\$Input	Enumerator of objects piped to a script
\$LastExitCode	Exit code of last program or script
\$Matches	Exit code of last program or script
\$MyInvocation	An object with information about the current command
\$PSHome	The installation location of Windows PowerShell
\$profile	The standard profile (may not be present)
\$Switch	Enumerator in a switch statement
\$True	Boolean value for TRUE
\$False	Boolean value for FALSE
\$PSCulture	Current culture
\$PSUICulture	Current UI culture
\$PsVersionTable	Details about the version of Windows PowerShell
\$Pwd	The full path of the current directory

Windows PowerShell Preference Variables

\$ConfirmPreference	Determines whether Windows PowerShell automatically prompts you for confirmation before running a cmdlet or function
\$DebugPreference	Determines how Windows PowerShell responds to debugging
\$ErrorActionPreference	Determines how Windows PowerShell responds to a non-terminating error
\$ErrorView	Determines the display format of error messages in Windows PowerShell
\$FormatEnumerationLimit	Determines how many enumerated items are included in a display
\$MaximumHistoryCount	Determines how many commands are saved in the command history for the current session

\$OFS	Output Field Separator. Specifies the character that separates the elements of an array when the array is converted to a string. The default value is: Space.
\$OutputEncoding	Determines the character encoding method that Windows PowerShell uses when it sends text to other applications
\$PSDefaultParameterValues	Specifies default values for the parameters of cmdlets and advanced functions
\$PSEmailServer	Specifies the default e-mail server that is used to send e-mail messages
\$PSModuleAutoLoadingPreference	Enables and disables automatic importing of modules in the session. "All" is the default.
\$PSSessionApplicationName	Specifies the default application name for a remote command that uses WS-Management technology
\$PSSessionConfigurationName	Specifies the default session configuration that is used for PSSessions created in the current session
\$PSSessionOption	Establishes the default values for advanced user options in a remote session
\$VerbosePreference	Determines how Windows PowerShell responds to verbose messages generated by a script, cmdlet or provider
\$WarningPreference	Determines how Windows PowerShell responds to warning messages generated by a script, cmdlet or provider
\$WhatIfPreference	Determines whether WhatIf is automatically enabled for every command that supports it



Windows PowerShell Learning Resources

Microsoft Resources

Microsoft Windows PowerShell

<http://www.microsoft.com/powershell>

Windows PowerShell Team Blog

<http://blogs.msdn.com/PowerShell>

MS TechNet Script Center

<http://www.microsoft.com/technet/scriptcenter/hubs/msh.msp>

PowerShell Forum

<http://social.technet.microsoft.com/Forums/en-US/winserverpowershell/>

Hey, Scripting Guy! Blog

<http://blogs.technet.com/b/heyscriptingguy/>

Windows PowerShell Survival Guide

<http://social.technet.microsoft.com/wiki/contents/articles/183.windows-powershell-survival-guide-en-us.aspx>

Community Resources

PowerShell Community

<http://powershellcommunity.org>

PowerShell Code Repository

<http://poshcode.org>

PowerShell.com Community

<http://powershell.com>

PowerGUI.org Community

<http://powergui.org>

PowerShell Community Groups

<http://powershellgroup.org>

PowerShell Magazine

<http://powershellmagazine.com>

The PowerShell Community Toolbar

<http://powershell.ourtoolbar.com/>

[#PowerShell](http://irc.freenode.net)

Free eBooks and Guides

Mastering PowerShell, Second Edition - Dr. Tobias Weltner

<http://powershell.com/cs/blogs/ebookv2/default.aspx>

Secrets of PowerShell Remoting - Don Jones and Dr. Tobias Weltner

<http://powershellbooks.com>

Administrator's Guide to Windows PowerShell Remoting

Dr. Tobias Weltner, Aleksandar Nikolic, Richard Giles

<http://powershell.com/cs/media/p/4908.aspx>

Layman's Guide to PowerShell 2.0 Remoting - Ravikanth Chaganti

http://www.ravichaganti.com/blog/?page_id=1301

WMI Query Language via PowerShell - Ravikanth Chaganti

http://www.ravichaganti.com/blog/?page_id=2134

PowerShell 2.0 One Cmdlet at a Time - Jonathan Medd

<http://www.jonathanmedd.net/2010/09/powershell-2-0-one-cmdlet-at-a-time-available-as-pdf-download.html>

Effective Windows PowerShell - Keith Hill

<http://rkeithhill.wordpress.com/2009/03/08/effective-windows-powershell-the-free-ebook/>

Books

Don Jones, Learn Windows PowerShell in a Month of Lunches

Bruce Payette, Windows PowerShell in Action, Second Edition

Lee Holmes, Windows PowerShell Cookbook, Second Edition