

<http://www.sqlservercentral.com/articles/Administration/70129/>

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## Make a 100+ Server Inventory in 30 minutes

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### Introduction

As a system administrator, one of the responsibilities is to keep accurate an server inventory. To do it manually would be hard, it would be always out-of-date, and contain errors. To do a server inventory with more the 30 servers is a nightmare.

I have looked for a tool to build a server inventory years ago, with the following features, but I had no luck.

1. It is able to collect all server information in one shot, and remotely.
2. It does not require to install anything in all servers.
3. It does not require scripting skill.
4. It collects data quickly.
5. Its result in tabular format so the result can be easily manipulated by Excel.
6. It is free.

Until one day. I had a troubleshooting case where an engineer requested that I collect server information with a Windows out-of-the-box command. I dug into the command and found it could accomplish the requirements I listed above. The utility is systeminfo.exe.

### How to Get a System Inventory?

I will show you step by step how the tool is going to work. Finally, build your own system inventory, in CSV format.

#### 1. To capture current server information, run the command in command prompt:

systeminfo.exe

It prints following server information:

Host Name: MyPC  
OS Name: Microsoft Windows XP Professional  
OS Version: 5.1.2600 Service Pack 3 Build 2600  
OS Manufacturer: Microsoft Corporation  
OS Configuration: Member Workstation  
OS Build Type: Multiprocessor Free  
Registered Owner: An User  
Registered Organization: An Organization  
Product ID: 12345-678-1234567-12345  
Original Install Date: 1/1/2010, 12:00:00 aM

System Up Time: N/A  
System Manufacturer: xyz  
System Model: xyz  
System type: X86-based PC  
Processor(s): 1 Processor(s) Installed.  
[01]: x86 Family 6 Model 23 Stepping 10 GenuineIntel ~2394 Mhz  
BIOS Version: xyz 12345678  
Windows Directory: C:\WINDOWS  
System Directory: C:\WINDOWS\system32  
Boot Device: \Device\HarddiskVolume1  
System Locale: en-us;English (United States)  
Input Locale: en-us;English (United States)  
Time Zone: (GMT+08:00) Beijing, Chongqing, Hong Kong, Urumqi  
Total Physical Memory: 3,024 MB  
Available Physical Memory: 2,434 MB  
Virtual Memory: Max Size: 2,048 MB  
Virtual Memory: Available: 2,007 MB  
Virtual Memory: In Use: 41 MB  
Page File Location(s): C:\pagefile.sys  
Domain: xyz.COM  
Logon Server: \\xyz  
Hotfix(s): 158 Hotfix(s) Installed.  
[01]: File 1  
...  
[82]: KB973540\_WM9  
[83]: KB954154\_WM11  
[84]: KB941569  
[85]: MSCompPackV1 - Update  
[86]: KB898461 - Update  
...  
NetWork Card(s): 2 NIC(s) Installed.  
[01]: Wireless WLAN Mini-Card  
Connection Name: Wireless Network Connection  
DHCP Enabled: Yes  
DHCP Server: 192.168.1.1  
IP address(es)  
[01]: 192.168.11.2  
[02]: Gigabit Network Connection  
Connection Name: Local Area Connection  
Status: Media disconnected

**2. To capture a remote server information, add the parameter "/s servername":**

**systeminfo.exe /s ServerName**

This shows remote server information. It is the same information that is captured on a local machine.

**3. To save the result into a CSV format, into a file, add a parameter "/FO CSV", and redirect it**

**into a file by "> filename":**

```
systeminfo.exe /s ServerA /FO CSV >Systeminfo.csv
```

A CSV file "Systeminfo.csv" with heading labeled is generated.

**4. To output the result without column heading, and appending the output by ">> filename":**

```
systeminfo.exe /s ServerB /FO CSV /NH >>Systeminfo.csv
```

**5. Put it all together into one batch file with following lines:**

```
systeminfo.exe /s ServerA /FO CSV >Systeminfo.csv
```

```
systeminfo.exe /s ServerC /FO CSV /NH >>Systeminfo.csv
```

...

```
systeminfo.exe /s ServerX /FO CSV /NH >>Systeminfo.csv
```

A sample result in CSV format, opening it with Excel.

In my environment, each server took less than 10 seconds to collect the system information and 100 servers information can be retrieved in less than 30 minutes.

It works in Windows XP, Windows Server 2003, and Windows Server 2008 and Windows Server 2008 R2.

## Lastly

One day your manager come to your desk and ask you the questions,

- How many machines are in win 2K3 sp2?
- How many machines have less than 4GB memory?
- How many machines have KB123456 installed?

You can simply refer to the CSV system inventory, and using Excel's auto-filter feature to find it out easily, with accurate and solid answer in less than 5 minutes.

***Try yourself and get a latest & accurate server inventory now!***

## Resources:

<http://technet.microsoft.com/en-us/library/bb491007.aspx>