

Video – Log User Access (6 min)

Let's look at a slightly more advanced function. I'll change directory to the root of the C drive and then show a listing of the files. And you can see that there is a file in the C drive named logon.bat, a batch file. I'm going to open this file with Notepad. I'll type notepad, space, then a dot to reference the current folder, backslash and the name of the file that I want to open up, logon.bat. Now this should open up this file in Notepad. Once again I open up the command prompt with administrative privileges, which should give me administrative privileges in Notepad and with this file, which is necessary since it's in the C drive. I'll press enter and there's my file.

Now this file is a logon.batch file. The first line says remark, send logins to rolling log file. This is just a comment. And then the next line is echo, the word Log In, and send the date variable, the time variable, the computer name variable and append it to a file named logins.log in the C drive. We'll need to create this file. Then I do the same thing. echo Log In with the data, time, and then instead of the computer name variable, I use the variable user. Now this is not going to work. I'll need to change this to username and then it should work. And then I'm going to append this into the logins.log file. Let me save this. And then I'm going to do a File, Save As and save a second version of this file as logoff.bat. I'll change that to all file types and save it and then I'll change this to logoff so that I can track all logins and logoffs on my system and have that sent, that information set, to my logins.log file. So I'll save this and then close it. Now if I put in a dir command, you can see I have both files. Let's create that logins.log file. I'll echo a rolling log file. And I'll redirect that into a file named logins.log, which is just a text file, issue a dir command, and now you can see I have my logins.log file and my two batch files that you saw.

Let's open up the Group Policy Editor, so gpedit.msc. And in there under User Configuration, I'll go to the Windows Settings and there's an extension called Scripts. Inside of the Scripts extensions is a Logon extension and a Logoff extension, which I can use to run scripts. So I can set my batch files to run at logon and logoff. And I'll add my batch file to it. There it is, logon.bat. And click OK. And then click OK. And then for the logoffs, I'll double click that, and add my logoff.batch file. And click OK, and click OK. And now, whenever a user either logs on or logs off, it will run my batch file, which will then send that information to my logins.log file and I'll have a log file. So I'll click OK and I'll close this and since I've changed the group policy settings, I'll need to run a gpupdate or group policy update. And I'll do a forward slash force switch. You can see Updating Policy. It's updating my group policy right now with the gpupdate, space, forward slash, force switch. User policy update completely successfully and computer policy update has completed successfully. And now all I need to do is logoff. So I'll do Start and let's log off the system here. And now I'll log back in and then check my logins.log file to see if my two batch files executed. So we can go to Computer, C drive. There's my logins.log file. And sure enough, Log off from Windows 7 PC. Log off was done by student and then a log in basically a few seconds later from the same computer, user is student. So now I have a rolling log file. So I used the command line to create files, move files, copy files, but also execute programs and change local group policy. As you can see, many things can be done right from the command prompt.