

[All About
Windows Server](#)[Cloud Platform
Blogs](#)[Datacenter
Management](#)[Client
Management](#)[Virtualization,
VDI & Remote
Desktop](#)[File & Storage &
High Availability](#)[Windows Server
Management](#)[Identity & Access](#)

Hey, Scripting Guy! Blog

Learn about Windows PowerShell

The 2011 Scripting Games Beginner Event 1: Use PowerShell to Identify Private Builds of Software

[ScriptingGuy1](#)

4 Apr 2011 1:01 AM

[20](#)

Summary: Beginner Event 1 of the 2011 Scripting Games uses Windows PowerShell to identify private or public builds of software.

About this event

Division	Beginner
Date of Event	4/4/2011 12:01 AM
Due Date	4/11/2011 12:01 AM

Event scenario

You are the network administrator for a large multinational company with a Premier Services Contract with the Microsoft Corporation. Because of your contract, you have received a private build of a specific application that has a compatibility issue with your custom application. In preparation for your server upgrade to Service Pack 1 for Windows Server 2008 R2, your boss has asked you to identify which servers are running this private build of the application. For the purposes of this scenario, you can use the notepad.exe process. You should report the computer name, the process name (Notepad) and whether or not Notepad is a private build. You must report the actual computer name and not something generic like "localhost" because this will facilitate logging later.

The minimum requirement is code to determine if Notepad is a private build or not. Additional information in the output is not acceptable due to logging requirements. An acceptable output is shown here.

```

Windows PowerShell 1.0
File Edit View Debug Add-ons Help

Beginner1_2011.ps1 X
# Date: 02/26/2011 16:51:17
# Keywords: powershell, 2011 Scripting Games, Beginner, Event 1, Operating System
# Processes
# comments: Uses Get-Process to retrieve private build information of notepad
# process
# HSG-4-4-2011
=====
PS C:\Users\edwils> C:\Users\edwils\Desktop\DT_ScriptingGuys\ScriptingGuys\ScriptingGames_2011\Beginner1_2011.ps1
Process, computer, PrivateBuild
notepad, EDWILSI, False

PS C:\Users\edwils>
Completed Ln 9 Col 15 14

```

Design points

- Extra points for the ability to scan more than one computer
- Extra points for the ability to scan for programs other than Notepad
- Extra points for reusable code

2011 Scripting Games links

[2011 Scripting Games: All Links on One Page](#)

[Submit your scripts on PoshCode](#)


[Support our Sponsors!](#)

I invite you to follow me on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#). If you have any questions, send email to me at scripter@microsoft.com, or post your questions on the [Official Scripting Guys Forum](#). Good luck as you compete in this year's Scripting Games. We wish you well.

Ed Wilson, Microsoft Scripting Guy

Tweet 18

Share 12

 [Save this on Delicious](#)

Comments

5 Apr 2011 2:17 AM

GRebel

Not sure what you mean by a "private build". Specific version of the exe? Specific company provided it? Can you explain better without giving the solution away?

5 Apr 2011 2:21 AM

IamMred

@GRebel a private build is a build of a software application that is made and not distributed to the public. It could be made for a specific customer, or it could be made and kept internal. There is a property that you can find that will tell you if the process is a private build or not.

5 Apr 2011 8:37 PM

Gabe Rosas

What a whip! I hope they don't get too much harder, this one took me a good 6 hours cook up : P

5 Apr 2011 8:38 PM

Gabe Rosas

What a whip! I hope they don't get too much harder, this one took me a good 6 hours cook up : P

6 Apr 2011 3:33 PM

IamMred

@Gabe Rosas I do not think they will be much harder than this one. In fact, I know that several are actually easier than this one. Six hours? Great commitment! I am impressed!

6 Apr 2011 5:44 PM

Martin

While I managed to do this on my local computer I have not found a solution to scan over the network. At least the most obvious way does not work for this property. And I think that some other ways are probably too complicated for a "beginner" task (e.g. as they need PS and specific configuration on the remote system).

Could you please confirm that there is a (simple) solution for this? Thank you.

6 Apr 2011 5:45 PM

CSeiter

Started it Monday after lunch; just got done with it today. The "Windows PowerShell 2 For Dummies" book apparently did not have me in mind.

6 Apr 2011 6:30 PM

cseiter

after uploading I caught a typo from me having multiple versions while working on it. I put the correction in the comment field since I got the "can only upload 1 script per event" error.

6 Apr 2011 6:32 PM

Peter

Had a bear of a time getting the private build information from a remote server. Can't wait to see a more official version of this script. Mine works, but didn't take the time to run against sets or processes/computers. That would have made me feel better. However, at least it's finally submitted and I can expect at least 1 star for the submission. :-)

I agree with you, Gabe. If these get much harder, I think I'll be approaching the "throw in the towel" phase. I'm definitely more of a DB guy than a script monkey.

@Martin - there are ways of getting it to work over the network, though it definitely took me a while to find it. May want to check WMI possibilities. I cannot confirm that there's a simple solution to it, though. I'm guessing some of the people playing this as "golf" (write a script with as few lines as possible) probably have a one-liner, but I know that was not me.

Gabe Rosas

6 Apr 2011 7:06 PM

@Peter

You're probably like me, se we're just stressin' aiming to get the design points : -]

I very much love this setup though - you can complete about 80% of the functionality with just light research if you're like me (green at PS). Thanks to the upcoming weekend I will definitely see this thing through.

6 Apr 2011 11:12 PM

Ugh

know I am making it MUCH more complicated than it needs to be. The beauty pw PS is that very little with do a lot. I tend to get really inviolved and have it check this and that. My problem was getting all three of the pieces from the get-process. I can find bits and pieces elsewhere. I'd hat to see what the advanced game is lke!!!

I several times came close to throwing in the towel. But I figure my scripts may be a lot bulkier than they need to be and i am doing more than what is required BUT I am learning more and more and thats all that matter right. well and if I can pick up a copy of primalscript i'd be happy. Or maybe ed shouod give us all in the beginner events a signed copy of his book!? LOL

SoCalDavis

7 Apr 2011 3:58 AM

For some reason, I can't for the life of me find out how to tell if an application is private build or not. I can find the build information, which shows me some numbers, but nothing that shows a true/false sort of thing. Grrrr

Johnny Leuthard

7 Apr 2011 7:08 AM

I'm glad I'm not the only one who has/had some issues with this one. Maybe I will not quits just yet. :-)

marcadamcarter

7 Apr 2011 7:16 AM

@socaldavis

Maybe this will help: `Get-Process -name Notepad | % { $_.Modules | % { $_.FileVersionInfo | fl * }}`

SoCalDavis

7 Apr 2011 11:10 AM

@marcadamcarter omg thank you so much, not sure I would have ever figured that one out!!!!