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Hey, Scripting Guy! Blog

Learn about Windows PowerShell

The 2011 Scripting Games Advanced Event 6: Use PowerShell to Get Twitter Names from a Web Page
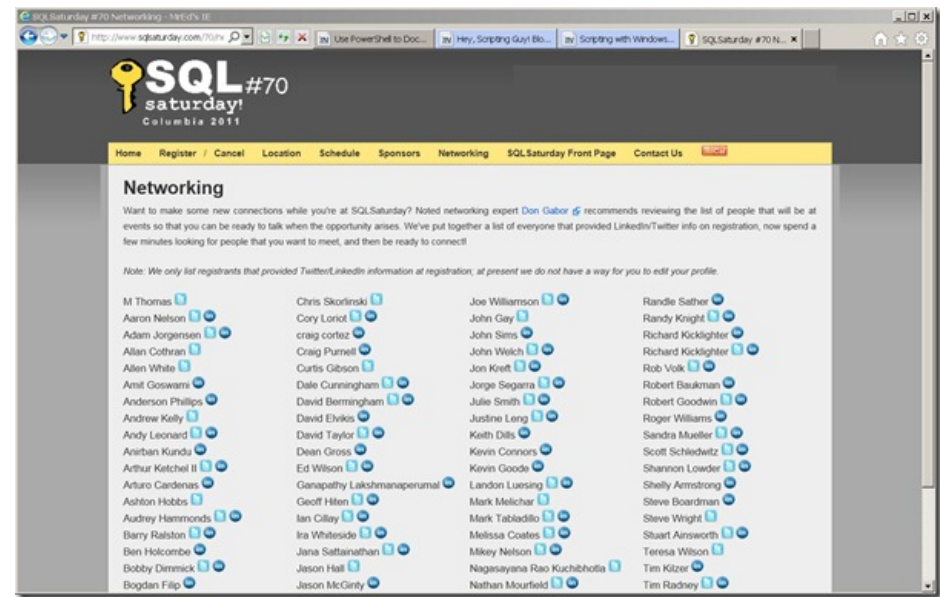
ScriptingGuy1   11 Apr 2011 1:15 AM   3

Summary: Advanced Event 6 in 2011 Scripting Games uses Windows PowerShell to get Twitter names from a web page.
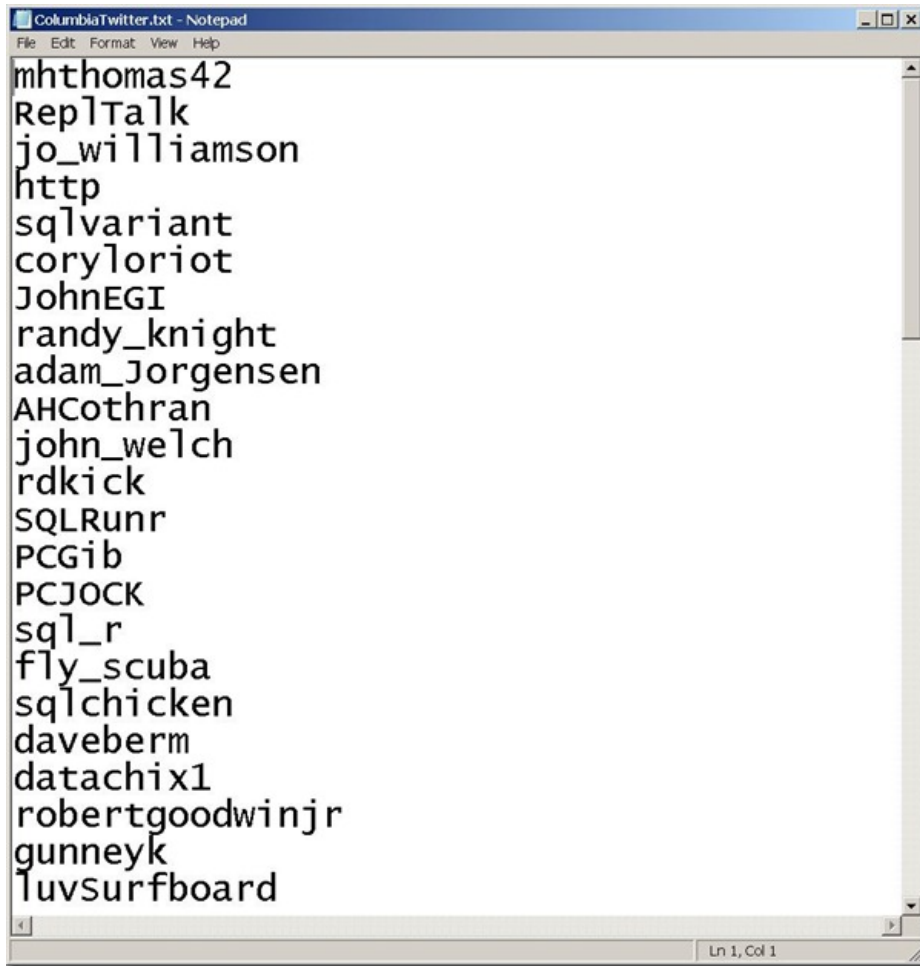
About this event

Division	Advanced
Date of Event	4/11/2011 12:15 AM
Due Date	4/18/2011 12:15 AM

Event scenario

You are getting ready to attend a SQL Saturday event in your area. Prior to the event, you want to ensure that you know who is attending the event so you can leverage your networking opportunities. You discover the networking page and see that it has everyone's Twitter username listed. After a bit of thought, you decide that it would be cool to have a list of everyone's Twitter usernames in a text file. To do this, you need to write a script to obtain only the Twitter usernames from the networking site, and write the names to a text file. A sample networking page from one of these events is shown in the following image.

Sample text file output from the previous page is shown here.

```
ColumbiaTwitter.txt - Notepad                                    _ |□| x|
File  Edit  Format  View  Help
mhthomas42
ReplTalk
jo_williamson
http
sqlvariant
coryloriot
JohnEGI
randy_knight
adam_Jorgensen
AHCothran
john_welch
rdkick
SQLRunr
PCGib
PCJOCK
sql_r
fly_scuba
sqlchicken
daveberm
datachix1
robertgoodwinjr
gunneyk
luvSurfboard
                                                     Ln 1, Col 1
```

Design points

- For the purposes of this exercise, use the Columbia, South Carolina networking page for the SQL Saturday #70 (March 19, 2011) event. The URL for the networking page of this event is:
  http://www.sqlsaturday.com/70/networking.aspx
- If you use a temporary file during the process of obtaining Twitter usernames from the networking page, delete the file prior to completing the script.
- When you are obtaining the Twitter usernames, do not include an ampersand or twitter.com. Therefore, the Twitter username is ScriptingGuys, not twitter.com/scriptingguys or @ScriptingGuys.
- Extra points for reusable code
- Extra points for adding useful Help information, complete with sample usage

2011 Scripting Games links

2011 Scripting Games: All Links on One Page

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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

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Comments

Justin   12 Apr 2011 12:09 AM

The target site is returning a 404 error.

IamMred   12 Apr 2011 12:16 AM

@justin

figures ... the parent site says it is down for maintenance ... bummer ... I a sure it will be back up soon...

IamMred   12 Apr 2011 1:23 AM

@Justin

the site is back up.