



Chocolatey

The **package manager** for Windows




Software Management with DSC and Chocolatey

Rob Reynolds

@ferventcoder



Rob Reynolds

- Creator and Founder of Chocolatey 
- Enjoys long walks on the beach and designing solutions that make hard things easy
- Co-wrote infrastructure framework known as the Chuck Norris Framework 
- Over 10 years experience in infrastructure automation 
- Obsesses over user experience
- Microsoft MVP for whatever they are calling .NET area now



Agenda

- The Story of Windows Automation
- Windows Software Ecosystem
- Chocolatey
- Chocolatey + DSC

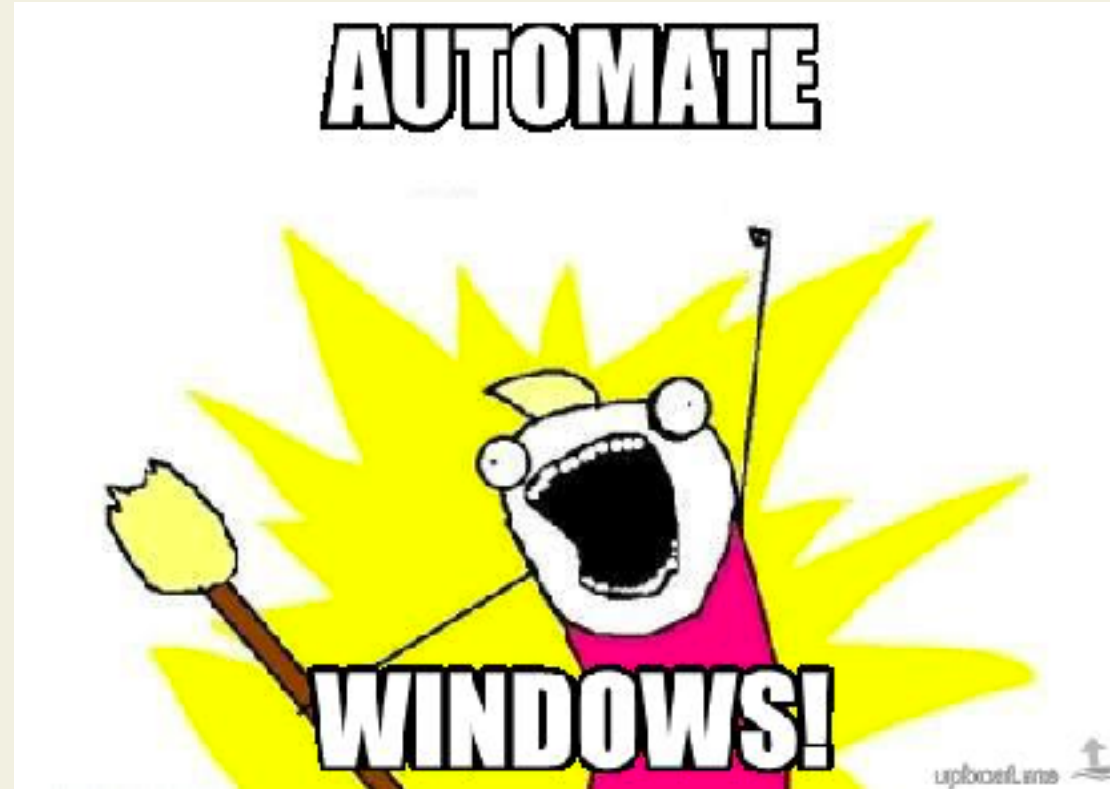


Let's talk about a story...
possibly your story



The Story of Modern Automation for Windows





**You probably use or have
used traditional tools**

Traditional Tools

- Manual Configuration
- Golden Images
- Endpoint management tools
- Not necessarily bad, just are harder to fit into modern automation approaches

Modern Automation

- Feature-Rich
- Infrastructure as Code (IaC)
- Source Control
- Testable Infrastructure
- Reporting
- Centralized Management

PowerShell DSC

- Microsoft
- Building on PowerShell
- Desired State
- Modern Approaches
- Framework - couple it with full Configuration Management Platforms like Puppet / Chef when appropriate



So you modernized your Windows automation



**DevOps == Rainbows and
Unicorns
"Umm..."**

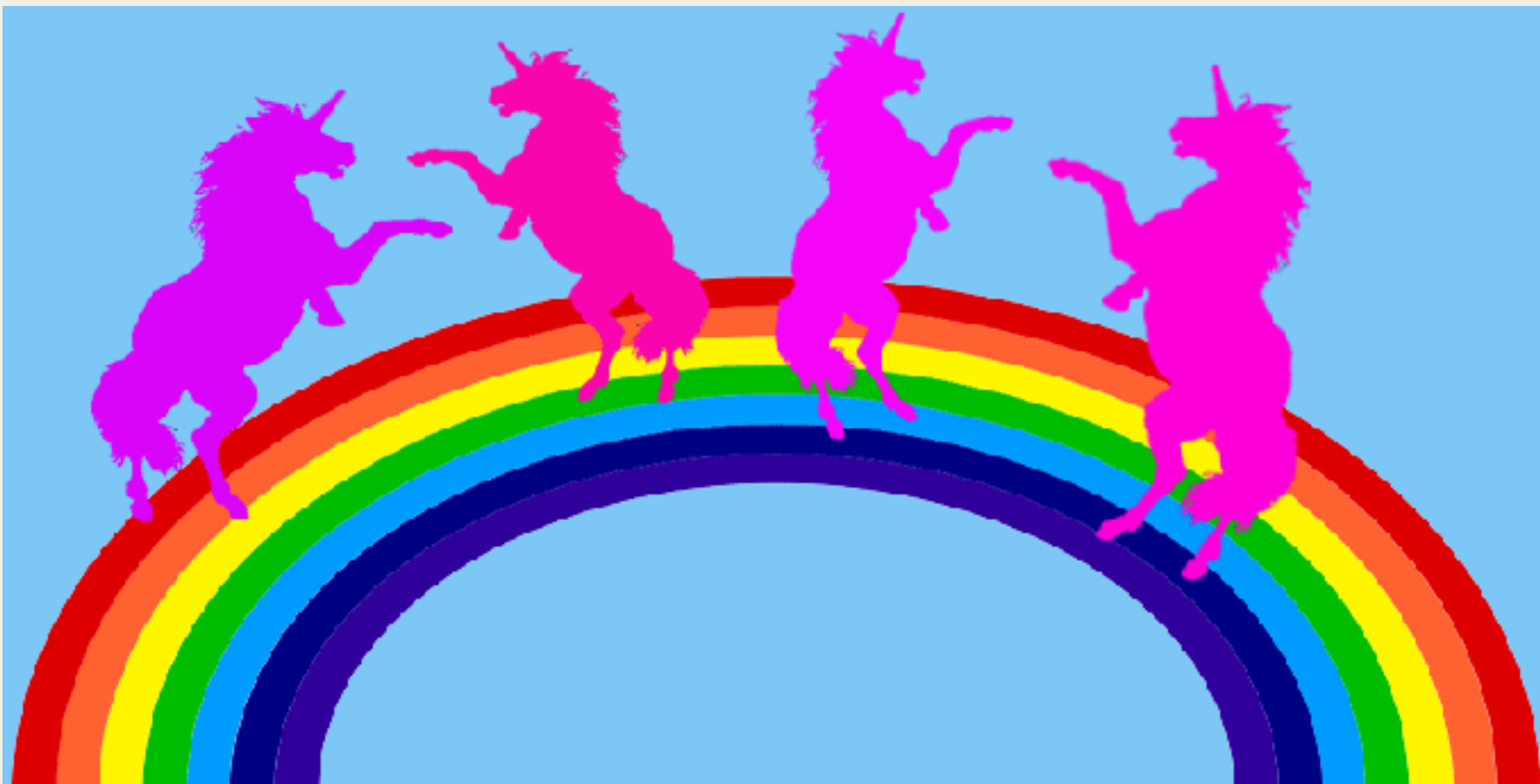
Rainbows and Unicorns

“Just go with it...”









Something was not quite right...



Configuration Management alone is missing something

**Software Management / Package
Management is necessary for
great Configuration Management**

**Software management may
account for 50-90% of your
automation**

Windows Software Ecosystem

- Over 20 installer formats and thousands of installers in the wild
- Zips and other archive formats
- Software installers are messy
- It's like the Wild West



PowerShell DSC - Package Resource

- You may have used Package Resource
- Finding the PackageID (MSI Product Code GUID)
- Non-MSI?
- Upgrades?

**“Fortunately there is a
better way”**



So you knew about Chocolatey



**But does it work well in
organizational sense?**

Recognize this?





That's an iceberg



**Well, obviously - what does
it represent though?**



Here's a hint



Understanding Chocolatey and Packaging

Community Package Repository

- Public domain
- Distribution rights
- Has Internet dependencies - failure point
- Possible trust issues for organizations

Organizational Use

- Internal / Offline
- Many thousands of packages larger
- Reliability

Do not cross this line to external / internet

WARNING: Objects in mirror may be larger than they appear

**Let's take a step back and
evaluate what's possible**

Chocolatey - Sane Software Management

- Easily manage the software lifecycle
- Native installers, zips, binaries
- PowerShell module simplifies work
- Packages are independent building blocks
- Integrates with configuration management
- Business friendly features



Chocolatey - The Approach

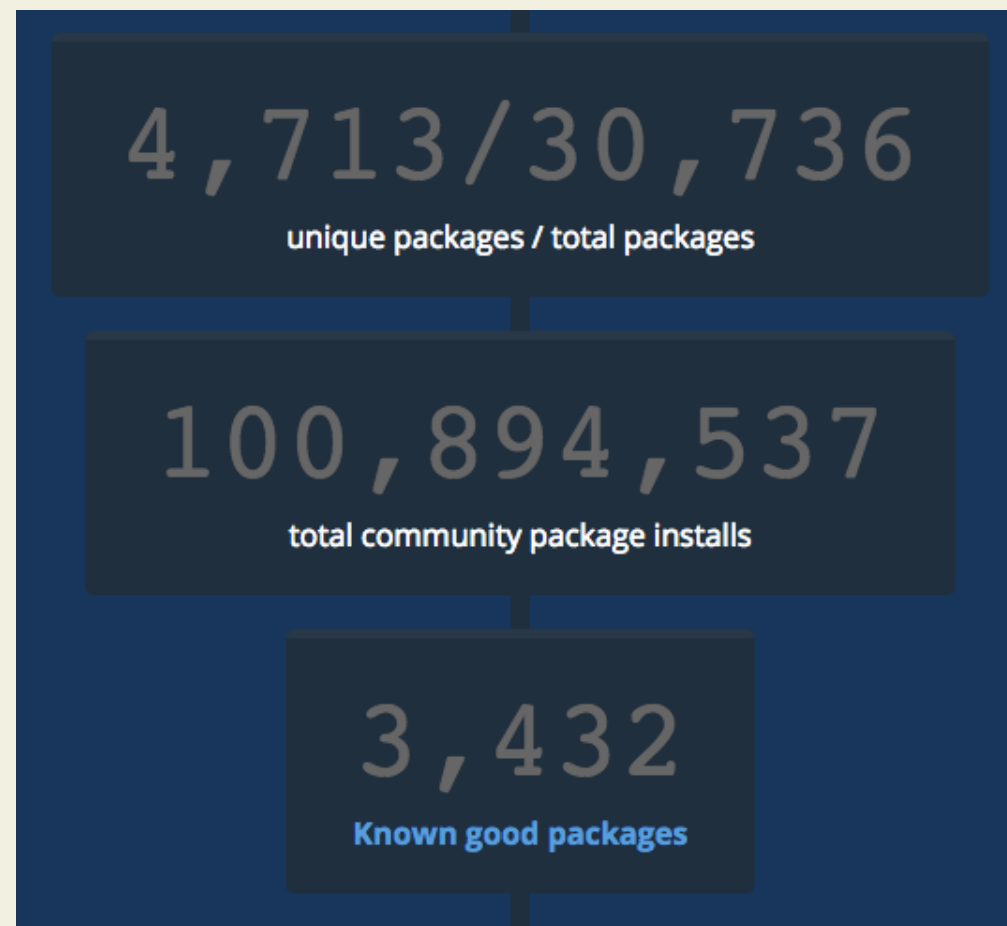
6+ years - proven technology

- Single, unifying interface - control the chaos
- Decentralized - multiple places to get packages, including internal
- PowerShell
- Flexible
- Secure
- Reliable



Community Package Repository

- <https://chocolatey.org/packages>
- Community Feed / Community Maintained
- Moderated as of October 2014
- Everything goes through VirusTotal
- **Organizations Should Not Depend b/c Trust and Control**



Hosting Your Own Package Server

- <https://chocolatey.org/docs/how-to-host-feed>

- Non-Windows Hosting

 - Artifactory



 - Sonatype Nexus



- NuGet Gallery proper



- ProGet / MyGet



- NuGet.Server / Chocolatey.Server

- Puppet - chocolatey/chocolatey_server module

- Visual Studio Team Services



Chocolatey Packages

- Zip files + Versioning, Dependencies & PowerShell
- Metadata - Software Information / Package Information
- PowerShell - <https://chocolatey.org/docs/helpers-reference>
 - 30+ Built-in functions - turn hard tasks into 1 liners
 - Handle additional missing installer logic (like add to PATH)
 - Add options missing from installer arguments
- Files - drop in binaries, native installers

Creating Packages

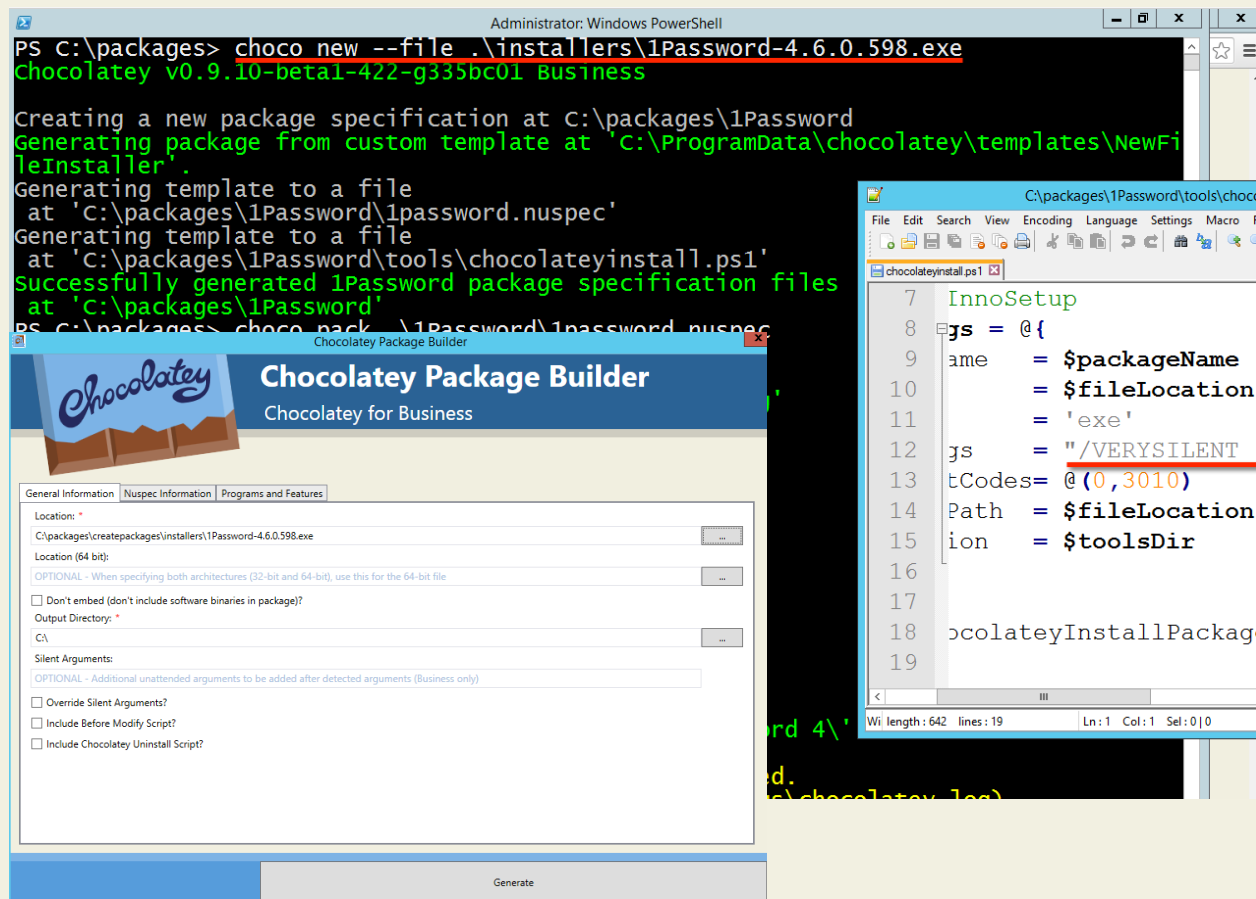
- <https://chocolatey.org/docs/create-packages>
- choco new
 - Generates package files with most of the work done
- Create your own packaging templates!



Package Builder

"Generates software deployment packages"

Package Builder



- Package Builder automatically creates high quality packaging from an installer/zip in 5-10 seconds
- Determines everything necessary for silently installing software
- Supports passing urls (and checksums) - downloads files first
- Allows customization
- Supports exe, msi, 7z, zip, msu, and msp files



How does it work?





Package Internalizer

"Convert existing packages to offline"

Package Internalizer

- Take advantage of existing packages without dependency on the internet
- Downloads existing package and all remote resources
- Recompiles package to use those internal resources
- Option to download and point to other locations
- Ability to host packages on private internal repositories
- Visual Interface coming

```
PS C:\packages> choco download --recompile git.install
Chocolatey v0.9.10-beta1-426-g3c8b16e Business
Downloading an existing package to C:\packages\download

git.install v2.8.4 [Approved]
Found Install-ChocolateyPackage. Inspecting values for remote resources.
Found 'https://github.com/git-for-windows/git/releases/download/v2.8.4.windows.1/Git-2.8.4-32-bit.exe' for replacement.
Found 'https://github.com/git-for-windows/git/releases/download/v2.8.4.windows.1/Git-2.8.4-64-bit.exe' for replacement.

Download of 'Git-2.8.4-32-bit.exe' completed.
Replacing 'https://github.com/git-for-windows/git/releases/download/v2.8.4.windows.1/Git-2.8.4-32-bit.exe' with '$(Split-Path -parent $MyInvocation.MyCommand.Definition)\Git-2.8.4-32-bit.exe'

Download of 'Git-2.8.4-64-bit.exe' completed.
Replacing 'https://github.com/git-for-windows/git/releases/download/v2.8.4.windows.1/Git-2.8.4-64-bit.exe' with '$(Split-Path -parent $MyInvocation.MyCommand.Definition)\Git-2.8.4-64-bit.exe'
Updating chocolateyInstall.ps1 with local resources.
Recompiling package.

Recompiled package files available at 'C:\packages\download\git.install'
Recompiled nupkg available in 'C:\packages'
```



Package Synchronizer



You detect a theme for feature names

Package Synchronizer - Auto Sync

```
PS C:\> choco list -lo
Chocolatey v0.9.10-beta1-422-g335bc01 Bu
[Synchronize] Removing 1password package
tey.
chocolatey 0.9.10-beta-20160609
chocolatey.extension 1.4.0
chocolatey.server 0.1.1
DotNet4.0 4.0.30319.20141222
git 2.7.0.0
git.install 2.8.4
GoogleChrome 51.0.2704.84
launchy 2.5.0.20140301
roundhouse 0.8.5.0
9 packages installed.
PS C:\>
```

- Chocolatey maintains state based on packages. System state can be manipulated outside of Chocolatey
- Any Chocolatey command will trigger synchronization in licensed editions of Chocolatey
- Package Synchronizer syncs with manual software removal
- Syncs w/software that automatically upgrades, such as Chrome

Package Synchronizer - All Packages in Programs and Features

- Any Chocolatey package installed will result in an entry in Programs and Features, even if it doesn't have a native install
- Supporting legacy inventory reporting systems is now a snap
- Do not need to build MSIs / Installers for internal use just to support legacy reporting

The screenshot displays the Windows 'Programs and Features' control panel window. A list of installed programs is shown, including InkScape, Launchy, Node.js, Notepad++, Oracle VM VirtualBox Guest Additions, Pandoc, Puppet Agent, Ruby, and ScreenToGif. Red arrows point from text boxes to specific entries in the list:

- Package that has underlying native installer:** Points to 'InkScape 0.92.0'.
- Portable package w/no native installer. Only zips or runtime binaries:** Points to 'ScreenToGif 2.2.160907'.
- version == Version:** Points to the version number '2.2.160907' in the list.
- title == Name:** Points to the 'Name' column header.
- authors == Publisher:** Points to the 'Publisher' column header.
- projectUrl == Support link:** Points to the 'Support link' column header.

Below the list, the XML representation of the package data for ScreenToGif is shown:

```
<version>2.2.160907</version>
<title>Screen To Gif</title>
<authors>ScreenToGif</authors>
<owners>ScreenToGif</owners>
<licenseUrl>https://screentogif.codeplex.com/license</licenseUrl>
<projectUrl>https://github.com/NickeManarin/ScreenToGif</projectUrl>
```

Package Synchronizer - Choco Sync Command

```
PS C:\> choco sync -r
Package Id|Display Name|Version|New Package
7zip|7-Zip 16.02 (x64)|16.2|False
oracle-vm-virtualbox-guest-additions|Oracle VM
12.0|True
bitvise-ssh-server|Bitvise SSH Server 5.60 (r
PS C:\>
```

- Brings all software in Programs and Features under Chocolatey management
- Generates packaging and baselines to Chocolatey install
- Provides packaging code to take back to source control



How does it work?







Other Features



Other Features

- <https://chocolatey.org/docs/release-notes-licensed>
- Auto-uninstaller more effective thanks to more checks and Package Synchronizer
- Install/upgrade passing secrets
- Ubiquitous Directory Switch
- More built-in PowerShell functions
- Uninstall non-Chocolatey managed software
- Self-Service Installer
- Package Throttle / Package Modernizer / Package Grid
- Upcoming Central Management UI
- Others

Roadmap

- WSA support / Windows Nano Support
- More Security / More UX
- Package enhancements
 - Package signing / security enhancements
 - Extend Nuspec further - name, version, release, architecture (release is in, doesn't work with anything yet so don't use it)
- Package Management Provider - hoping to finish here at Summit!



Where does DSC come in?



cChoco DSC Resource

- Manages Chocolatey installation
- Manages Choco sources
- Manages packages
- <https://github.com/PowerShellOrg/cChoco>
- <https://www.powershellgallery.com/packages/cChoco/2.3.0.0>



The screenshot shows the PowerShell Gallery page for the cChoco 2.3.0.0 module. The page includes a navigation bar with links to Home, Items, Publish, Statistics, Documentation, and Support. The main content area features the PowerShell logo, the module name cChoco 2.3.0.0, and a description: "Module with DSC Resources for using Chocolatey http://chocolatey.org/". Below this, there are three sections: Inspect, Install, and Deploy. The Inspect section shows the command `P5> Save-Module -Name cChoco -Path <path>`. The Install section shows the command `P5> Install-Module -Name cChoco`. The Deploy section has a button labeled "Deploy to Azure Automation". On the left side of the page, there are statistics: 14,852 Downloads and 5,614 Downloads of 2.3.0.0, along with the date 2016-12-02.

cChocoInstaller

- Manages Chocolatey installation
- Manage install location
- Can work offline, however currently requires specifying a script to run locally

```
. cChocoInstaller.chocoInstall
.{
  ...# default installation location -- allows
  ...# Chocolatey to apply default security
  ...# settings
  ...InstallDir = "$env:ProgramData\chocolatey"
  ...ChocoInstallScriptUrl = 'file:///C:\InstallChoco.ps1'
.}
```


cChocoSource

- Manage available package sources
- Add or remove, does not disable
- Add credentials
- Add priorities for sources
- Will need new source items - 0.10.4+
- Bug somewhere currently, so hold on this one

```
- cChocoSource defaultChocoSource {  
  .. Ensure .. = 'Absent'  
  .. Name .. = 'chocolatey'  
  .. Source .. = 'https://chocolatey.org/api/v2/'  
-}  
  
- cChocoSource internalChocoSource {  
  .. Ensure .. = 'Present'  
  .. Name .. = 'internal_server'  
  .. Source .. = 'http://localhost/chocolatey'  
  .. #Credentials = add-credentials  
  .. Priority .. = 1  
-}
```

cChocoPackageInstall

- Ensure software package installation
- Optional params, chocoParams, Version, Source, and AutoUpgrade
- Allows customizing complete choco call
- Recommend not setting source until it is fixed - <https://github.com/PowerShellOrg/cChoco/issues/44> (pass source through chocoParams)

```
- cChocoPackageInstaller -Name Package - {  
  . . . Ensure . . . . . = 'Present|Absent'  
  . . . Name . . . . . = 'packageId'  
  . . . Params . . . . . = 'package parameters'  
  . . . chocoParams = 'Params for choco.exe'  
  . . . Version . . . . = 'package version'  
  . . . Source . . . . . = 'location'  
  . . . AutoUpgrade = $False  
  . }
```

cChoco - Get Involved

- If you are looking for a place to contribute, this is a good place



Demo





Questions





+



- Rob
- @ferventcoder
- ferventcoder at gmail



Evaluate Chocolatey for Business in your environment - special discounts available conference attendees - reach out at <https://chocolatey.org/contact> for details