

How to Write and Run Scripts in the Windows PowerShell ISE

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5 minutes to read •

Contributors 

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This topic describes how to

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create, edit, run,
and save scripts
in the Script
Pane.

How to create and run scripts

You can open
and edit
Windows
PowerShell files
in the Script
Pane. Specific file
types of interest
in Windows
PowerShell are
script files (.ps1),
script data files
(.psd1), and script
module files
(.psm1). These
file types are
syntax colored in
the Script Pane
editor. Other
common file
types you may
open in the
Script Pane are
configuration
files (.ps1xml),

XML files, and text files.

Note

The Windows PowerShell execution policy determines whether you can run scripts and load Windows PowerShell profiles and configuration files. The default execution policy, Restricted, prevents all scripts from running, and prevents loading profiles. To change the execution policy to allow profiles to load and be used, see [Set-ExecutionPolicy\[PSITPro5_Security\]](#) and [about_Signing\[v4\]](#).

To create a new script file

On the toolbar, click **New** , or on the **File** menu, click **New**. The created file appears in a new file tab under the current PowerShell tab. Remember that the PowerShell tabs are only visible when there are more than one. By default a file of type script (.ps1) is created, but it can be saved with a new name and extension. Multiple script files can be created in the same PowerShell tab.

To open an existing script

On the toolbar, click **Open**, or on the **File** menu, click **Open**. In the

Open dialog box,
select the file you
want to open.
The opened file
appears in a new
tab.

To close a script tab

Click the script
tab of the script
you want to
close, then do
one of the
following:

1. Click the
Close
icon (X)
on the
script
tab.
2. On the
File
menu,
click
Close.

If the file has
been altered
since it was last
saved, you are
prompted to
save or discard it.

To display the file path

On the file tab, point to the file name. The fully qualified path to the script file appears in a tooltip.

To run a script

On the toolbar, click **Run Script**, or on the **File** menu, click **Run**.

To run a portion of a script

1. In the Script Pane, select a portion of a script.
2. On the **File** menu, click **Run**

Selection,

or on

the

toolbar,

click

Run

Selection.

To stop a running script

On the toolbar,

click **Stop**

Operation, press

CTRL+BREAK, or

on the **File** menu,

click **Stop**

Operation.

Pressing **CTRL+C**

also works unless

some text is

currently

selected, in which

case **CTRL+C**

maps to the copy

function for the

selected text.

How to write and edit text in the Script

Pane

Use the following steps to edit text in the Script Pane. You can copy, cut, paste, find, and replace text. You can also undo and redo the last action you just performed. The keyboard shortcuts for performing these actions are the same as those used for all Windows applications.

To enter text in the Script Pane

1. Move the cursor to the Script Pane by clicking anywhere in the Script

Script
Pane, or
by
clicking
**Go to
Script
Pane** in
the
View
menu.

2. Create a script.
Syntax
coloring
and tab
completion
make
this a
richer
experience
in
Windows
PowerShell
ISE.

3. See [How to Use Tab Completion in the Script Pane and Console](#)

Script
Pane for
details
about
using
the tab
completion
feature
to help
in
typing.

To find text in the Script Pane

1. To find text anywhere, press **CTRL+F** or, on the **Edit** menu, click **Find in Script**.
2. To find text after the cursor, press **F3** or, on the **Edit** menu, click **Find Next**.

CLICK

Find
Next in
Script.

3. To find
text
before
the
cursor,
press
SHIFT+F3
or, on
the **Edit**
menu,
click
Find
Previous
in
Script.

To find and replace text in the Script Pane

Press **CRTL+H**
or, on the **Edit**
menu, click
Replace in
Script. Enter
both the text you
want to find and
the text with
which you want
to replace it, and

then press

ENTER.

To go to a particular line of text in the Script Pane

1. In the Script Pane, press **CTRL+G** or, on the **Edit** menu, click **Go to Line**.
2. Enter a line number.

To copy text in the Script Pane

1. In the Script Pane, select the text that you want to copy.
2. Press

1. Press

CTRL+C

or, on

the

toolbar,

click the

Copy

icon, or

on the

Edit

menu,

click

Copy.

To cut text in the Script Pane

1. In the Script Pane, select the text that you want to cut.

2. Press **CTRL+X** or, on the toolbar, click the **Cut** icon, or on the **Edit**

Edit
menu,
click
Cut.

To paste text into the Script Pane

Press **CTRL+V** or, on the toolbar, click the **Paste** icon, or on the **Edit** menu, click **Paste**.

To undo an action in the Script Pane

Press **CTRL+Z** or, on the toolbar, click the **Undo** icon, or on the **Edit** menu, click **Undo**.

To redo an action in the Script Pane

Press **CTRL+Y** or, on the toolbar, click the **Redo** icon, or on the

Edit menu, click **Redo**.

How to save a script

Use the following steps to save and name a script. An asterisk appears next to the script name to mark a file that has not been saved since it was altered.

The asterisk disappears when the file is saved.

To save a script

Press **CTRL+S** or, on the toolbar, click the **Save** icon, or on the **File** menu, click **Save**.

To save and name a script

1. On the **File**

menu,
click
Save As.
The
Save As
dialog
box will
appear.

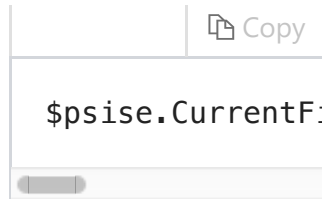
2. In the
File
name
box,
enter a
name
for the
file.
3. In the
Save as
type
box,
select a
file type.
For
example,
in the
Save as
type
box,
select
'PowerShell
Scripts
(* .ps1)'.

4. Click **Save.**

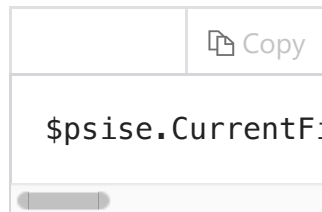
To save a script in ASCII encoding

By default,
Windows
PowerShell ISE
saves new script
files (.ps1), script
data files (.psd1),
and script
module files
(.psm1) as
Unicode
(BigEndianUnicode)
by default. To
save a script in
another
encoding, such
as ASCII (ANSI),
use the **Save** or
SaveAs methods
on the
[\\$psISE.CurrentFile](#)
object.

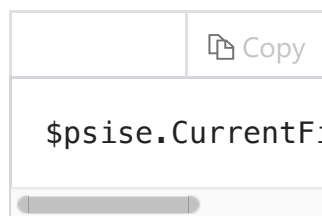
The following
command saves
a new script as
MyScript.ps1 with
ASCII encoding.



The following command replaces the current script file with a file with the same name, but with ASCII encoding.



The following command gets the encoding of the current file.



Windows PowerShell ISE supports the following encoding options: ASCII, BigEndianUnicode, Unicode, UTF8

Unicode, UTF32, UTF7, UTF8 and Default. The value of the Default option varies with the system.

Windows PowerShell ISE does not change the encoding of scripts that were created by in other editors, even when you use the Save or Save As commands in Windows PowerShell ISE.

See Also

- [Using the Windows PowerShell ISE](#)