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Functions Exercise

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1. Consider the following function:

1 function get-afiles {

2 [CmdletBinding()]

3 param(

4 [parameter(Mandatory=$true,

5 ValueFromPipeline=$true)]

6 $af

7 )

8 process {

9 $a = $af | Where {$\_.mode -like "\*a\*"}

10 write-output $a

11 }

12 }

1. What does the second line of this function definition do?

Tells PowerShell to use the function in the same manner as a Cmdlet

b. What are the requirements for the function's parameter?

The parameter is Mandatory and accepts pipeline input

c. What does this function do?

Finding objects with ‘a’ in the mode, I believe…

??d. What types of commands should be used for pipelining input to this command?

I am uncertain – please let me know

??e. What types of commands can receive the output of this command in the pipeline?

I am uncertain – please explain

2. Lookup the online help for PowerShell functions.

a. What is the purpose of the begin block?

Provides optional one-time preprocessing fro the function – runtime uses the code in this block once for each instance of the function in the pipeline

b. What is the purpose of the process block?

Provides record-by-record processing for the fucntion.

c. What is the purpose of the end block?

Used to provide optional one-time ‘post-processing’ for the function.

d. What happens if none of the blocks are defined?

The function will still work because you aren’t required to use any of these blocks in your functions

??3. The function example in Question 1 showed one method for accessing parameters from the pipeline.

??a. Do pipelined parameters have to be defined in the param block?

Yes, you must use CmdletBinding and set the parameter block to ValueFromPipeline=$true

??b. What other approach can be used to access pipelined parameters?

You can utilize the parameter by location

4. When you write a function, where should you place it in order to have access to it?

\$HOME\documents\WindowsPowerShell – it will be in a folder named for the module.

5. What are the essential differences between a function and a script?

Functions are made to be used in Command Pipelines (Functions are able to receive input from and send output to the pipeline).