PowerShell Lab: Create a Personal Welcome Logger Script (macOS Edition)

Goal
Learn how to create, edit, and run a basic PowerShell script on **macOS** that:
- Prompts the user for input,
- Displays a message using variables,
- Logs the output to a file.

Real-World Scenario
You're a new IT admin who wants to automate onboarding scripts. As a warm-up, you'll build a personal logger that records your name and the date you started using PowerShell.

Step 1: Create a new PowerShell script file

Command:

New-Item -Path ./Personal_Welcome_Logger_Script.ps1 -ItemType File

What it does:
Creates a blank PowerShell script named Personal_Welcome_Logger_Script.ps1 in the current directory.

Verify:
Run:

Get-Item ./Personal_Welcome_Logger_Script.ps1

You should see file metadata.

⚠️ Gotcha:

If you get a permission error, check the current directory with pwd and use a writable folder like ~/Documents.

```
Powershell> New-Item -Path ./Personal_Welcome_Logger_Script.ps1 -ItemType
File
— — — — — — — — — — — — — — — — — — — — — — — — — — — — — — — — — —

    Directory: /Users/tiagopaquete/Documents/github/automation/Automation/Powershell

UnixMode        User Group        LastWriteTime        Size Name
--------        ---- -----        -------------        ---- ----
-rw-r--r-- tiagopaque staff      6/17/2025 11:56          0 Personal_Welcome_Logger_Script.ps1
— — — — — — — — — — — — — — — — — — — — — — — — — — — — — — — — — —

Powershell> Get-Item ./Personal_Welcome_Logger_Script.ps1
— — — — — — — — — — — — — — — — — — — — — — — — — — — — — — — — — —
    Directory: /Users/tiagopaquete/Documents/github/automation/Automation/Powershell

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-rw-r--r-- tiagopaque staff      6/17/2025 11:56          0 Personal_Welcome_Logger_Script.ps1
— — — — — — — — — — — — — — — — — — — — — — — — — — — — — — — — — —
```

Step 2: Open the script in a text editor

On macOS, the easiest option is to use nano or your code editor of choice.

Command:
nano ./Personal_Welcome_Logger_Script.ps1

Write the following script:
Ask for user's name and current date
$name = Read-Host "Please enter your name"
$date = Get-Date -Format "yyyy-MM-dd"

Output welcome messages
Write-Output "Today's date is $date."
Write-Output "Welcome $name! This marks the beginning of your PowerShell journey."

Save this log to a file
$logEntry = "[$date] $name started using PowerShell."
Add-Content -Path ./user_log.txt -Value $logEntry

Save and exit nano:
Press Ctrl+O, then Enter to save, then Ctrl+X to exit.

Powershell> ./Personal_Welcome_Logger_Script.ps1
——
Please enter your name: Tiago
Todays date is 2025-06-17.
Welcome Tiago! This marks the beginning of your PowerShell journey.
——

```
tiagopaquete@ Powershell % cat Personal_Welcome_Logger_Script.ps1
————————————————————————————————————————
# Ask for the user's name and currunt date
$name = Read-Host "Please enter your name"
$date = Get-Date -Format "yyyy-MM-dd"

# Create a welcom message
Write-Output "Todays date is $date."
Write-Output "Welcome $name! This marks the beginning of your PowerShell
journey."

# Save to a log file
$logEntry = "[$date] $name started using PowerShell"
Add-Content -Path ./user_log.txt -Value $logEntry
————————————————————————————————————————
```

Step 3: Run the script

Command:
./Personal_Welcome_Logger_Script.ps1

If execution is restricted:
chmod +x ./Personal_Welcome_Logger_Script.ps1

./Personal_Welcome_Logger_Script.ps1

Output should look like:
Please enter your name: Alice
Today's date is 2025-06-17.
Welcome Alice! This marks the beginning of your PowerShell journey.

```
tiagopaquete@MAC1 Powershell % pwsh
————————————————————————————————————————
PowerShell 7.5.1
————————————————————————————————————————

PS /Users/tiagopaquete/Documents/github/automation/Automation/
Powershell> ./Personal_Welcome_Logger_Script.ps1
————————————————————————————————————————
Please enter your name: Tiago
Todays date is 2025-06-17.
Welcome Tiago! This marks the beginning of your PowerShell journey.
————————————————————————————————————————
```

Step 4: Verify the log file

Command:
Get-Content ./user_log.txt

You should see:
[2025-06-17] Alice started using PowerShell.

⚠️ Gotcha:

If user_log.txt isn't created, double-check that $logEntry is formatted correctly and that the script was run with proper permissions.

```
tiagopaquete@ Powershell % cat user_log.txt
————————————————————————————————————————

[2025—06—17] Tiago started using PowerShell
————————————————————————————————————————

PS /Users/tiagopaquete/Documents/github/automation/Automation/Powershell>
Get-Content ./user_log.txt
————————————————————————————————————————
[2025-06-17] Tiago started using PowerShell
[2025-06-17] Tiago started using PowerShell
————————————————————————————————————————
```

Optional: Reset the script file

To start fresh:
Remove-Item ./Personal_Welcome_Logger_Script.ps1, ./user_log.txt