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Uses for Automation

Scripts can be used for automating specific tasks. Automation is used to replace a repetitive manual step with one that happens automatically. Humans are fallible. They can become tired, make mistakes, fail to follow instructions, be inconsistent in their job performance, and more. In contrast, automated processes complete instructions exactly as coded, in a consistent manner. They can run 24 hours a day, everyday, without tiring. For many tasks that are appropriate for automation, it can be more cost effective to use automation than human labor.

Appropriate uses for automation include:

- The automatic timing and regulation of traffic lights
- A repetitive task that is at high risk for human error
- Sending commands to a computer
- Detecting and removing duplicates of data
- Sending automated emails that are personalized by pulling individual names from a database and plugging them into the email
- Updating a large number of file permissions
- Reporting on system data, like disk or memory usage
- Installing software
- Generating reports
- Deploying a file or a computer program to all computers on a company network
- Using a configuration management system to deploy software patches, after a human has *designed* the system

- Populating an e-commerce site with products

