PowerShell Formatting

Jeff Hicks

AUTHOR ~ TEACHER ~ SENSEI

@jeffhicks   http://blog.jdhitsolutions.com

The Pipeline Process


```
PS C:\> Get-Service -name $svcs -ComputerName $dcs

Status     Name              DisplayName
------     ----              -----------
Running    adws              Active Directory Web Services
Running    adws              Active Directory Web Services
Running    adws              Active Directory Web Services
Running    dns               DNS Server
Stopped    dns               DNS Server
Running    dns               DNS Server
Running    kdc               Kerberos Key Distribution Center
Stopped    kdc               Kerberos Key Distribution Center
Running    kdc               Kerberos Key Distribution Center
Running    Netlogon          netlogon
Running    Netlogon          netlogon
Running    Netlogon          netlogon
```

Run a command that generates objects

Passed down the pipeline

PowerShell displays what ever is left

Pipeline Secrets

At the end of the pipeline is Out-Default

It passes objects to Out-Host

Which calls PowerShell's formatting system

PowerShell checks configuration file for instructions

- $pshome\DotNetTypes.format.ps1xml
- Describes default and alternate layouts
- You can create custom format files

Also check types.ps1xml for default properties

- If no default then all properties used

PowerShell follows a simple rule:

- If less than 5 properties display a table

- If 5 or more, display a list

You can override with the Format cmdlets

Formatting Cmdlets

Format-Table

Format-List

Format-Wide

Format-Custom

Format Features

Selected and custom properties

Grouping

Auto sizing

Access alternate views

Create your own custom formatting

Demo

Fun with Formatting

Summary

Let PowerShell handle formatting where possible

"Format Right"

Read full help and examples for Format-* cmdlets