



Module 2

Objects

Create custom Objects

Extend existing Objects

Format Output



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What is an Object?



Object definition and its elements

- **An object is an instance of particular datatype or class.**
 - Datatypes: Integer (int), Double, bool, etc.
 - Classes: program-code-template for creating objects
 - Instance: a specific realization of an object based on datatype or class
- **Objects consist of**
 - Variables
 - Methods
 - Events



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How Objects are used in PS?



Working with existing objects in PS

- **Most cmdlets will return an object or object list**

- get-service, get-process, get-item, get-aduser, ...

- **Get-Member**

- Object type
- Members (Properties, Methods, ...)

- ***-object cmdlets**

- where-object: filtering object lists
- select-object: selecting/reducing object or object lists
 - -first; -last; -unique; -skip
 - -property `get-process | select-object -property processname,handles`
 - -expandproperty `get-process notepad.exe | select-object -expandproperty modules`
- sort-object: sorting object lists
- group-object: group objects lists by a property

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How Objects are used in PS?



Create a new object based on an existing data type or class

- **Variables are objects**

```
[int]$a = 123
$a.GetType()
```

- **.Net Object**

```
Add-Type -AssemblyName System.Speech
$obj = New-Object -TypeName System.Speech.Synthesis.SpeechSynthesizer
$obj.Speak('there is a new mail.')
```

- **COM Object**

```
$ie = New-Object -ComObject InternetExplorer.Application
$ie.Navigate("http://www.microsoft.com")
$ie.visible = $true
```

- **Check**

- get-member
- *.gettype()

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- Create a new object of type *psubject*
- Add properties and methods



- Similar to extend an existing data type
- Create a variable and pipe it to select-object



Create custom objects



How to create custom objects with properties and methods

- **Procedure 3 – only for developers**
 - First create a class in c#
 - and then create a new object based on the new class

```
Add-Type -Language CSharp `
@"  public class Car
  {
    public string Color {get;set;}
    public int HorsePower {get;set;}
  } "@

$myCar = New-Object -TypeName Car
$myCar.Color = "Red"
$myCar.HorsePower = 140
$myCar
```

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Creating custom objects



New keyword Class in PowerShell 5.0

- **Procedure 4 – requires PowerShell 5.0 and above**
 - Class Classname { ... }
 - Within declare Properties and Methods
 - Characteristics:
 - All Members are public, but in a *.type.ps1xml hidden member possible
 - New-Object -typename Classname doesn't work
 - Use instead: [Classname]::new()
 - Classes can not be used outside the script/module
 - Methods different syntax from functions
 - If return is used a type of the return-value must be declared.
 - Method overloads are possible

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Create custom objects



Example

```
Class myClass
{
    [String]$Name
    [DateTime]$Birth

    SetDayOfBirth($value)
    {
        If ($value -is [DateTime])
        {
            $this.Birth = $value
        }
        else
        {
            Write-host "Please provide a DateTime as Argument."
        }
    }

    [DateTime]GetDayOfBirth()
    {
        $this.$Birth
    }

    Age([ValidateSet("Year", "Days", "Exact")][String]$Unit = "Exact")
    {
        switch ($Unit)
        {
            "Year"
            { [math]::Round(((Get-date) - $this.Birth).Days/365 , 1)
              break }
            "Days"
            { ((Get-date) - $this.Birth).Days; break }
            "Exact"
            { ((Get-date) - $this.Birth); break }
        }
    }
}
```



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Extend existing Objects



How to add additional properties to exiting objects.

- **To extend objects create a 'custom type extension'. It is handled by PowerShell's Extension Type System (ETS).**
- **Requirements**
 - Existing objects
 - .Net or custom objects
 - Xml-file: *.types.ps1xml
 - Update-TypeData
- **Type extensions / Members**
 - AliasProperty
 - NoteProperty
 - ScriptProperty
 - ScriptMethod
 - PropertySet

```
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="utf-8" ?>
<Types>
  <Type>
    <Name>ObjectName</Name>
    <Members>
      ...
    </Members>
  </Type>
</Types>
```



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Extend existing Objects - AliasProperty



How to extend an object with an AliasProperty

▪ *.ps1xml

```
<Type>
  <Name>System.IO.FileInfo</Name>
  <Members>
    <AliasProperty>
      <Name>Byte</Name>
      <ReferencedMemberName>Length</ReferencedMemberName>
    </AliasProperty>
    <AliasProperty>
      <Name>Filetype</Name>
      <ReferencedMemberName>Extension</ReferencedMemberName>
    </AliasProperty>
  </Members>
</Type>
```

▪ Usage

```
Update-TypeData -AppendPath Name.types.ps1xml -Confirm
Get-Childitem c:\windows\win.ini | Get-Member
(Get-Childitem c:\windows\win.ini).Byte
(Get-Childitem c:\windows\win.ini).FileType
```

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Extend existing Objects - NoteProperty



How to extend an object with a NoteProperty

▪ *.ps1xml

```
<Type>
  <Name>System.IO.DirectoryInfo</Name>
  <Members>
    <NoteProperty>
      <Name>Status</Name>
      <Value>Success</Value>
    </NoteProperty>
  </Members>
</Type>
```

▪ Usage

```
Update-TypeData -AppendPath Name.types.ps1xml -Confirm
Get-Item c:\windows | Get-Member
(Get-Item c:\windows).Status
```

▪ Note

- In this example the value of 'Status' of *each* directory is 'Success'. It cannot be changed, it's read-only.

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Extend existing Objects - ScriptProperty



How to extend an object with an ScriptProperty

▪ *.ps1xml

```
<Type>
  <Name>System.IO.FileInfo</Name>
  <Members>
    <ScriptProperty>
      <Name>Encrypted</Name>
      <GetScriptBlock>
        $corFileName = $this.FullName -replace "\\","\"
        (Get-CimInstance -Query ('Select Encrypted
          From Cim_DataFile Where Name = "' + $corFileName
            + '"')).Encrypted
      </GetScriptBlock>
    </ScriptProperty>
  </Members>
</Type>
```

▪ Usage

```
Update-TypeData -AppendPath Name.types.ps1xml -Confirm
Get-Childitem c:\windows\win.ini | Get-Member
(Get-Childitem c:\windows\win.ini).Encrypted
```

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Extend existing Objects - ScriptMethod



How to extend an object with an ScriptMethod

▪ *.ps1xml

```
<Type>
  <Name>System.IO.FileInfo</Name>
  <Members>
    <ScriptMethod>
      <Name>AppendID</Name>
      <Script>
        param ( [String]$ID )
        $this.BaseName + $id + $this.Extension
      </Script>
    </ScriptMethod>
  </Members>
</Type>
```

▪ Usage

```
Update-TypeData -AppendPath Name.types.ps1xml -Confirm
Get-Childitem c:\windows\win.ini | Get-Member
(Get-Childitem c:\windows\win.ini).AppendID("123")
```

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Extend existing Objects - PropertySet



How to extend an object with an PropertySet

▪ *.ps1xml

```
<Type>
  <Name>System.IO.FileInfo</Name>
  <Members>
    <PropertySet>
      <Name>myPropSet</Name>
      <ReferencedProperties>
        <Name>Fullname</Name>
        <Name>BaseName</Name>
      </ReferencedProperties>
    </PropertySet>
  </Members>
</Type>
```

▪ Usage

```
Update-TypeData -AppendPath Name.types.ps1xml -Confirm
Get-Childitem c:\windows\win.ini | Get-Member
Get-Childitem c:\windows\win.ini | Select-Object myPropSet
```

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Extending existing Objects – Code*



Difficult to extend objects by CodeProperty or CodeMethod

▪ CodeProperty

- Both re
- Propert
- Require
- Propert
- Method

```
<Type>
  <Name>System.IO.FileInfo</Name>
  <Members>
    <CodeProperty>
      <Name>customMode</Name>
      <GetCodeReference>
        <TypeName>Microsoft.PowerShell.Commands.FileSystemProvider</TypeName>
        <MethodName>Mode</MethodName>
      </GetCodeReference>
    </CodeProperty>
  </Members>
</Type>
```

▪ Examples

- Microsoft.PowerShell.Commands.FileSystemProvider::Mode
- about_t

```
<Type>
  <Name>System.IO.FileInfo</Name>
  <Members>
    <CodeMethod>
      <Name>customMode</Name>
      <CodeReference>
        <TypeName>Microsoft.PowerShell.Commands.FileSystemProvider</TypeName>
        <MethodName>Mode</MethodName>
      </CodeReference>
    </CodeMethod>
  </Members>
</Type>
```

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Extending existing Objects



You can hide some members

- **Attribute IsHidden="true"**
 - It allows you to hide some members

- **Concealable members**

- AliasProperty
- NoteProperty
- ScriptProperty
- PropertySet

- **Example**

- **Hint**

- Gm -force shows also hidden members

```
<Type>
  <Name>System.IO.FileInfo</Name>
  <Members>
    <PropertySet IsHidden="true">
      <Name>myPropSet</Name>
      <ReferencedProperties>
        <Name>FullName</Name>
        <Name>BaseName</Name>
      </ReferencedProperties>
    </PropertySet>
  </Members>
</Type>
```

```
Update-TypeData -AppendPath Name.types.ps1xml -Confirm
Get-Childitem c:\windows\win.ini | Get-Member -force
```

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Default Display Properties



How to define the default properties for output.

- **Default display properties are defined by a**
 - MemberSet and
 - PropertySet
- **Mandatory names**
 - MemberSet/Name: PSSStandardMembers
 - PropertySet/Name: DefaultDisplayPropertySet

```
<Type>
  <MemberSet>
    <Name>PSSStandardMembers</Name>
    <Members>
      <PropertySet>
        <Name>DefaultDisplayPropertySet</Name>
        <ReferencedProperties>
          <Name>Fullname</Name>
          <Name>Basename</Name>
        </ReferencedProperties>
      </PropertySet>
    </Members>
  </MemberSet>
</Type>
```

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Lab A



▪ Type Extension for a 'Service'

- ScriptProperty: StartType
 - Hint: (Get-CimInstance -Query ('Select * From Win32_Service Where Name = "bits"')).StartMode
- ScriptMethod: Restart()
- AliasProperty: Computer for MachineName
- PropertySet: ServiceInfo - ServiceName, StartType, Status

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Custom Format View



▪ Format View

- Definition for the output of objects or object lists
- Saved in *.format.ps1xml
- Default files in \$PSHome
- Custom files possible

▪ Requirements

- *.format.ps1xml
- Update format

▪ Different Formats

- Table
- List
- Wide
- Custom

```
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="utf-8" ?>
<Configuration>
  <ViewDefinitions>
    <View>
      ...
    </View>
  </ViewDefinitions>
</Configuration>
```

```
Update-FormatData -PrependPath C:\myCustom.format.ps1xml
- or -
Update-FormatData -AppendPath C:\myCustom.format.ps1xml
```

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*.format.ps1xml



Structure of a custom view file

```
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="utf-8" ?>
<Configuration>
  <ViewDefinitions>
    <View>

      <Name>Name of the view</Name>

      <ViewSelectedBy>
        <TypeName>System.IO.FileInfo</TypeName>
      </ViewSelectedBy>

      <GroupBy> ... </GroupBy>

      <TableControl> Definition for a table </TableControl>
      - or -
      <ListControl> Definition for a list </ListControl>
      - or -
      <WideControl> Definition for a single-property-list </WideControl>
      - or -
      <CustomControl> Definition for something else </CustomControl>

    </View>
  </ViewDefinitions>
</Configuration>
```

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<TableControl>



Structure of a table

```
<TableControl>

  <TableHeaders>

    <TableColumnHeader>
      <Label>Size</Label>
      <Alignment>right</Alignment>
    </TableColumnHeader>

    <TableColumnHeader>
      <Label>Name</Label>
    </TableColumnHeader>

  </TableHeaders>

  <TableRowEntries> ... </TableRowEntries>

</TableControl>
```

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<TableControl>



Structure of a table

```
<TableControl>

  <TableHeaders> ... </TableHeaders>

  <TableRowEntries>

    <TableRowEntry>

      <TableColumnItems>

        <TableColumnItem>
          <PropertyName>Length</PropertyName>
        </TableColumnItem>

        <TableColumnItem>
          <ScriptBlock> any PS Scriptcode </ScriptBlock>
        </TableColumnItem>

      </TableColumnItems>

    </TableRowEntry>

  </TableRowEntries>

</TableControl>
```

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<ListControl>



Structure of a list

```
<ListControl>
  <ListEntries>
    <ListEntry>
      <ListItems>

        <ListItem>
          <Label>Size</Label>
          <PropertyName>Length</PropertyName>
        </ListItem>

        ...

        <ListItem>
          <Label>Mode</Label>
          <PropertyName>Mode</PropertyName>
          <ItemSelectionCondition>
            <ScriptBlock>$_.basename -notlike "my*"</ScriptBlock>
          </ItemSelectionCondition>
        </ListItem>

      </ListItems>
    </ListEntry>
  </ListEntries>
</ListControl>
```

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<WideControl>



Structure of a list

```
<WideControl>
  <WideEntries>
    <WideEntry>
      <WideItem>
        <PropertyName>Basename</PropertyName>
      </WideItem>
    </WideEntry>
  </WideEntries>
</WideControl>
```

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*.format.ps1xml for custom Objects



How to use a format file with a custom object

- **Challenge**
 - Structure and schema like discussed before
 - <ViewSelectedBy><TypeName> is what?
- **Name a custom object**
 - Default type name: *System.Management.Automation.PSCustomObject*
 - Define a custom type name

```
$myObject = New-Object -TypeName PSCustomObject
$myObject.PSTypeNames.Insert(0, "Custom.TypeName")
```

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Links



- **Formatting file overview**

- <https://learn.microsoft.com/en-us/powershell/scripting/developer/format/formatting-file-overview?view=powershell-7.5>

- **Formatting file concepts**

- <https://learn.microsoft.com/en-us/powershell/scripting/developer/format/formatting-file-concepts?view=powershell-7.5>

- **Xml schema**

- <https://learn.microsoft.com/en-us/powershell/scripting/developer/format/configuration-element-format?view=powershell-7.5>

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Lab B

```
$OS = (Get-CimInstance -ClassName Win32_OperatingSystem)[0].Caption
$RAM = (Get-CimInstance -ClassName Win32_ComputerSystem)[0].TotalPhysicalMemory
$Uptime = (Get-CimInstance -ClassName Win32_OperatingSystem)[0].LastBootUptime
```

- **Exercise 1: Create a custom object**

- Name: aPS.ComputerInfo
- Properties: OS, RAM, Uptime
- Methods: GetUptime(Unit Minutes or Hours)

- **Exercise 2: Create a formatting file**

- For aPS.ComputerInfo
- Table: RAM, OS, Uptime

- **Exercise 3: Extend object**

- System.Diagnostics.Process
- Aliasproperty: Computer for MachineName
- ScriptProperty: Uptime

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**Do You Have
Any Questions?**

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