1

Installing and Configuring PowerShell 7

This chapter covers the following recipes:

* Installing PowerShell 7
* Installing PowerShell 7 using Chocolately
* Using the PowerShell 7 Console
* Building PowerShell 7 profile files
* Exploring Installation artifacts
* Installing VS Code
* Installing Cascadia Code font
* Exploring PSReadLine

# Introduction

Since moving to Open Source, PowerShell Core or PowerShell 7, or just plain PowerShell, has been a continuing work in progress. Windows PowerShell, first introduced to the public in 2003, was first released formally, as Windows PowerShell v1, in 2006. Over the next decade, Microsoft released multiple versions, ending with PowerShell 5.1. During the development of Windows PowerShell, the product moved from being an add-in to Windows to an integrated feature. Microsoft plans to support Windows PowerShell 5.1 for a long time, but no new features are likely.

The PowerShell development team began working on an open-source version of PowerShell based on the open-source version of .NET Core. The first three versions, PowerShell Core 6.0, 6.1, and 6.2, represented, in effect, a proof of concept – you could run the core functions and features of PowerShell across the Windows, Mac, and Linux platforms. Those early versions also enabled the development team to implement all the necessary tooling to allow future development. But they were quite limited in supporting the rich needs of the IT pro community.

With the release of PowerShell 7.0 came improved parity with Windows PowerShell. A few modules did not work with PowerShell 7, and a few more work via a compatibility mechanism. PowerShell 7.0 shipped in 2019 and was followed by version 7.1. Version 7.2 was released in late 2021. This book uses the term “PowerShell 7” to include both PowerShell 7.0, 7.1, and 7.2.

Once you have installed PowerShell 7, you can run it and use it just as you used the Windows PowerShell console. The command you run to start PowerShell 7 is now pwsh.exe (versus powershell.exe for Windows PowerShell). PowerShell 7 also uses different profile file locations from Windows PowerShell. You can customize your PowerShell 7 profiles to use the new PowerShell 7 features. You note that PowerShell 7 uses different profile files for Windows PowerShell and PowerShell 7. That enabled you to run both Windows PowerShell and PowerShell 7 side by side without interference.

Most IT Pros who have used Windows PowerShell are familiar with the Integrated Scripting Environment (ISE). The ISE was a great tool you used with Windows PowerShell. However, you cannot use the ISE with PowerShell 7. A very worth successor to the ISE is Visual Studio Code (VS Code), an open-source editing project that provides all the features of the ISE and a great deal more. Installation of VS Code is optional but relatively straightforward.

Microsoft also developed a new font, Cascadia Code, to coincide with the launch of VS Code. This font is a nice improvement over Courier or other mono-width fonts. All screenshots of working code in this book use this new font.

PSReadLine is a PowerShell module designed to provide color-coding of PowerShell scripts in the PowerShell 7 console. The module, included with PowerShell 7 by default, makes editing at the command line easier and more on par with the features available in Linux shells. You can also use the later versions of PS Readline with Windows PowerShell.

## Systems used in the chapter

# Installing PowerShell 7

PowerShell 7 is not installed in Windows by default, at least not at the time of writing. The PowerShell team has made PowerShell 7.1 available from the Microsoft Store, which is useful to install PowerShell 7.1 or later on Windows 10 systems. As the Microsoft Store is not overly relevant to Windows Server installations, you can install PowerShell by using a script, Install-PowerShell.ps1, which you download from the internet, as shown in this recipe. You can also use this recipe on Windows 10 hosts.

## Getting ready

This recipe uses SRV1, a Windows Server workgroup host. There are no features of applications loaded on this server (yet).

## How to do it...

1. Opening a new Windows PowerShell console and setting an execution policy for Windows PowerShell

Set-ExecutionPolicy -ExecutionPolicy Unrestricted -Force

1. Installing the latest versions of NuGet and PowerShellGet

Install-PackageProvider Nuget -MinimumVersion 2.8.5.201 -Force |

  Out-Null

Install-Module -Name PowerShellGet -Force -AllowClobber

1. Ensuring the C:\Foo folder exists

$LFHT = @{

  ItemType    = 'Directory'

  ErrorAction = 'SilentlyContinue' # should it already exist

}

New-Item -Path C:\Foo @LFHT | Out-Null

1. Downloading the PowerShell 7 installation script

Set-Location C:\Foo

$URI = 'https://aka.ms/install-powershell.ps1'

Invoke-RestMethod -Uri $URI |

  Out-File -FilePath C:\Foo\Install-PowerShell.ps1

1. Viewing the installation script help

Get-Help -Name C:\Foo\Install-PowerShell.ps1

1. Installing PowerShell 7

$EXTHT = @{

  UseMSI                 = $true

  Quiet                  = $true

  AddExplorerContextMenu = $true

  EnablePSRemoting       = $true

}

C:\Foo\Install-PowerShell.ps1 @EXTHT | Out-Null

1. For the Adventurous – installing the preview and daily builds as well

C:\Foo\Install-PowerShell.ps1 -Preview -Destination C:\PWSHPreview |

Out-Null

C:\Foo\Install-PowerShell.ps1 -Daily   -Destination C:\PWSHDailBuild |

  Out-Null

1. Creating Windows PowerShell default profiles

$URI = 'https://raw.githubusercontent.com/doctordns/Wiley20/master/' +

       'Goodies/Microsoft.PowerShell\_Profile.ps1'

$ProfileFile = $Profile.CurrentUserCurrentHost

New-Item $ProfileFile -Force -WarningAction SilentlyContinue |

   Out-Null

(Invoke-WebRequest -Uri $uri -UseBasicParsing).Content |

  Out-File -FilePath  $ProfileFile

$ProfilePath = Split-Path -Path $ProfileFile

$ConsoleProfile = Join-Path -Path $ProfilePath -ChildPath 'Microsoft.PowerShell\_profile.ps1'

(Invoke-WebRequest -Uri $URI -UseBasicParsing).Content |

  Out-File -FilePath  $ConsoleProfile

1. Checking the versions of PowerShell 7 loaded

Get-ChildItem -Path C:\pwsh.exe -ErrorAction SilentlyContinue

## How it works...

In step 1, you open a new Windows PowerShell console and set the PowerShell execution policy to unrestricted, which simplifies using scripts to configure hosts. In production, you may wish to set PowerShell’s execution policy to be more restrictive. But note that an execution policy is not truly a security mechanism – it just slows down an inexperienced administrator. For a good explanation of PowerShell’s Security Guiding Principles, see https://devblogs.microsoft.com/powershell/powershells-security-guiding-principles/.

The PowerShell Gallery is a repository of PowerShell modules and scripts and is an essential resource for the IT pro. This book makes use of several modules from the PowerShell Gallery. In step 2, you update both the NuGet package provider (to version 2.8.5.201 or later) and an updated version of the PowerShellGet module.

Throughout this book, you’ll use the C:\Foo folder to hold various files that you use in conjunction with the recipes. In step 3, you ensure the folder exists.

PowerShell 7 is not installed by default, at present, in Windows (or macOS or Linux), although this could change. To enable you to install PowerShell 7 in Windows, you retrieve an installation script from GitHub and store that in the C:\Foo folder. In step 4, you use a shortcut URL that points to GitHub and then use Invoke-RestMethod to download the file. Note that steps 1 through 4 produce no output.

In step 5, you view the help information contained in the help file, which produces the following output:

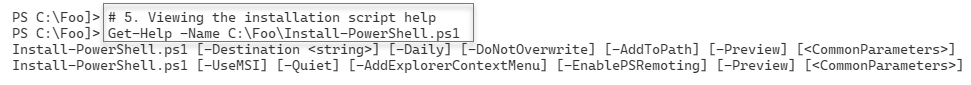


Figure 1.1: Viewing installation script help

Insert image B42024\_01\_01.png

Note that after installing PowerShell 7, the first time you run Get-Help you are prompted to download help text (which is not shown in this figure).

In step 6, you use the installation script and install PowerShell 7. The commands use an MSI, which you then install silently. The MSI updates the system execution path to add the PowerShell 7 installation folder. The code retrieves the latest supported version of PowerShell 7, and you can view the actual filename in the following output:

Figure 1.2: Installing PowerShell 7

Insert image B42024\_01\_02.png

PowerShell 7 is a work in progress. Every day, the PowerShell team builds updated versions of PowerShell and releases previews of the next major release. The preview builds are mostly stable and allow you to try out new features that are coming in the next major release. The daily build allows you to view progress on a specific bug or feature. You may find it useful to install both of these (and ensure you keep them up to date as time goes by).

In step 7, you install the daily build and the latest preview build, which looks like this:

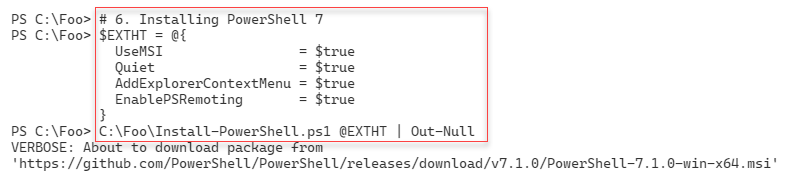


Figure 1.3: Installing the preview and daily builds

Insert image B42024\_01\_03.png

PowerShell uses profile files to enable you to configure PowerShell each time you run it (whether in the PowerShell console or as part of VS Code or the ISE). In step 8, you download a sample PowerShell profile script and save it locally. Note that the profile file you create in step 8 is for Windows PowerShell only.

The executable name for PowerShell 7 is pwsh.exe. In step 9, you view the versions of this file as follows:

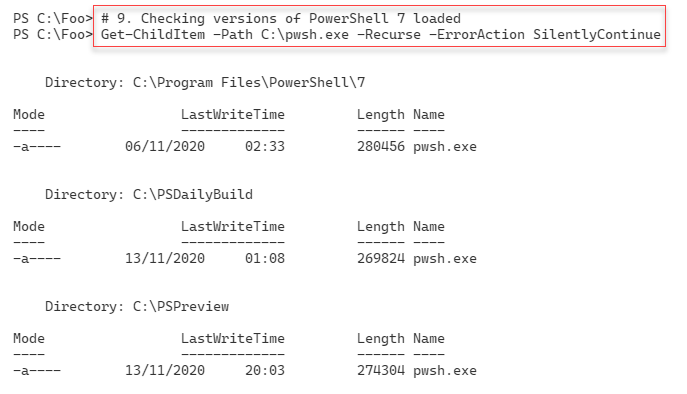


Figure 1.4: Checking PowerShell 7 versions loaded

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As you can see, there are three versions of PowerShell 7 installed on SRV1: the latest full release, the latest preview, and the build of the day.

## There's more...

In step 1, you open a new Windows PowerShell console. Make sure you run the console as the local administrator.

In step 4, you use a shortened URL to download the Install-PowerShell.ps1 script. When you use Invoke-RestMethod, PowerShell discovers the underlying target URL for the script. The short URL allows Microsoft and the PowerShell team to publish a well-known URL and then have the flexibility to move the target location should that be necessary. The target URL, at the time of writing, is https://raw.githubusercontent.com/PowerShell/PowerShell/master/tools/install-powershell.ps1.

In step 7, you install both the latest daily build and the latest preview versions. The specific file versions you see are going to be different from the output shown here, at least for the preview versions!

# Using the PowerShell 7 console

With PowerShell 7, the name of the PowerShell executable is now pwsh.exe, as you saw in the previous recipe. After installing PowerShell 7 in Windows, you can start the PowerShell 7 console by clicking Start and typing pwsh.exe, then hitting Return. The PowerShell MSI installer does not create a Start panel or taskbar shortcut.

## Getting ready

You run this recipe on SRV1 after you have installed PowerShell 7.

## How to do it...

1. Running the PowerShell 7 console

From the Windows desktop in SRV1, click on the Windows key, then type pwsh, followed by the Enter key.

1. Viewing the PowerShell version

$PSVersionTable

1. Viewing the $Host variable

$Host

1. Looking at the PowerShell process

Get-Process -Id $Pid |

  Format-Custom MainModule -Depth 1

1. Looking at resource usage statistics

Get-Process -Id $Pid |

  Format-List CPU,\*Memory\*

1. Updating the PowerShell help

$Before = Get-Help -Name about\_\*

Update-Help -Force | Out-Null

$After = Get-Help -Name about\_\*

$Delta = $After.Count - $Before.Count

"{0} Conceptual Help Files Added" -f $Delta

1. How many commands are available?

Get-Command |

  Group-Object -Property CommandType

## How it works...

In step 1, you start the PowerShell 7 console on SRV1. The console should look like this:

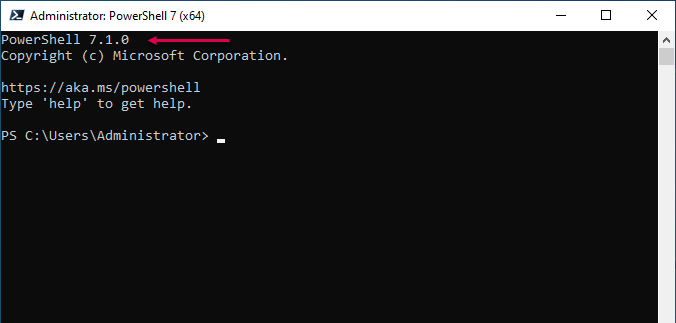


Figure 1.5: The PowerShell 7 console

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In step 2, you view the specific version of PowerShell by looking at the built-in variable $PSVersionTable, which looks like this:

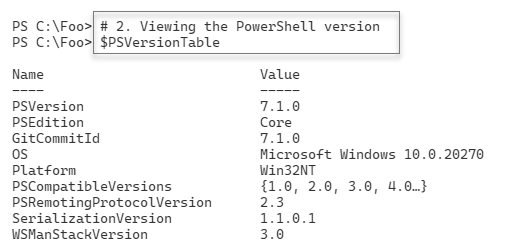


Figure 1.6: Viewing the PowerShell version

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In step 3, you examine the $Host variable to determine details about the PowerShell 7 host (the PowerShell console), which looks like this:

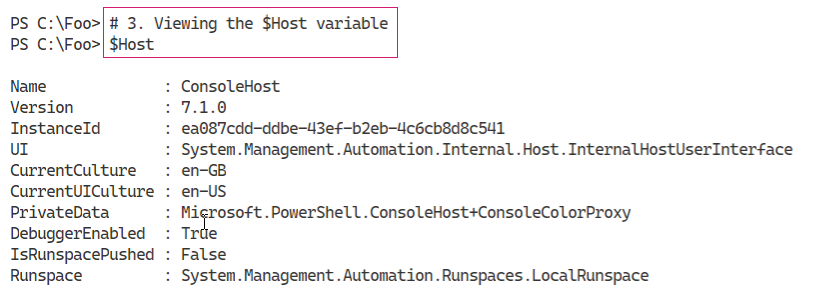


Figure 1.7: Viewing the $Host variable

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As you can see, in this case, the current culture is EN-GB. You may see a different value depending on which specific version of Windows Server you are using.

In step 4, you use Get-Process to look at the details of the PowerShell process, which looks like this:

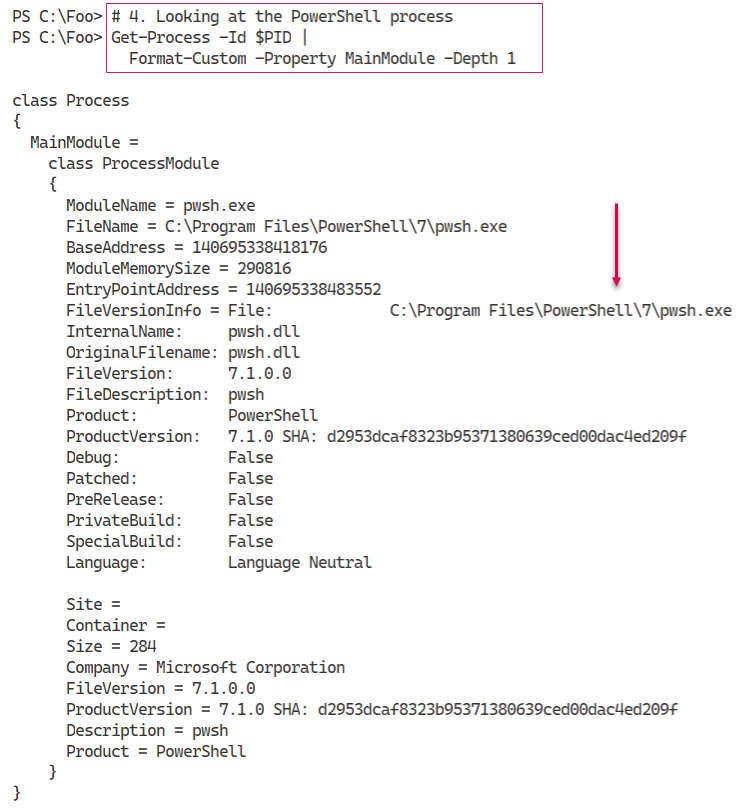


Figure 1.8: Looking at the PowerShell process details

Insert image B42024\_01\_08.png

In this figure, you can see the path to the PowerShell 7 executable. This value changes depending on whether you are running the release version or the daily/preview releases.

You can see, in step 5, details of resource usage of the pwsh.exe process running on the SRV1 host:

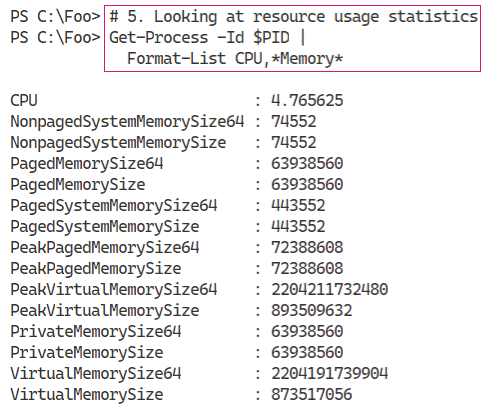


Figure 1.9: Looking at the resource usage statistics of pwsh.exe

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The values of each of the performance counters are likely to vary, and you may see different values.

By default, PowerShell 7, like Windows PowerShell, ships with minimum help files. You can, as you can see in step 6, use the Update-Help command to download updated PowerShell 7 help content, like this:

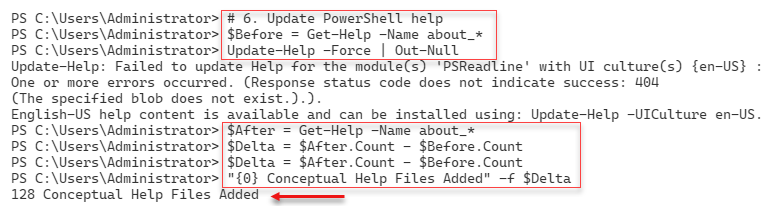


Figure 1.10: Updating PowerShell help

Insert image B42024\_01\_10.png

As you can see from the output, not all help files were updated. In this case, the ConfigDefender module does not, at present, have updated help information. Also note that although the UK English versions of help details may be missing, there are US English versions that you can install that may be useful. There is no material difference between the UK and US texts.

Commands in PowerShell include functions, cmdlets, and aliases. In step 7, you examine how many of each type of command is available by default, like this:

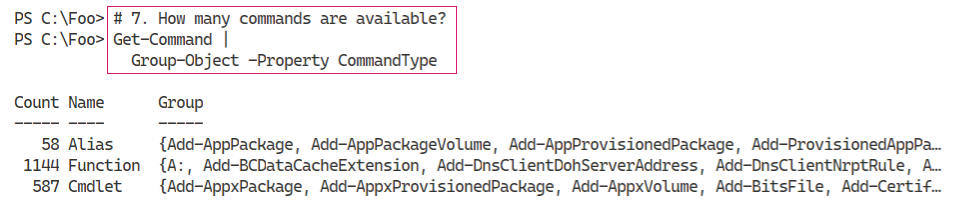


Figure 1.11: Examining the number of each type of command available

Insert image B42024\_01\_11.png

## There's more...

In step 1, you open the PowerShell console for the version of PowerShell you installed in the Installing PowerShell 7 recipe. With the release of PowerShell 7.1, the version number you would see is 7.1.0. By the time you read this book, that version number may have advanced. To ensure you have the latest released version of PowerShell 7, re-run the Install-PowerShell.ps1 script you downloaded in the Installing PowerShell 7 recipe.

Also, in step 1, you can see the output generated by the Write-Host statements in the profile file you set up in Installing PowerShell 7. You can remove these statements to reduce the amount of output you see each time you start up PowerShell.

In step 4, you use the variable $PID, which contains the Windows process identifier of the PowerShell 7 console process. The actual value of $PID changes each time you run PowerShell, but the value always contains the process ID of the current console process.

In step 6, you can see an error in the PSReadLine module’s help information (*Figure 1.10*). The developers of this module have, in later versions, renamed this module to PSReadLine (capitalizing the L in Line). However, help URLs are, for some reason, case-sensitive. You can fix this by renaming the module on disk and capitalizing the folder name.

In step 7, you saw that you had 1786 commands available. This number changes as you add more features (and their accompanying modules) or download and install modules from repositories such as the PowerShell Gallery.

# Exploring PowerShell 7 installation artifacts

In PowerShell 7, certain objects added by the PowerShell 7 installer (and PowerShell 7) differ from those used by Windows PowerShell.

## Getting ready

This recipe uses SRV1 after you have installed PowerShell 7. In this recipe, you use the PowerShell 7 console to run the steps.

## How to do it...

1. Checking the version table for the PowerShell 7 console

$PSVersionTable

1. Examining the PowerShell 7 installation folder

Get-Childitem -Path $env:ProgramFiles\PowerShell\7 -Recurse |

  Measure-Object -Property Length -Sum

1. Viewing the PowerShell 7 configuration JSON file

Get-ChildItem -Path $env:ProgramFiles\PowerShell\7\powershell\*.json |

  Get-Content

1. Checking the initial Execution Policy for PowerShell 7

Get-ExecutionPolicy

1. Viewing the module folders

$I = 0

$ModPath = $env:PSModulePath -split ';'

$ModPath |

  Foreach-Object {

    "[{0:N0}]   {1}" -f $I++, $\_

  }

1. Checking the modules

$TotalCommands = 0

Foreach ($Path in $ModPath){

Try { $Modules = Get-ChildItem -Path $Path -Directory -ErrorAction Stop

"Checking Module Path: [$Path]"

}

Catch [System.Management.Automation.ItemNotFoundException] {

"Module path [$path] DOES NOT EXIST ON $(hostname)"

}

$CmdsInPath = 0

Foreach ($Module in $Modules) {

$Cmds = Get-Command -Module ($Module.name)

$TotalCommands += $Cmds.Count

}

}

1. Viewing the total number of commands and modules

$Mods = (Get-Module \* -ListAvailable | Measure-Object).count

"{0} modules providing {1} commands" -f $Mods,$TotalCommands

## How it works...

In step 1, you examine the $PSVersionTable variable to view the version information for PowerShell 7, which looks like this:

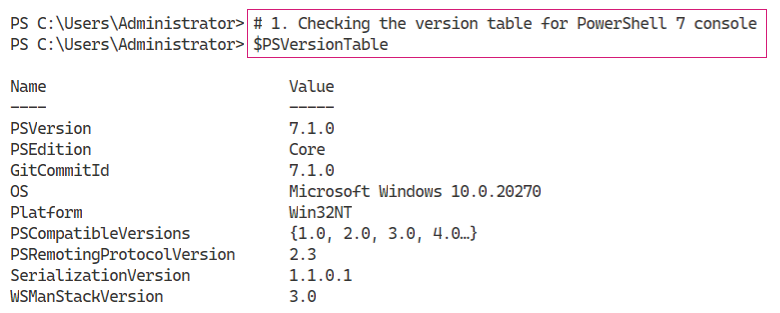


Figure 1.12: Checking the version information for PowerShell 7

Insert image B42024\_01\_12.png

The PowerShell 7 installation program installs PowerShell 7 into a different folder (by default) from that used by Windows PowerShell. In step 2, you see a summary of the files installed into the PowerShell 7 installation folder as follows:

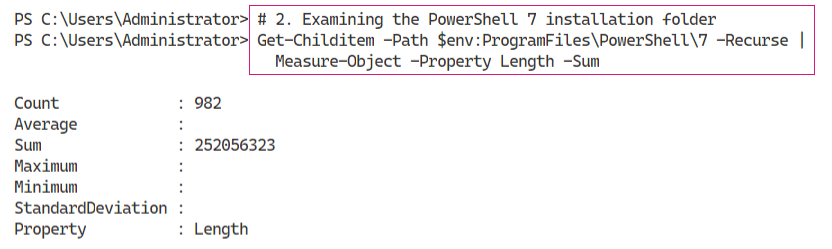


Figure 1.13: Examining the installation folder

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PowerShell 7 stores configuration values in a JSON file in the PowerShell 7 installation folder. In step 3, you view the contents of this file:

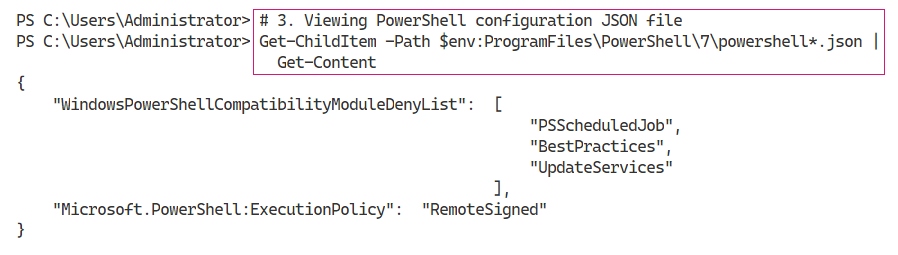


Figure 1.14: Viewing the JSON configuration file

Insert image B42024\_01\_14.png

In step 4, you view the execution policy for PowerShell 7, as follows:

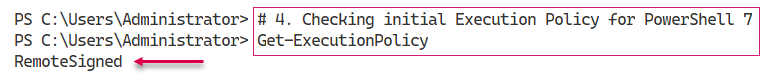
\

Figure 1.15: Checking the execution policy for PowerShell 7

Insert image B42024\_01\_15.png

As with Windows PowerShell, PowerShell 7 loads commands from modules. PowerShell uses the $PSModulePath variable to determine which file store folders PowerShell 7 should use to find these modules. Viewing the contents of this variable, and discovering the folders, in step 5, looks like this:

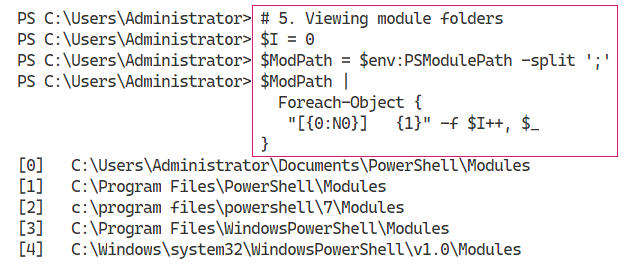


Figure 1.16: Viewing the module folders

Insert image B42024\_01\_16.png

With those module folders defined (by default), you can check how many commands exist in each folder, in step 6, the output of which looks like this:

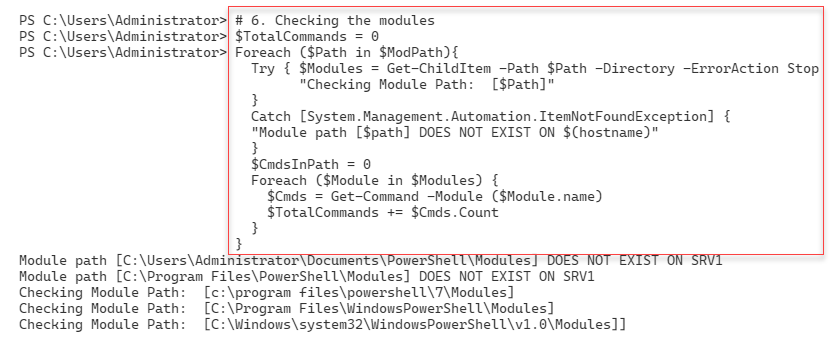


Figure 1.17: Checking how many commands exist in each module folder

Insert image B42024\_01\_17.png

In step 7, you can view the results to see how many commands exist in each of the modules in each module path. The output looks like this:

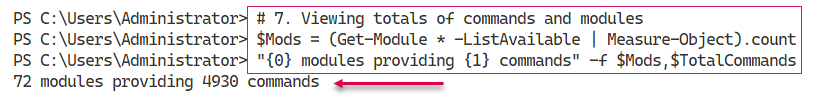


Figure 1.18: Viewing the total number of modules and commands

Insert image B42024\_01\_18.png

## There's more...

In step 1, you viewed the PowerShell version table. Depending on when you read this book, the version numbers you see may be later than shown here. You would see this when the PowerShell team releases an updated version of PowerShell.

In step 4, you viewed PowerShell 7’s execution policy. Each time PowerShell 7 starts up, it reads the JSON file to obtain the value of the execution policy. You can use the Set-Execution policy to reset the policy immediately, or change the value in the JSON file and restart the PowerShell 7 console.

In step 5, you viewed the default folders that PowerShell 7 uses to search for a module (by default). The first folder is your personal modules, followed by PowerShell 7, and then the Windows PowerShell modules. We cover the Windows PowerShell modules and Windows PowerShell compatibility in more detail in Chapter 2, Introducing PowerShell 7.

# Building PowerShell 7 profile files

In Windows PowerShell and PowerShell 7, profile files are PowerShell scripts that PowerShell runs each time you start a new instance of PowerShell (whether the console, ISE, or VS Code). These files enable you to pre-configure PowerShell 7. You can add variables, PowerShell PSDrives, functions, and more using profiles. As part of this book, you download and install initial profile files based on samples that you can download from GitHub.

This recipe downloads and installs the profile files for the PowerShell 7 console.

## Getting ready

You run this recipe on SRV1 after you have installed PowerShell 7.

## How to do it...

1. Discovering the profile filenames

$ProfileFiles = $PROFILE |  Get-Member -MemberType NoteProperty

$ProfileFiles | Format-Table -Property Name, Definition

1. Checking for the existence of each PowerShell profile file

Foreach ($ProfileFile in $ProfileFiles){

  "Testing $($ProfileFile.Name)"

  $ProfilePath = $ProfileFile.Definition.split('=')[1]

  If (Test-Path $ProfilePath){

    "$($ProfileFile.Name) DOES EXIST"

    "At $ProfilePath"

  }

  Else {

    "$($ProfileFile.Name) DOES NOT EXIST"

  }

  ""

}

1. Displaying the current user/current host profile

$CUCHProfile = $PROFILE.CurrentUserCurrentHost

"Current User/Current Host profile path: [$CUCHPROFILE]"

1. Creating a current user/current host profile for the PowerShell 7 console

$URI = 'https://raw.githubusercontent.com/doctordns/PACKT-PS7/master/' +

       'scripts/goodies/Microsoft.PowerShell\_Profile.ps1'

New-Item $CUCHProfile -Force -WarningAction SilentlyContinue |

   Out-Null

(Invoke-WebRequest -Uri $URI).Content |

  Out-File -FilePath  $CUCHProfile

1. Exiting the PowerShell 7 console

Exit

1. Restarting the PowerShell 7 console and viewing the profile output at startup

Get-ChildItem -Path $Profile

## How it works...

In step 1, you discover the names of each of the 4 profile files (for the PowerShell 7 console), then view their name and location (that is, the definition), which looks like this:

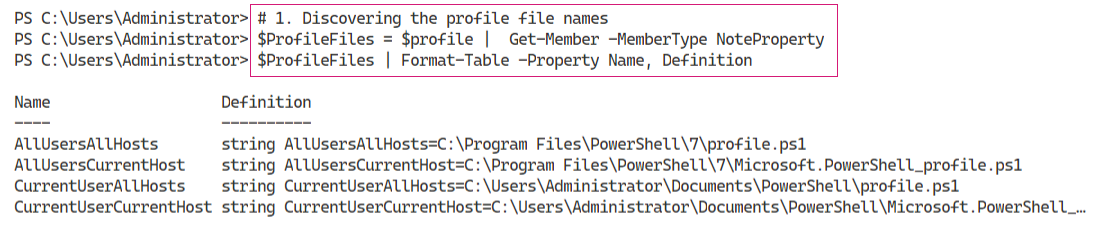


Figure 1.19: Discovering the profile filenames

Insert image B42024\_01\_19.png

In step 2, you check to see which, if any, of the profile files exist, which looks like this:

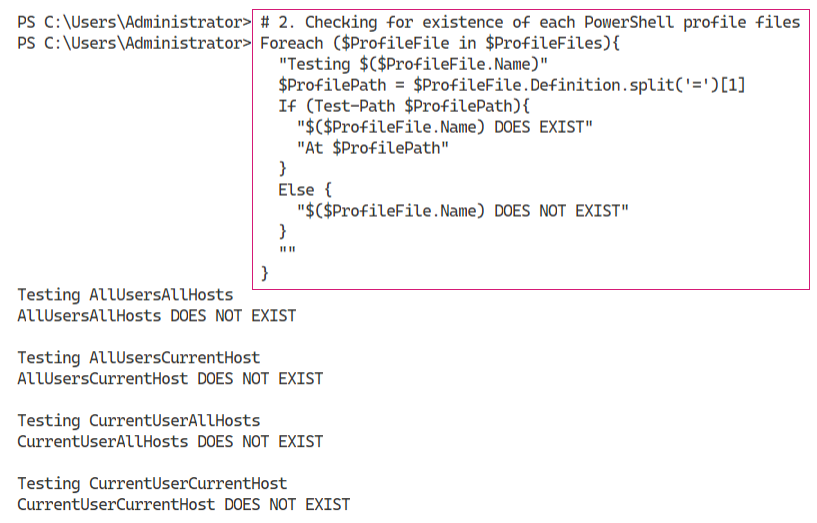


Figure 1.20: Checking for the existence of PowerShell profile files

Insert image B42024\_01\_20.png

In step 3, you obtain and display the filename of the Current User/Current Host profile file, which looks like this:

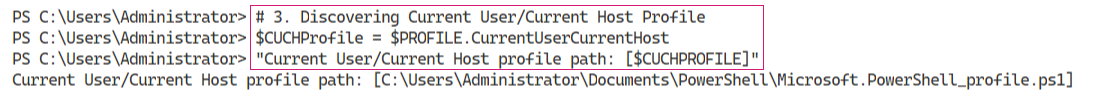


Figure 1.21: Discovering the current user/current host profile file

Insert image B42024\_01\_21.png

In step 4, you create an initial current user/current host profile file. This file is part of the GitHub repository that supports this book. In step 5, you exit the current PowerShell 7 console host. These two steps create no output.

In step 6, you start a new PowerShell profile. This time, as you can see here, the profile file exists, runs, and customizes the console:

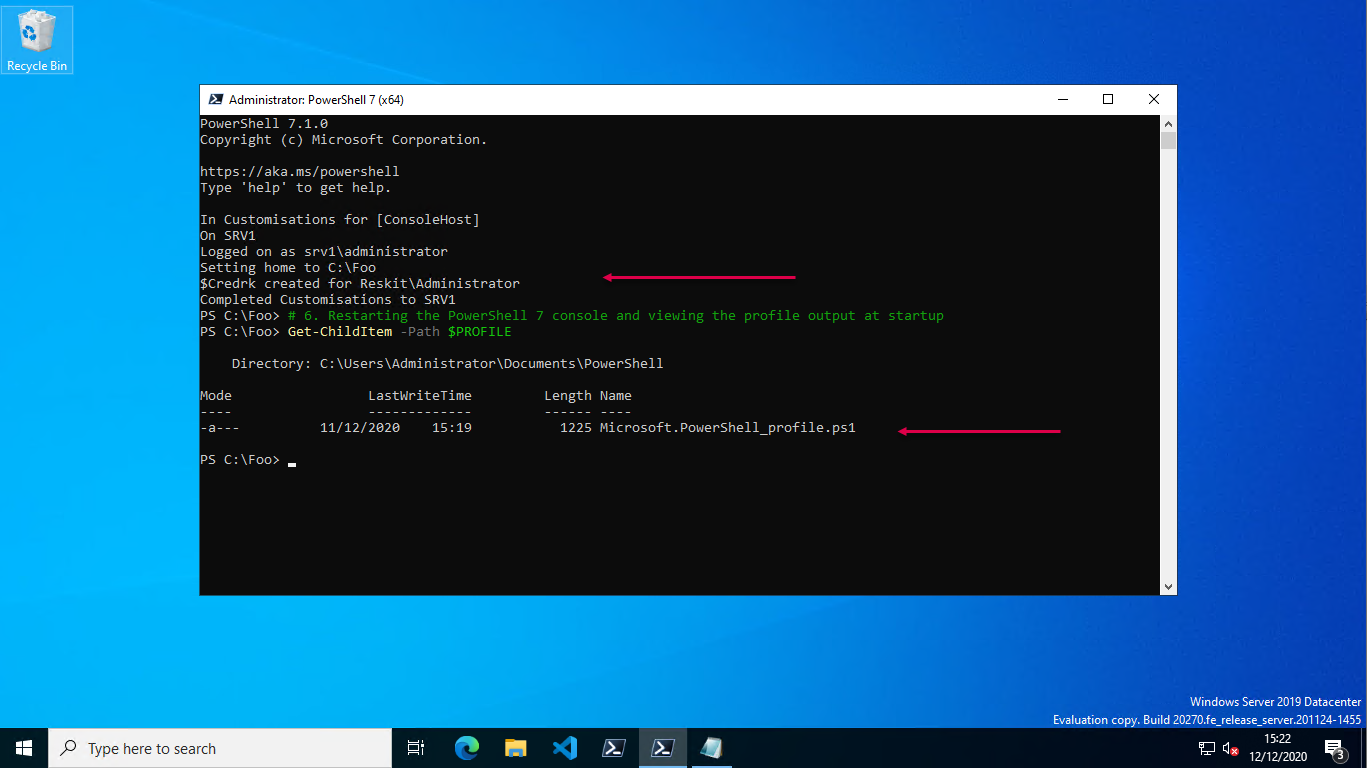


Figure 1.22: The profile file in action

Insert image B42024\_01\_22.png

## There's more...

In step 4, you download a sample profile file from GitHub. This sample profile file contains customizations for the PowerShell console configuration, including changing the default starting folder (to C:\Foo) and creating some aliases, PowerShell drives, and a credential object. These represent sample content you might consider including in your console profile file. Note that VS Code, which you install in the next recipe, uses a separate current user/current host profile file, which enables you to customize PowerShell at the console and in VS Code differently.

# Installing VS Code

The Windows PowerShell ISE was a great tool that Microsoft first introduced with Windows PowerShell v2 (and vastly improved with v3). This tool has reached feature completeness, and Microsoft has no plans for further development.

In its place, however, is Visual Studio Code, or VS Code. This open-source tool provides an extensive range of features for IT pros and others. For IT professionals, this should be your editor of choice. While there is a learning curve (as for any new product), VS Code contains all the features you find in the ISE and more.

VS Code, and the available extensions, are works in progress. Each new release brings additional features which can be highly valuable. A recent addition from Draw.io, for example, is the ability to create diagrams directly in VS Code. Take a look at this post for more details on this diagram tool: https://tfl09.blogspot.com/2020/05/over-weekend-i-saw-tweet-announcing-new.html.

There are a large number of other extensions you might be able to use, depending on your workload. For more details on VS Code, see https://code.visualstudio.com/.

For details of the many VS Code extensions, you can visit https://code.visualstudio.com/docs/editor/extension-gallery#:~:text=You%20can%20browse%20and%20install,on%20the%20VS%20Code%20Marketplace.

## Getting ready

You run this recipe on SRV1 after you have installed PowerShell 7 and have created a console profile file.

## How to do it...

1. Downloading the VS Code installation script from the PowerShell Gallery

$VSCPATH = 'C:\Foo'

Save-Script -Name Install-VSCode -Path $VSCPATH

Set-Location -Path $VSCPATH

1. Running the installation script and add in some popular extensions

$Extensions =  'Streetsidesoftware.code-spell-checker',

               'yzhang.markdown-all-in-one',

               'hediet.vscode-drawio'

$InstallHT = @{

  BuildEdition         = 'Stable-System'

  AdditionalExtensions = $Extensions

  LaunchWhenDone       = $true

}

.\Install-VSCode.ps1 @InstallHT

1. Exiting VS Code
2. Restarting VS Code as an administrator  
     
   Click on the Windows key and type code, which brings up the VS Code tile in the Windows Start panel. Then, right click the VS Code tile and select Run as Administrator to start VS Code as an administrator.
3. Opening a new VS Code terminal window  
     
   Inside VS Code, type Ctrl+Shift+' and then type pwsh and hit the Return key.
4. Creating a current user/current host profile for VS Code

$SAMPLE =

  'https://raw.githubusercontent.com/doctordns/PACKT-PS7/master/' +

  'scripts/goodies/Microsoft.VSCode\_profile.ps1'

(Invoke-WebRequest -Uri $Sample).Content |

  Out-File $Profile

1. Updating the user settings for VS Code

$JSON = @'

{

  "workbench.colorTheme": "PowerShell ISE",

  "powershell.codeFormatting.useCorrectCasing": true,

  "files.autoSave": "onWindowChange",

  "files.defaultLanguage": "powershell",

  "editor.fontFamily": "'Cascadia Code',Consolas,'Courier New'",

  "workbench.editor.highlightModifiedTabs": true,

  "window.zoomLevel": 1

}

'@

$JHT = ConvertFrom-Json -InputObject $JSON -AsHashtable

$PWSH = "C:\\Program Files\\PowerShell\\7\\pwsh.exe"

$JHT += @{

  "terminal.integrated.shell.windows" = "$PWSH"

}

$Path = $Env:APPDATA

$CP   = '\Code\User\Settings.json'

$Settings = Join-Path  $Path -ChildPath $CP

$JHT |

  ConvertTo-Json  |

    Out-File -FilePath $Settings

1. Creating a shortcut to VS Code

$SourceFileLocation  = "$env:ProgramFiles\Microsoft VS Code\Code.exe"

$ShortcutLocation    = "C:\foo\vscode.lnk"

# Create a  new wscript.shell object

$WScriptShell        = New-Object -ComObject WScript.Shell

$Shortcut            = $WScriptShell.CreateShortcut($ShortcutLocation)

$Shortcut.TargetPath = $SourceFileLocation

#Save the Shortcut to the TargetPath

$Shortcut.Save()

1. Creating a shortcut to PowerShell 7

$SourceFileLocation  = "$env:ProgramFiles\PowerShell\7\pwsh.exe"

$ShortcutLocation    = 'C:\Foo\pwsh.lnk'

# Create a new wscript.shell object

$WScriptShell        = New-Object -ComObject WScript.Shell

$Shortcut            = $WScriptShell.CreateShortcut($ShortcutLocation)

$Shortcut.TargetPath = $SourceFileLocation

#Save the Shortcut to the TargetPath

$Shortcut.Save()

1. Building an updated layout XML

$XML = @'

<?xml version="1.0" encoding="utf-8"?>

<LayoutModificationTemplate

  xmlns="http://schemas.microsoft.com/Start/2014/LayoutModification"

  xmlns:defaultlayout=

    "http://schemas.microsoft.com/Start/2014/FullDefaultLayout"

  xmlns:start="http://schemas.microsoft.com/Start/2014/StartLayout"

  xmlns:taskbar="http://schemas.microsoft.com/Start/2014/TaskbarLayout"

  Version="1">

<CustomTaskbarLayoutCollection>

<defaultlayout:TaskbarLayout>

<taskbar:TaskbarPinList>

 <taskbar:DesktopApp DesktopApplicationLinkPath="C:\Foo\vscode.lnk" />

 <taskbar:DesktopApp DesktopApplicationLinkPath="C:\Foo\pwsh.lnk" />

</taskbar:TaskbarPinList>

</defaultlayout:TaskbarLayout>

</CustomTaskbarLayoutCollection>

</LayoutModificationTemplate>

'@

$XML | Out-File -FilePath C:\Foo\Layout.Xml

1. Importing the start layout XML file

Import-StartLayout -LayoutPath C:\Foo\Layout.Xml -MountPath C:\

1. Logging off

logoff.exe

1. Log back in to Windows and observe the taskbar
2. Run the PowerShell console from the shortcut
3. Run VS Code from the new taskbar shortcut and observe the profile file running

## How it works...

In step 1, you download the VS Code installation script from the PowerShell Gallery. This step produces no output.

Then, in step 2, you run the installation script and add in three specific extensions. Running this step in the PowerShell 7 console looks like this:

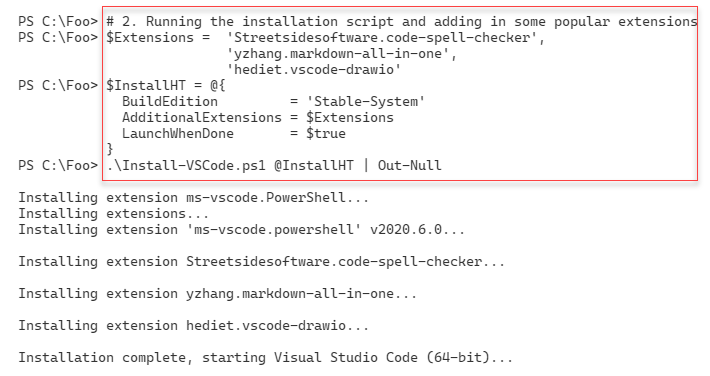


Figure 1.23: Running the installation script and adding some extensions

Insert image B42024\_01\_23.png

Once VS Studio has started, you will see the initial opening window, which looks like this:

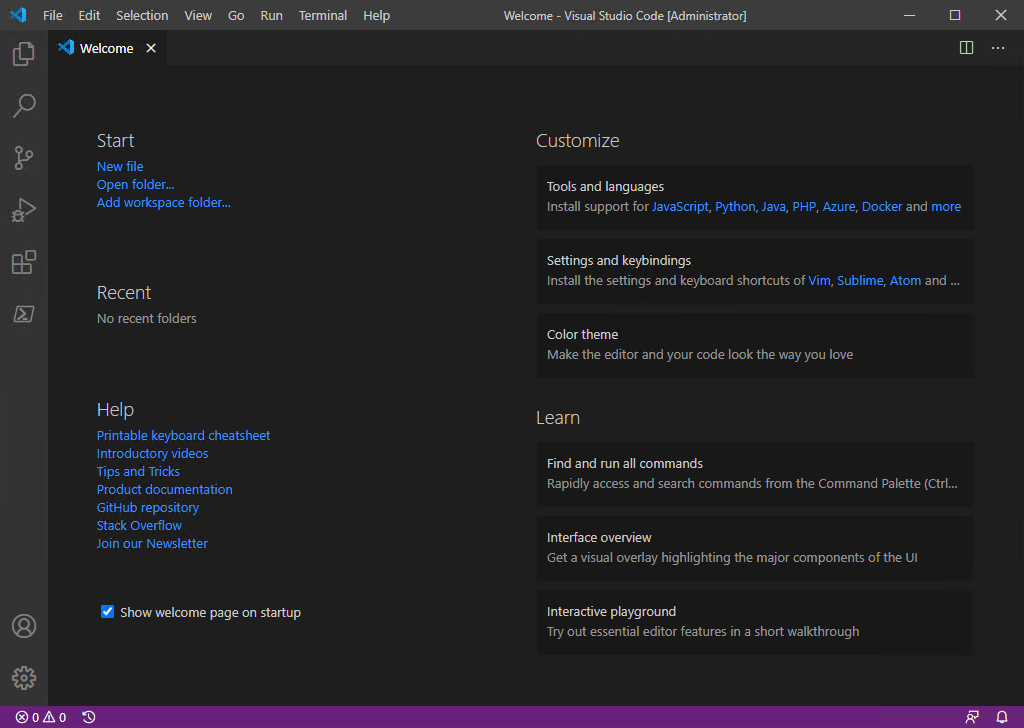


Figure 1.24: The VS Code Welcome window

Insert image B42024\_01\_24.png

In step 3, you close this window. Then, in step 4, you run VS Code as an administrator. In step 5, you open a new VS Code terminal and run PowerShell 7, which now looks like this:

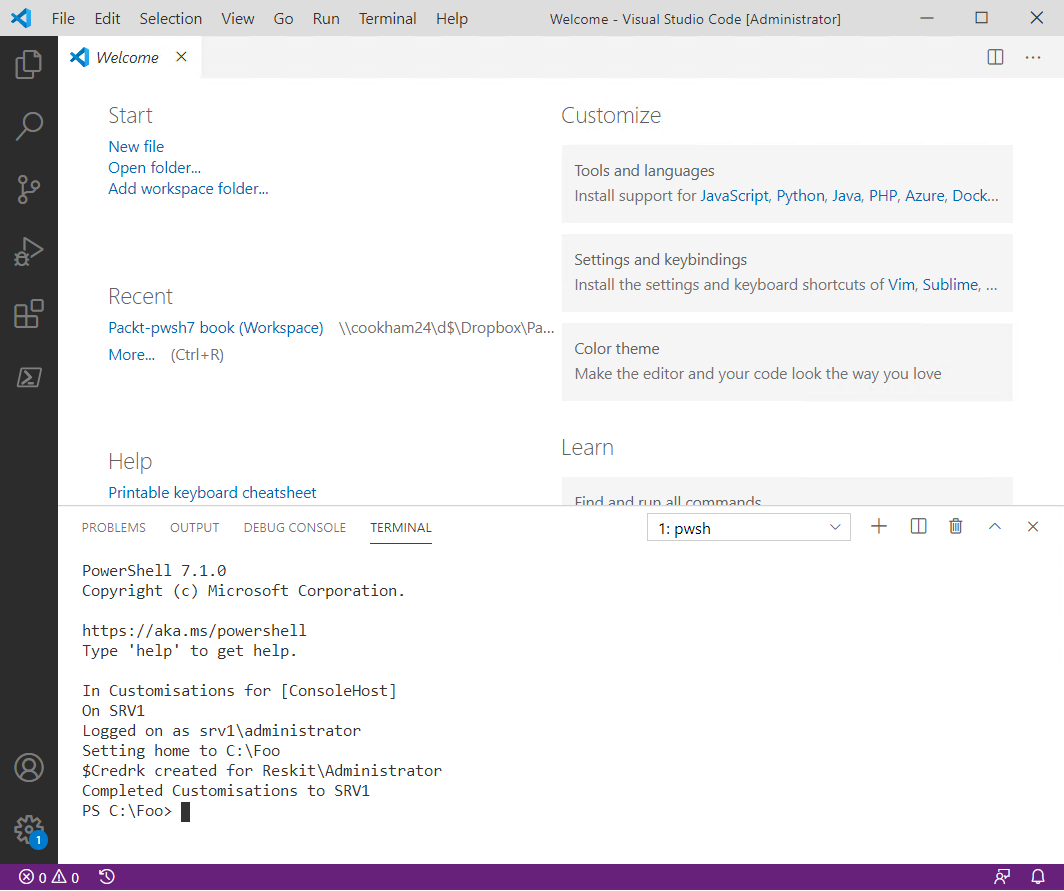


Figure 1.25: Running PowerShell 7 in VS Code

Insert image B42024\_01\_25.png

In step 6, you create a VS Code sample profile file. The VS Code PowerShell extension uses this profile file when you open a .PS1 file. This step generates no output.

In step 7, you update several VS Code runtime options. In step 8, you create a shortcut to VS Code, and in step 9, you create a shortcut to the PowerShell 7 console. You use these later in this recipe to create a shortcut on your Windows taskbar.

In step 10, you update the XML that describes the Windows taskbar to add the shortcuts to VS Code and the PowerShell console you created previously. In step 11, you import the updated task pane description back into Windows. These steps produce no output as such.

Next, in step 12, you log off from Windows. In step 13, you re-login and note the updated taskbar, as you can see here:

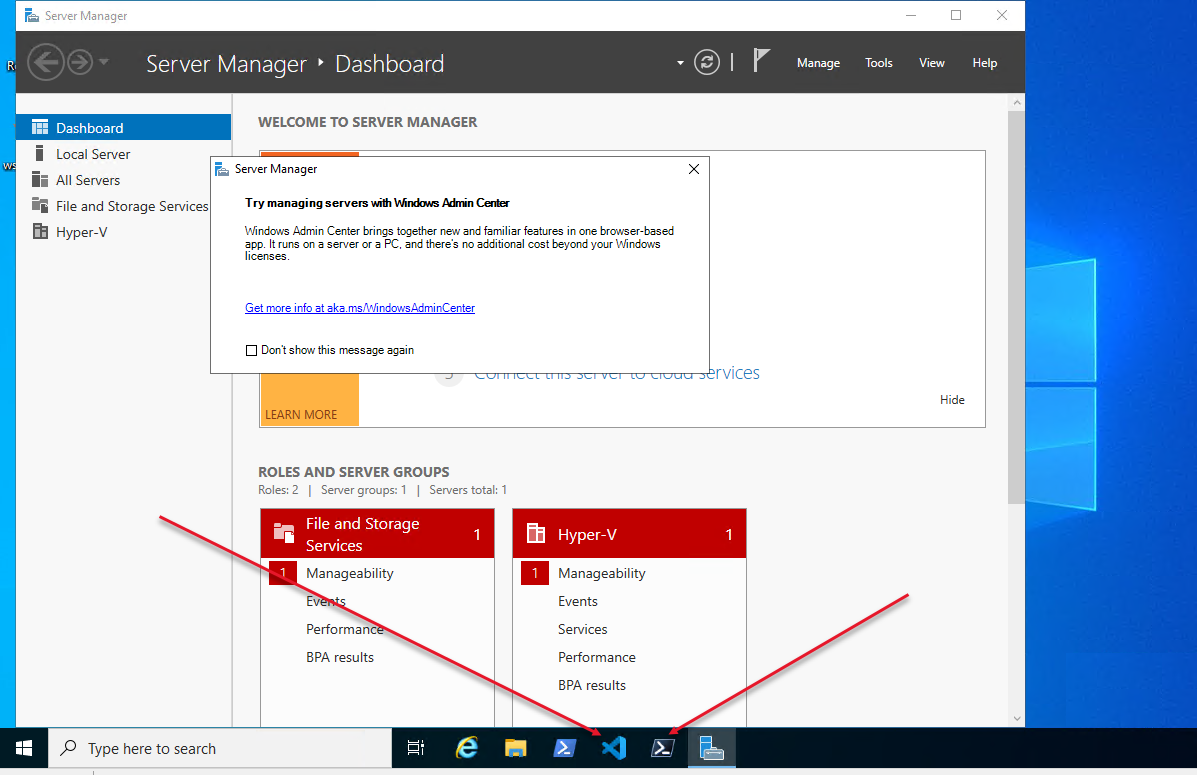


Figure 1.26: Updated taskbar with shortcuts

Insert image B42024\_01\_26.png

In step 14, you open a PowerShell 7 console, which looks like this:

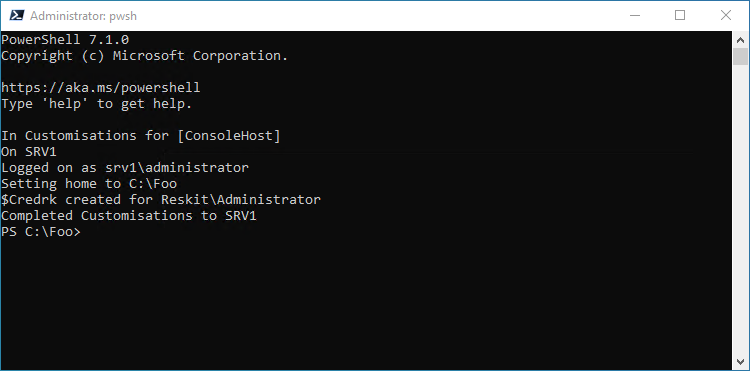


Figure 1.27: PowerShell 7 console (from shortcut)

Insert image B42024\_01\_27.png

In step 15, you open VS Code, which looks like this:

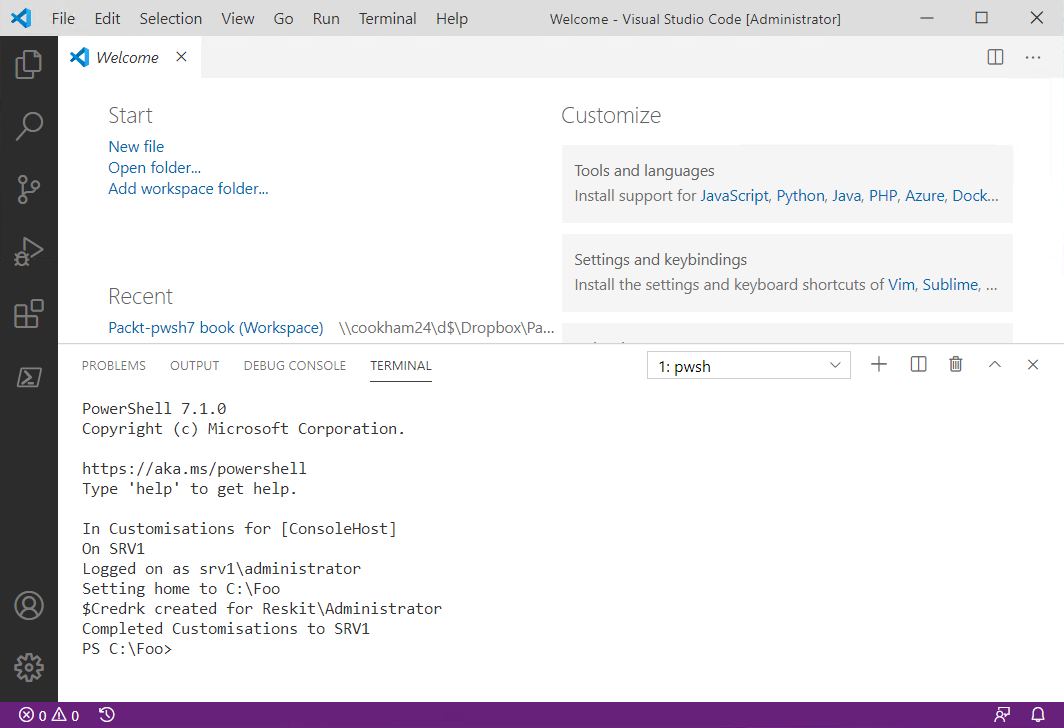


Figure 1.28: VS Code (from shortcut)

Insert image B42024\_01\_28.png

## There's more...

In step 2, you install VS Code and three additional VS Code extensions. The Streetsidesoftware.code-spell-checker extension provides spell-checking for your scripts and other files. The yzhang.markdown-all-in-one extension supports the use of Markdown. This extension is useful if, for example, you are writing documentation in GitHub or updating the existing public PowerShell 7 help information. The hediet.vscode-drawio extension enables you to create rich diagrams directly in VS Code. Visit the VS Code Marketplace for details on these and other extensions.

In step 4, you ensure you are running VS Code as an administrator. Some of the code requires this and fails if you are not running PowerShell (inside VS Code) as an admin.

In step 5, you open a terminal inside VS Code. In VS Code, the “terminal” is initially a Windows PowerShell console. You can see in the output the results of running the profile file for Windows PowerShell. This terminal is the one you see inside VS Code by default.

In step 7, you update and save some updates to the VS Code settings. Note that in this step, you tell VS Code where to find the version of PowerShell you wish to run. You can, should you choose, change this to run a preview version of PowerShell or even the daily build.

Note that VS Code has, in effect, two PowerShell profile files at play. When you open VS Code on its own, you get the terminal you see in step 5 – this is the default terminal. The PowerShell VS Code runs a separate terminal whenever you open a .PS1 file. In that case, VS Code runs the VS Code-specific profile you set in step 6.

In step 8 and step 9, you create shortcuts to VS Code and the PowerShell 7 console. In step 10, you update the layout of the Windows taskbar to include the two shortcuts. Unfortunately, you have to log off (as you do in step 12) before logging back in to Windows where you can observe and use the two shortcuts.

# Installing Cascadia Code font

As part of the launch of VS Code, Microsoft also created a new and free font that you can download and use both at the PowerShell 7 console and inside VS Code. This recipe shows how you can download the font, install it, and set this font to be the default in VS Code.

## Getting ready

You run this recipe on SRV1 after you have installed both PowerShell 7 and VS Code.

## How to do it...

1. Getting the download locations for the Cascadia Code font

$CascadiaFont    = 'Cascadia.ttf'    # font file name

$CascadiaRelURL  = 'https://github.com/microsoft/cascadia-code/releases'

$CascadiaRelease = Invoke-WebRequest -Uri $CascadiaRelURL # Get all of them

$CascadiaPath    = "https://github.com" + ($CascadiaRelease.Links.href |

                      Where-Object { $\_ -match "($CascadiaFont)" } |

                        Select-Object -First 1)

$CascadiaFile   = "C:\Foo\$CascadiaFont"

1. Downloading the Cascadia Code font file

Invoke-WebRequest -Uri $CascadiaPath -OutFile $CascadiaFile

1. Installing the Cascadia Code font

$FontShellApp = New-Object -Com Shell.Application

$FontShellNamespace = $FontShellApp.Namespace(0x14)

$FontShellNamespace.CopyHere($CascadiaFile, 0x10)

1. Restart VS Code by clicking on the shortcut in the taskbar

## How it works...

In step 1, you discover the latest version of the Cascadia Code font, and in step 2, you download this font.

In step 3, you install the font into Windows. Since Windows does not provide any cmdlets to perform the font installation, you rely on the older Windows Shell.Application COM object.

In step 4, you restart VS Code and note that the new font now looks like this:

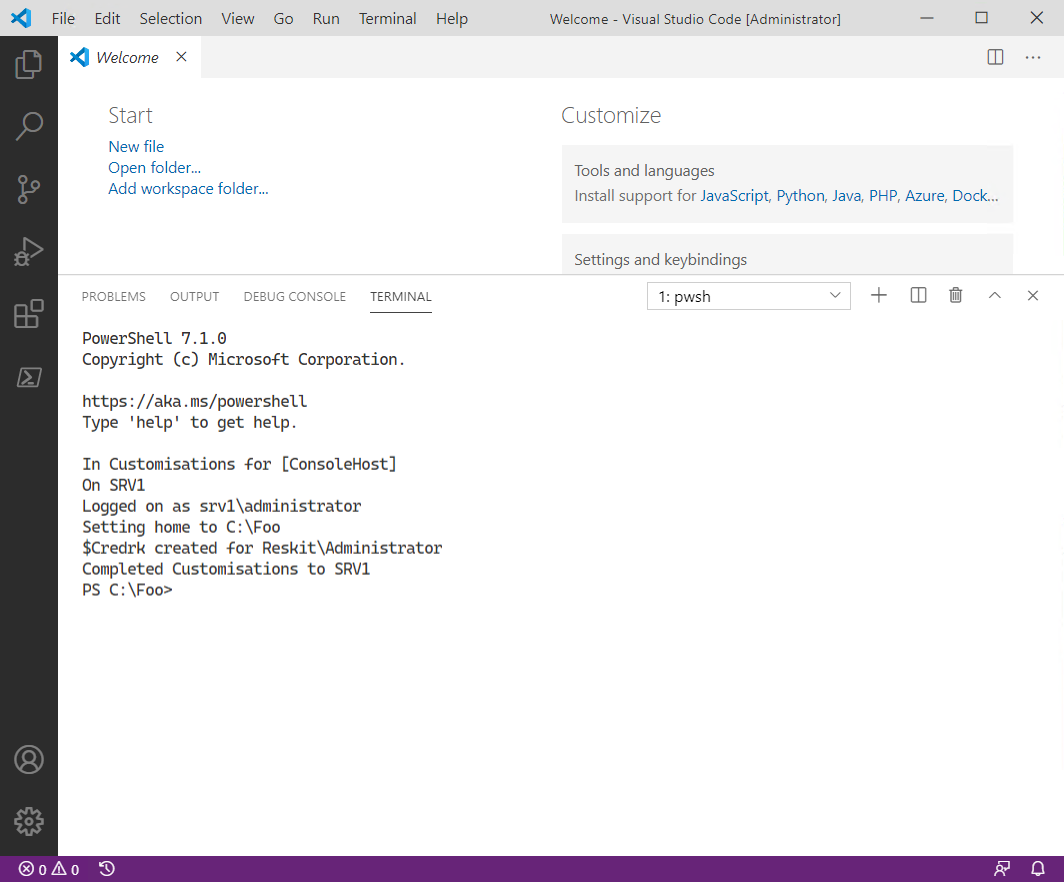


Figure 1.29: Looking at the new font

Insert image B42024\_01\_29.png

## There's more...

Like so many things in customizing PowerShell 7, you have a wide choice of fonts to use with VS Code. The Cascadia Code font is a good, clear font and many like it. You can always change it if you do not like it.

# Exploring PSReadLine

PSReadLine is a PowerShell module that provides additional console editing features within both PowerShell 7 and Windows PowerShell. The module provides a command-line editing experience that is on par with the best of the Linux command shells (such as Bash).

When you type into a PowerShell console, PSReadLine intercepts your keystrokes to provide syntax coloring, simple syntax error notification, and a great deal more. PSReadLine enables you to customize your environment to suit your personal preferences. Some key features of the module include:

* Syntax coloring of the command-line entries
* Multi-line editing
* History management
* Customizable key bindings
* Highly customizable

For an overview of PSReadLine, see https://docs.microsoft.com/powershell/module/psreadline/about/about\_psreadline. And for more details, you can view the PSReadLine GitHub README file: https://github.com/PowerShell/PSReadLine/blob/master/README.md.

An important issue surrounds the naming of this module. The original name of the module was PSReadline. At some point, the module’s developers changed the name of the module to PSReadLine (capitalizing the L character in the module name).

The PSReadLine module ships natively with PowerShell 7. At startup, in both the console and VS Code, PowerShell imports PSReadLine so it is ready for you to use. You can also use PSReadLine in Windows PowerShell. To simplify the updating of this module’s help, consider renaming the module to capitalize the L in PSReadLine.

The PSReadLine module is a work in progress. Microsoft incorporated an early version of this module within Windows PowerShell v3. Windows PowerShell 5.1 (and the ISE) inside Windows Server ships with PSReadLine v2. If you are still using earlier versions of Windows PowerShell, you can download and utilize the latest version of PSReadLine.

The module has improved and, with the module’s v2 release, some changes were made that are not backward-compatible. Many blog articles, for example, use the older syntax for Set‑PSReadLineOption, which fails with version 2 (and later) of the module. You may still see the old syntax if you use your search engine to discover examples. Likewise, some of the examples in this recipe fail should you run them utilizing PSReadline v1 (complete with the old module name spelling).

## Getting ready

This recipe uses SRV1 after you have installed PowerShell 7, VS Code, and the Cascadia Code font (and customized your environment).

## How to do it...

1. Getting the commands in the PSReadLine module

Get-Command -Module PSReadLine

1. Getting the first 10 PSReadLine key handlers

Get-PSReadLineKeyHandler |

  Select-Object -First 10 |

    Sort-Object -Property Key |

      Format-Table -Property Key, Function, Description

1. Counting the unbound key handlers

$Unbound = (Get-PSReadLineKeyHandler -Unbound).count

"$Unbound unbound key handlers"

1. Getting the PSReadLine options

Get-PSReadLineOption

1. Determining the VS Code theme name

$Path       = $Env:APPDATA

$CP         = '\Code\User\Settings.json'

$JsonConfig = Join-Path  $Path -ChildPath $CP

$ConfigJSON = Get-Content $JsonConfig

$Theme = $ConfigJson |

           ConvertFrom-Json |

Select-Object -ExpandProperty 'workbench.colorTheme'

1. Changing the color scheme if the theme name is Visual Studio Light

If ($Theme -eq 'Visual Studio Light') {

  Set-PSReadLineOption -Colors @{

    Member    = "`e[33m"

    Number    = "`e[34m"

    Parameter = "`e[35m"

    Command   = "`e[34m"

  }

}

## How it works...

In step 1, you view the commands in the PSReadLine module, which looks like this:

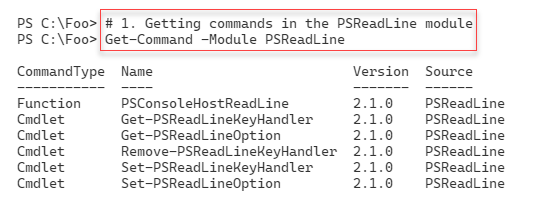


Figure 1.30: Viewing commands in the PSReadLine module

Insert image B42024\_01\_30.png

In step 2, you display the first 10 PSReadLine key handlers currently in use, which looks like this:

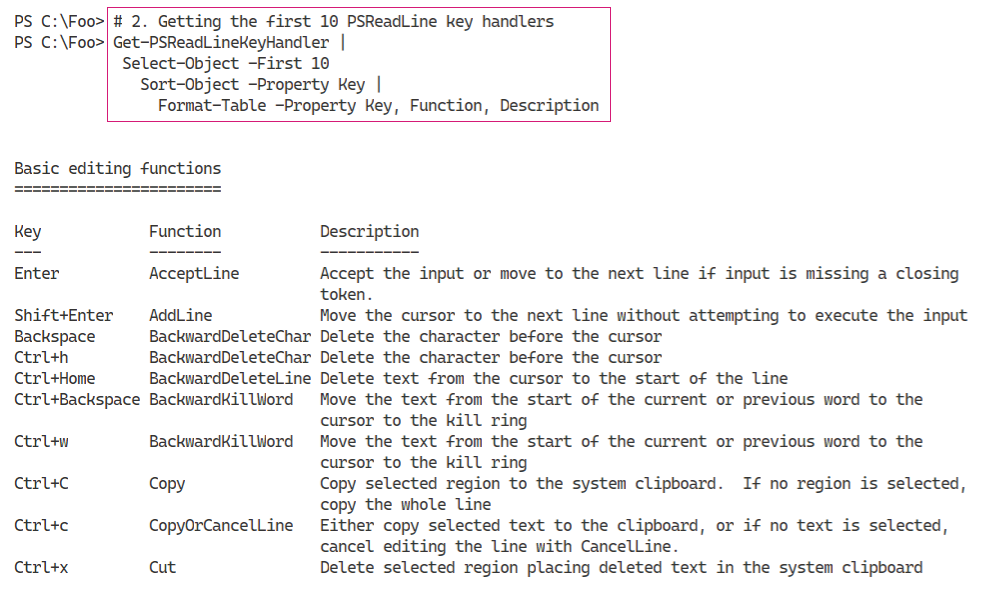


Figure 1.31: Displaying the first 10 PSReadLine key handlers

Insert image B42024\_01\_31.png

PSReadLine provides over 160 internal functions to which you can bind a key combination. In step 3, you discover how many functions are currently unbound, which looks like this:

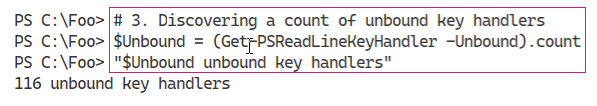


Figure 1.32: Discovering the count of unbound key handlers

Insert image B42024\_01\_32.png

In step 4, you view the PSReadLine options as you can see here:

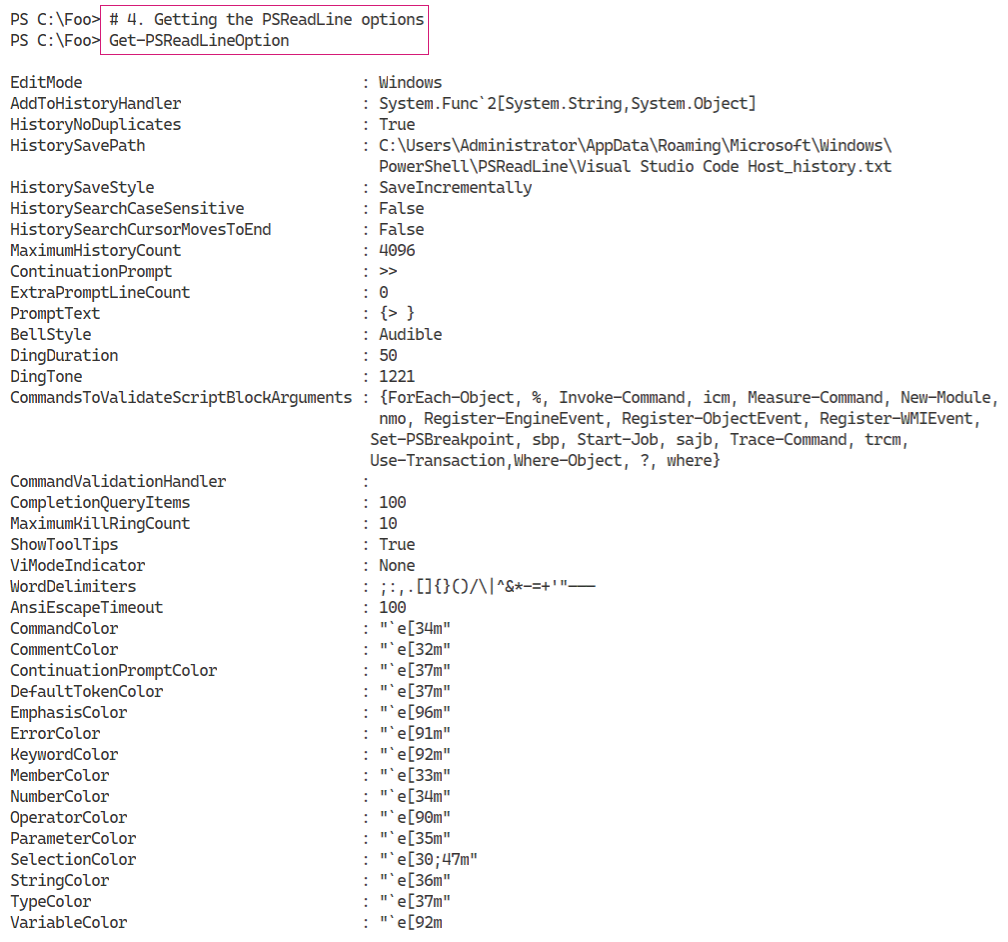


Figure 1.33: Getting the PSReadLine options

Insert image B42024\_01\_33.png

In step 5 and step 6, you determine the current VS Code theme name and update the colors used by PSReadLine for better clarity. These two steps produce no output, although you should see the colors of specific PowerShell syntax tokens change (run Get-PSReadLineOption to see the changes).

## There's more...

In step 1, you view the commands inside the PSReadLine module. The PSConsoleHostReadLine function is the entry point to this module’s functionality. When the PowerShell console starts, it loads this module and invokes the PSConsoleHostReadLine function.

One small downside to PSReadLine is that it does not work well with all Windows screen reader programs. For accessibility reasons, if the PowerShell console detects you are using any screen reader program, the console startup process does not load PSReadLine. You can always load PSReadLine manually either in the console or by updating your startup profile(s).

In step 2, you view the key handlers currently used by PSReadLine. Each key handler maps a keystroke combination (for example, Ctrl + L) to one of over 160 internal PSReadLine functions. By default, Ctrl + L maps to the PSReadLine ClearScreen function – when you type that key sequence, PSReadLine clears the screen in the console.

In step 5 and step 6, you detect the VS Code theme name and adjust the color scheme to match your preferences. To some degree, the PSReadLine and VS Code color themes can result in hard-to-read color combinations. If that is the case, you can persist the specific settings into your VS Code profile file and change the color scheme to meet your tastes.