

Approved Verbs for Windows PowerShell Commands (Feb 2018)

Quick Reference

Use: Uses or includes a resource to do something.

Debug: Examines a resource to diagnose operational problems.
Measure: Identifies resources that are consumed by a specified operation, or retrieves statistics about a resource.
Ping: Use the Test verb.
Repair: Restores a resource to a usable condition
Resolve: Maps shorthand representation of a resource to more complete representation.
Test: Verifies the operation or consistency of a resource.
Trace: Tracks the activities of a resource.

Diagnostic

Connect: Creates a link between a source and a destination. This verb is paired with Disconnect.
Disconnect: Breaks the link between a source and a destination. This verb is paired with Connect.
Read: Acquires information from a source. This verb is paired with Write.
Receive: Accepts information sent from a source. This verb is paired with Send.
Send: Delivers information to a destination. This verb is paired with Receive.
Write: Adds information to a target. This verb is paired with Read.

Communication

Block: Restricts access to a resource. This verb is paired with Unblock.
Grant: Allows access to a resource. This verb is paired with Revoke.
Protect: Safeguards a resource from attack or loss. This verb is paired with Unprotect.
Revoke: Specifies an action that does not allow access to a resource. This is paired with Grant.
Unblock: Removes restrictions to a resource. This verb is paired with Block.
Unprotect: Removes safeguards from a resource that were added to prevent it from attack or loss. This verb is paired with Protect.

Security

Add: Adds a resource to a container, or attaches an item to another item. For example, the Add-Content cmdlet adds content to a file. This verb is paired with Remove.
Clear: Removes all the resources from a container but does not delete the container. For example, the Clear-Content cmdlet removes the contents of a file but does not delete the file.
Close: Changes the state of a resource to make it inaccessible, unavailable, or unusable. This verb is paired with Open.
Copy: Copies a resource to another name or to another container. For example, the Copy-Item cmdlet that is used to access stored data copies an item from one location in the data store to another location.
Enter: Specifies an action that allows the user to move into a resource. For example, the Enter-PSSession cmdlet places the user in an interactive session. This verb is paired with Exit.
Exit: Sets the current environment or context to the most recently used context. For example, the Exit-PSSession cmdlet places the user in the session that was used to start the interactive session. This verb is paired with Enter.
Find: Looks for an object in a container that is unknown, implied, optional, or specified.
Format: Arranges objects in a specified form or layout.
Get: Specifies an action that retrieves a resource. This verb is paired with Set.
Hide: Makes a resource undetectable. For example, a cmdlet whose name includes the Hide verb might conceal a service from a user. This verb is paired with Show.
Join: Combines resources into one resource. For example, the Join-Path cmdlet combines a path with one of its child paths to create a single path. This verb is paired with Split.
Lock: Secures a resource. This verb is paired with Unlock.
Move: Moves a resource from one location to another. For example, the Move-Item cmdlet moves an item from one location in the data store to another location.
New: Creates a resource. (The Set verb can also be used when creating a resource that includes data, such as the Set-Variable cmdlet.)
Open: Changes the state of a resource to make it accessible, available, or usable. This verb is paired with Close.
Pop: Removes an item from the top of a stack. For example, the Pop-Location cmdlet changes the current location to the location that was most recently pushed onto the stack.
Push: Adds an item to the top of a stack. For example, the Push-Location cmdlet pushes the current location onto the stack.
Redo: Resets a resource to the state that was undone.
Remove: Deletes a resource from a container. For example, the Remove-Variable cmdlet deletes a variable and its value. This verb is paired with Add.
Rename: Changes the name of a resource. For example, the Rename-Item cmdlet, which is used to access stored data, changes the name of an item in the data store.
Reset: Sets a resource back to its original state.
Search: Creates a reference to a resource in a container.
Select: Locates a resource in a container. For example, the Select-String cmdlet finds text in strings and files.
Set: Replaces data on an existing resource or creates a resource that contains some data. For example, the Set-Date cmdlet changes the system time on the local computer. (The New verb can also be used to create a resource.) This verb is paired with Get.
Show: Makes a resource visible to the user. This verb is paired with Hide.
Skip: Bypasses one or more resources or points in a sequence.
Split: Separates parts of a resource. For example, the Split-Path cmdlet returns different parts of a path. This verb is paired with Join.
Step: Moves to the next point or resource in a sequence.
Switch: Specifies an action that alternates between two resources, such as to change between two locations, responsibilities, or states.
Undo: Sets a resource to its previous state.
Unlock: Releases a resource that was locked. This verb is paired with Lock.
Watch: Continually inspects or monitors a resource for changes.

Common

Data

Backup: Stores data by replicating it.

Checkpoint: Creates a snapshot of the current state of the data or of its configuration.

Compare: Evaluates the data from one resource against the data from another resource.

Compress: Compacts the data of a resource. Pairs with Expand.

Convert: Changes the data from one representation to another when the cmdlet supports bidirectional conversion or when the cmdlet supports conversion between multiple data types.

ConvertFrom: Converts one primary type of input (the cmdlet noun indicates the input) to one or more supported output types.

ConvertTo: Converts from one or more types of input to a primary output type (the cmdlet noun indicates the output type).

Dismount: Detaches a named entity from a location. This verb is paired with Mount.

Edit: Modifies existing data by adding or removing content.

Expand: Restores the data of a resource that has been compressed to its original state. This verb is paired with Compress.

Export: Encapsulates the primary input into a persistent data store, such as a file, or into an interchange format. This verb is paired with Import.

Group: Arranges or associates one or more resources.

Import: Creates a resource from data that is stored in a persistent data store (such as a file) or in an interchange format. For example, the Import-CSV cmdlet imports data from a comma-separated value (CSV) file to objects that can be used by other cmdlets. This verb is paired with Export.

Initialize: Prepares a resource for use, and sets it to a default state.

Limit: Applies constraints to a resource.

Merge: Creates a single resource from multiple resources.

Mount: Attaches a named entity to a location. This verb is paired with Dismount.

Out: Sends data out of the environment. For example, the Out-Printer cmdlet sends data to a printer.

Publish: Makes a resource available to others. This verb is paired with Unpublish.

Restore: Sets a resource to a predefined state, such as a state set by Checkpoint. For example, the Restore-Computer cmdlet starts a system restore on the local computer.

Save: Preserves data to avoid loss.

Sync: Assures that two or more resources are in the same state.

Unpublish: Makes a resource unavailable to others. This verb is paired with Publish.

Update: Brings a resource up-to-date to maintain its state, accuracy, conformance, or compliance. For example, the Update-FormatData cmdlet updates and adds formatting files to the current Windows PowerShell console.

Lifecycle

Approve: Confirms or agrees to the status of a resource or process.

Assert: Affirms the state of a resource.

Complete: Concludes an operation.

Confirm: Acknowledges, verifies, or validates the state of a resource or process.

Deny: Refuses, objects, blocks, or opposes the state of a resource or process.

Disable: Configures a resource to an unavailable or inactive state. For example, the Disable-PSBreakpoint cmdlet makes a breakpoint inactive. This verb is paired with Enable.

Enable: Configures a resource to an available or active state. For example, the Enable-PSBreakpoint cmdlet makes a breakpoint active. This verb is paired with Disable.

Install: Places a resource in a location, and optionally initializes it. This verb is paired with Uninstall.

Invoke: Performs an action, such as running a command or a method.

Register: Creates an entry for a resource in a repository such as a database. This verb is paired with Unregister.

Request: Asks for a resource or asks for permissions.

Restart: Stops an operation and then starts it again. For example, the Restart-Service cmdlet stops and then starts a service.

Resume: Starts an operation that has been suspended. For example, the Resume-Service cmdlet starts a service that has been suspended. This verb is paired with Suspend.

Start: Initiates an operation. For example, the Start-Service cmdlet starts a service. This verb is paired with Stop.

Stop: Discontinues an activity. This verb is paired with Start.

Submit: Presents a resource for approval.

Suspend: Pauses an activity. For example, the Suspend-Service cmdlet pauses a service. This verb is paired with Resume.

Uninstall: Removes a resource from an indicated location. This verb is paired with Install.

Unregister: Removes the entry for a resource from a repository. This verb is paired with Register.

Wait: Pauses an operation until a specified event occurs. For example, the Wait-PSJob cmdlet pauses operations until one or more of the background jobs are complete.

New vs. Set: The New verb is used to create a new resource. The Set verb is used to modify an existing resource, optionally creating the resource if it does not exist, such as the Set-Variable cmdlet.

Find vs. Search: The Find verb is used to look for an object. The Search verb is used to create a reference to a resource in a container.

Get vs. Read: The Get verb is used to retrieve a resource, such as a file. The Read verb is used to get information from a source, such as a file.

Invoke vs. Start: Invoke verb performs an operation that is generally a synchronous op (running a command). The Start verb begins an op that is generally an asynchronous operation (starting a process).

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