PSScriptTools Help Manual (v2.26.1)

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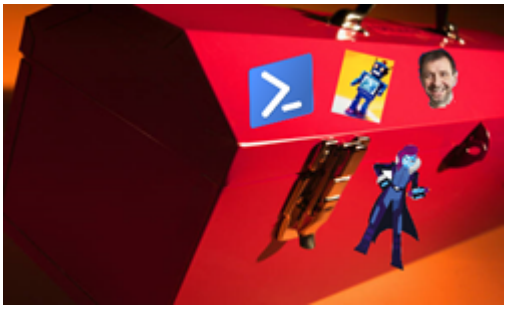


This module contains a collection of functions, variables and format files that you can use to enhance your PowerShell scripting work. Or get more done from a PowerShell prompt with less typing. Most of the commands are designed to work cross-platform. Please post any questions, problems or feedback in Issues. Any feedback is greatly appreciated.

Installation

You can get the current release from this repository or install this the PowerShell Gallery:

```
Install-Module PSScriptTools
```

or in PowerShell 7:

```
Install-Module PSScriptTools [-scope CurrentUser]
```

> Starting in v2.2.0, the module was restructured to better support `Desktop` and `Core` editions. But starting with version 2.13.0, the module design has reverted. All commands will be exported. Anything that is platform specific should be handled on a per command basis. It is assumed you will be running this module in Windows PowerShell 5.1 or PowerShell 7.

Uninstall the Module

To remove the module from your system you can uninstall it.

```
Get-Module PSScriptTools | Remove-Module
Uninstall-Module PSScriptTools -allversions
```

General Tools

Get-ModuleCommand

This is an alternative to `Get-Command` to make it easier to see at a glance what commands are contained within a module and what they can do. By default, `Get-ModuleCommand` looks for loaded modules. Use `-ListAvailable` to see commands in module not currently loaded. Note that if the help file is malformed or missing, you might get oddly formatted results.

```
PS C:\> Get-ModuleCommand PSCalendar


       Verb: Get

    Name                           Alias          Type      Synopsis
    ----                           -----          ----      --------
    Get-Calendar                   cal            Function  Displays a visual representation of a ...


       Verb: Show

    Name                           Alias          Type      Synopsis
    ----                           -----          ----      --------
    Show-Calendar                  scal           Function  Display a colorized calendar month in ...
    Show-GuiCalendar               gcal           Function  Display a WPF-based calendar
```

Get module commands using the default formatted view. There is also a default view for `Format-List`.

Get-PSScriptTools

You can use this command to get a summary list of functions in this module.

```
PS C:\> Get-PSScriptTools


   Verb: Add

Name                      Alias              Synopsis
----                      -----              --------
Add-Border                                   Create a text border around a string.


   Verb: Compare

Name                      Alias              Synopsis
----                      -----              --------
Compare-Module            cmo                Compare PowerShell module versions.


   Verb: Convert

Name                      Alias              Synopsis
----                      -----              --------
Convert-CommandtoHashtable                   Convert a PowerShell expression into a hashtable.
Convert-EventLogRecord    clr                Convert EventLogRecords to structured objects
Convert-HashtableString                      Convert a hashtable string into a hashtable object.
Convert-HashTableToCode                      Convert a hashtable to a string representation.
...
```

Here's another way you could use this command to list functions with defined aliases in the PSScriptTools module.

```
PS C:\> Get-PSScriptTools | Where-object alias | Select-Object Name,alias,Synopsis

Name                  Alias Synopsis
----                  ----- --------
Compare-Module        cmo   Compare PowerShell module versions.
Convert-EventLogRecord clr   Convert EventLogRecords to structured objects
ConvertFrom-Text      cft   Convert structured text to objects.
ConvertFrom-UTCTime   frut  Convert a datetime value from universal
ConvertTo-LocalTime   clt   Convert a foreign time to local
...
```

Convert-EventLogRecord

When you use Get-WinEvent, the results are objects you can work with in PowerShell. However, often times there is additional information that is part of the eventlog record, such as replacement strings, that are used to construct a message. This additional information is not readily exposed. You can use this command to convert results of a Get-WinEvent command into a PowerShell custom object with additional information.

```
PS C:\> get-winevent -FilterHashtable @{Logname='System';ID=7045} -MaxEvents 1 | Convert-EventLogRecord


LogName      : System
RecordType   : Information
TimeCreated  : 1/21/2020 3:49:46 PM
ID           : 7045
ServiceName  : Netwrix Account Lockout Examiner
ImagePath    : "C:\Program Files (x86)\Netwrix\Account Lockout Examiner\ALEService.exe"
ServiceType  : user mode service
StartType    : auto start
AccountName  : bovine320\jeff
Message      : A service was installed in the system.

               Service Name:  Netwrix Account Lockout Examiner
               Service File Name:  "C:\Program Files (x86)\Netwrix\Account Lockout Examiner\ALEService.exe"
               Service Type:  user mode service
               Service Start Type:  auto start
               Service Account:  bovine320\jeff
Keywords     : {Classic}
Source       : Service Control Manager
Computername : Bovine320
```

Get-WhoIs

This command will retrieve WhoIs information from the ARIN database for a given IPv4 address.

```
PS C:\> get-whois 208.67.222.222 | select-object -Property *

IP                   : 208.67.222.222
Name                 : OPENDNS-NET-1
RegisteredOrganization : Cisco OpenDNS, LLC
City                 : San Francisco
StartAddress         : 208.67.216.0
EndAddress           : 208.67.223.255
NetBlocks            : 208.67.216.0/21
Updated              : 3/2/2012 8:03:18 AM

PS C:\> '1.1.1.1','8.8.8.8','208.67.222.222'| get-whois

Name            IP            RegisteredOrganization                NetBlocks       Updated
----            --            ----------------------                ---------       -------
APNIC-1         1.1.1.1       Asia Pacific Network Information Centre 1.0.0.0/8       7/30/2010 8:23:43 AM
LVLT-GOGL-8-8-8 8.8.8.8       Google LLC                            8.8.8.0/24      3/14/2014 3:52:05 PM
OPENDNS-NET-1   208.67.222.222 Cisco OpenDNS, LLC                    208.67.216.0/21 3/2/2012 8:03:18 AM
```

This module includes a custom format file for these results.

Compare-Module

Use this command to compare module versions between what is installed against an online repository like the PSGallery

```
PS C:\> Compare-Module Platyps


Name             : platyPS
OnlineVersion    : 0.14.0
InstalledVersion : 0.14.0,0.12.0,0.11.1,0.10.2,0.9.0
PublishedDate    : 4/3/2019 12:46:30 AM
UpdateNeeded     : False
```

Or you can compare and manage multiple modules.

```
Compare-Module | Where UpdateNeeded | Out-Gridview -title "Select modules to update" -outputMode multiple | Foreach {
Update-Module $_.name }
```

This example compares modules and send results to `Out-Gridview`. Use `Out-Gridview` as an object picker to decide what modules to update.

Get-WindowsVersion

This is a PowerShell version of the `winver.exe` utility. This command uses PowerShell remoting to query the registry on a remote machine to retrieve Windows version information.

```
   Computername: WIN10

ProductName                  EditionID           ReleaseID  Build  InstalledUTC
-----------                  ---------           ---------  -----  ------------
Windows 10 Enterprise        EnterpriseEval      1903       18362  2/6/2020 5:28:34 PM
Evaluation


   Computername: SRV1

ProductName                  EditionID           ReleaseID  Build  InstalledUTC
-----------                  ---------           ---------  -----  ------------
Windows Server 2016 Standard ServerStandardEval  1607       14393  2/6/2020 5:27:42 PM
Evaluation


   Computername: SRV2

ProductName                  EditionID           ReleaseID  Build  InstalledUTC
-----------                  ---------           ---------  -----  ------------
Windows Server 2016 Standard ServerStandardEval  1607       14393  2/6/2020 5:28:13 PM
Evaluation
```

The output has a default table view but there are other properties you might want to use.

```
PS C:\> get-windowsversion | Select-object *


ProductName  : Windows 10 Pro
EditionID    : Professional
ReleaseID    : 1909
Build        : 18363.657
Branch       : 19h1_release
InstalledUTC : 7/5/2019 10:54:49 PM
Computername : BOVINE320
```

Get-WindowsVersionString

This command is a variation of `Get-WindowsVersion` that returns a formatted string with version information.

```
PS C:\> Get-WindowsVersionString
BOVINE320 Windows 10 Pro Version Professional (OS Build 18363.657)
```

New-PSDriveHere

This function will create a new PSDrive at the specified location. The default is the current location, but you can specify any PSPath. The function will take the last word of the path and use it as the name of the new PSDrive.

```
PS C:\users\jeff\documents\Enterprise Mgmt Webinar> new-psdrivehere

Name           Used (GB)     Free (GB) Provider      Root                                    CurrentLocation
----           ---------     --------- --------      ----                                    ---------------
Webinar                         146.57 FileSystem    C:\users\jeff\Documents\Enter...
```

Get-MyVariable

This function will return all variables not defined by PowerShell or by this function itself. The default is to return all user-created variables from the global scope but you can also specify a scope such as script, local or a number 0 through 5.

```
PS C:\> Get-MyVariable

NName Value                 Type
----- -----                 ----
a     bits                  ServiceController
dt    10/22/2018 10:49:38 AM DateTime
foo   123                   Int32
r     {1, 2, 3, 4...}       Object[]
...
```

Depending on the value and how PowerShell chooses to display it, you may not see the type.

ConvertFrom-Text

This command can be used to convert text from a file or a command line tool into objects. It uses a regular expression pattern with named captures and turns the result into a custom object. You have the option of specifying a typename in case you are using custom format files.

```
PS C:\> $arp = '(?<IPAddress>(\d{1,3}\.){3}\d{1,3})\s+(?<MAC>(\w{2}-){5}\w{2})\s+(?<Type>\w+$)'
PS C:\> arp -g -N 172.16.10.22 | select -skip 3 | foreach {$_.Trim()} | ConvertFrom-Text $arp -TypeName arpData
-NoProgress

IPAddress          MAC                   Type
---------          ---                   ----
172.16.10.1        b6-fb-e4-16-41-be     dynamic
172.16.10.100      00-11-32-58-7b-10     dynamic
172.16.10.115      5c-aa-fd-0c-bf-fa     dynamic
172.16.10.120      5c-1d-d9-58-81-51     dynamic
172.16.10.159      3c-e1-a1-17-6d-0a     dynamic
172.16.10.162      00-0e-58-ce-8b-b6     dynamic
172.16.10.178      00-0e-58-8c-13-ac     dynamic
172.16.10.185      d0-04-01-26-b5-61     dynamic
172.16.10.186      e8-b2-ac-95-92-98     dynamic
172.16.10.197      fc-77-74-9f-f4-2f     dynamic
172.16.10.211      14-20-5e-93-42-fb     dynamic
172.16.10.222      28-39-5e-3b-04-33     dynamic
172.16.10.226      00-0e-58-e9-49-c0     dynamic
172.16.10.227      48-88-ca-e1-a6-00     dynamic
172.16.10.239      5c-aa-fd-83-f1-a4     dynamic
172.16.255.255     ff-ff-ff-ff-ff-ff      static
224.0.0.2          01-00-5e-00-00-02      static
224.0.0.7          01-00-5e-00-00-07      static
224.0.0.22         01-00-5e-00-00-16      static
224.0.0.251        01-00-5e-00-00-fb      static
224.0.0.252        01-00-5e-00-00-fc      static
239.255.255.250    01-00-5e-7f-ff-fa      static
```

This example uses a previously created and import format.ps1xml file for the custom type name.

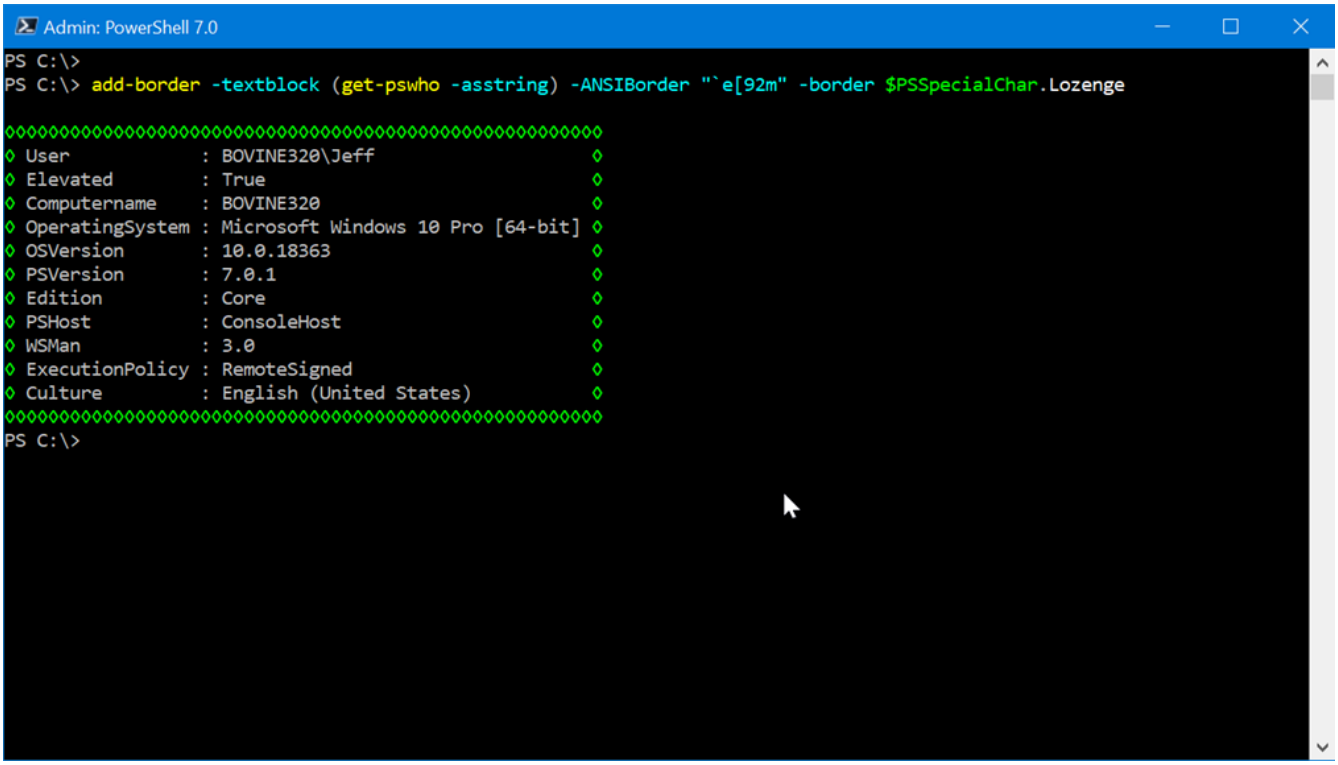
Get-PSWho

This command will provide a summary of relevant information for the current user in a PowerShell Session. You might use this to troubleshoot an end-user problem running a script or command.

```
PS C:\> Get-PSWho

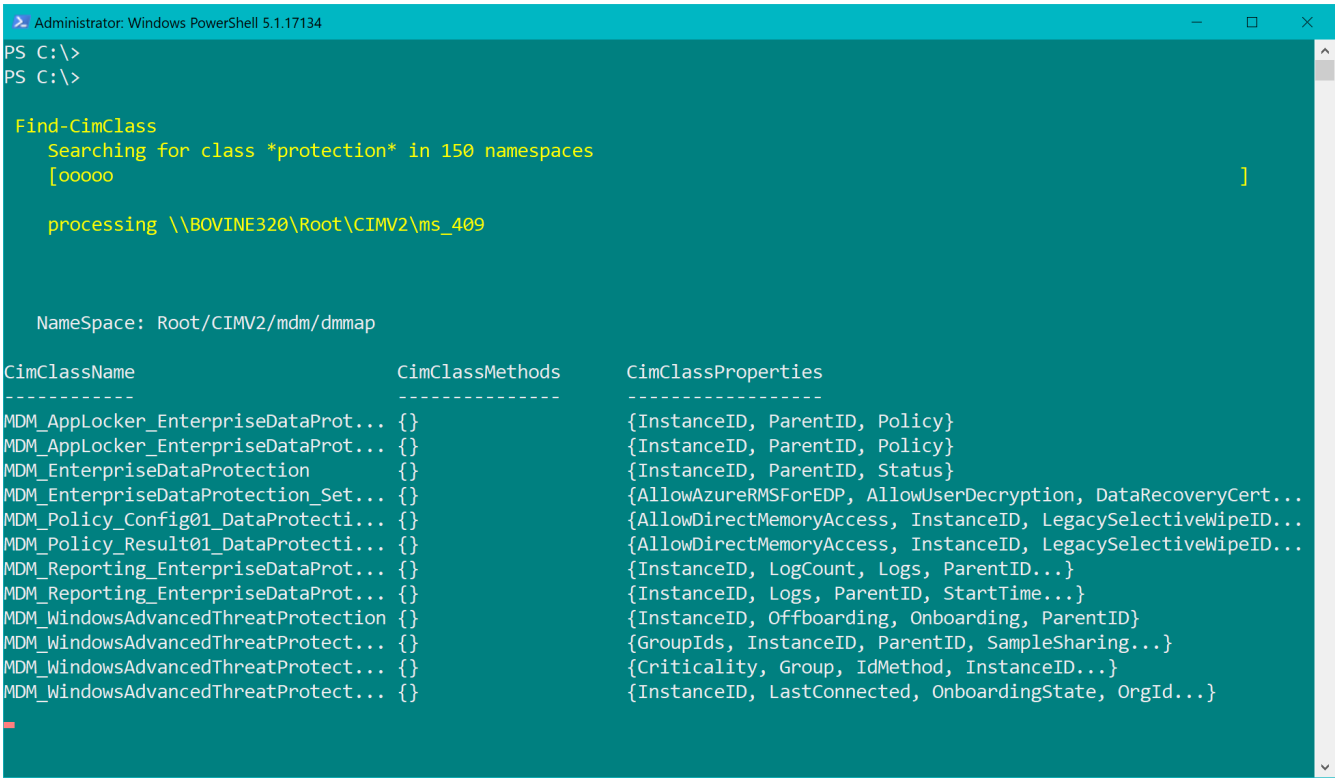
User            : BOVINE320\Jeff
Elevated        : True
Computername    : BOVINE320
OperatingSystem : Microsoft Windows 10 Pro [64-bit]
OSVersion       : 10.0.18363
PSVersion       : 5.1.18362.145
Edition         : Desktop
PSHost          : ConsoleHost
WSMan           : 3.0
ExecutionPolicy : RemoteSigned
Culture         : English (United States)
```

You can also turn this into a text block using the `AsString` parameter. This is helpful when you want to include the output in some type of report.



Find-CimClass

This function is designed to search an entire CIM repository for a class name. Sometimes, you may have a guess about a class name but not know the full name or even the correct namespace. `Find-CimClass` will recursively search for a given classname. You can use wildcards and search remote computers.



Out-VerboseTee

This command is intended to let you see your verbose output and write the verbose messages to a log file. It will only work if the verbose pipeline is enabled, usually when your command is run with -Verbose. This function is designed to be used within your scripts and functions. You either have to hard code a file name or find some other way to define it in your function or control script. You could pass a value as a parameter or set it as a `PSDefaultParameterValue`.

This command has aliases of `Tee-Verbose` and `tv`.

```
Begin {
    $log = New-RandomFilename -useTemp -extension log
    Write-Detail "Starting $($myinvocation.mycommand)" -Prefix begin | Tee-Verbose $log
    Write-Detail "Logging verbose output to $log" -prefix begin | Tee-Verbose -append
    Write-Detail "Initializing data array" -Prefix begin | Tee-Verbose $log -append
    $data = @()
} #begin
```

When the command is run with -Verbose you will see the verbose output **and** it will be saved to the specified log file.

Remove-Runspace

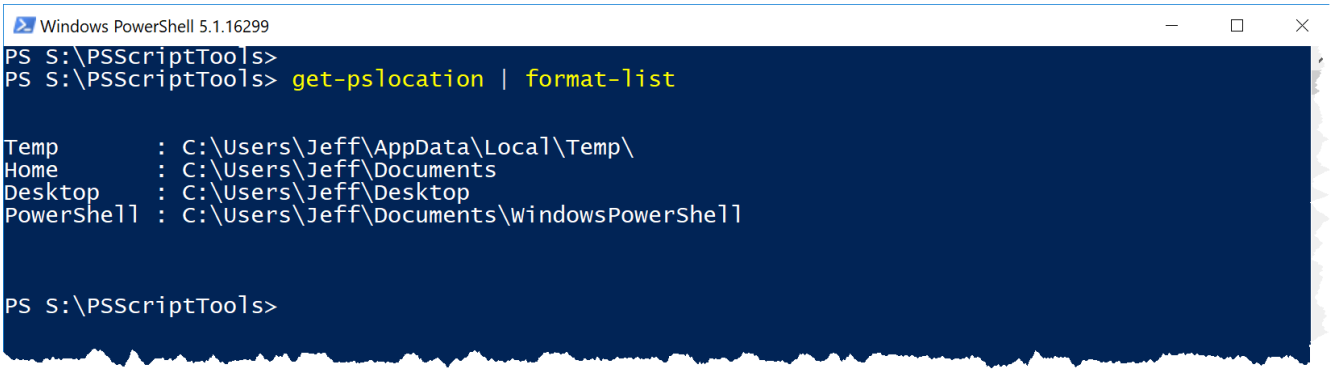
During the course of your PowerShell work, you may discover that some commands and scripts can leave behind runspaces such as `ConvertTo-WPFGrid`. You may even deliberately be creating additional runspaces. These runspaces will remain until you exit your PowerShell session. Or use this command to cleanly close and dispose of runspaces.

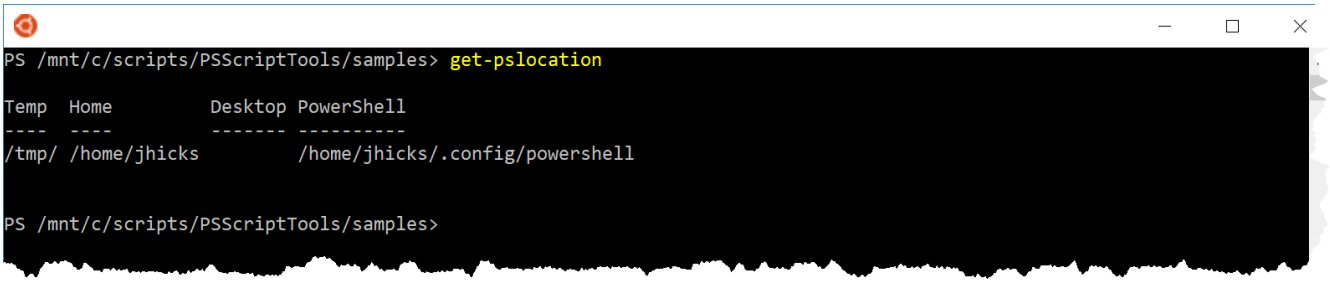
```
PS C:\> Get-RunSpace | where ID -gt 1 | Remove-RunSpace
```

Get all runspaces with an ID greater than 1, which is typically your current session, and remove the runspace.

Get-PSLocation

A simple function to get common locations. This can be useful with cross-platform scripting.





Get-PowerShellEngine

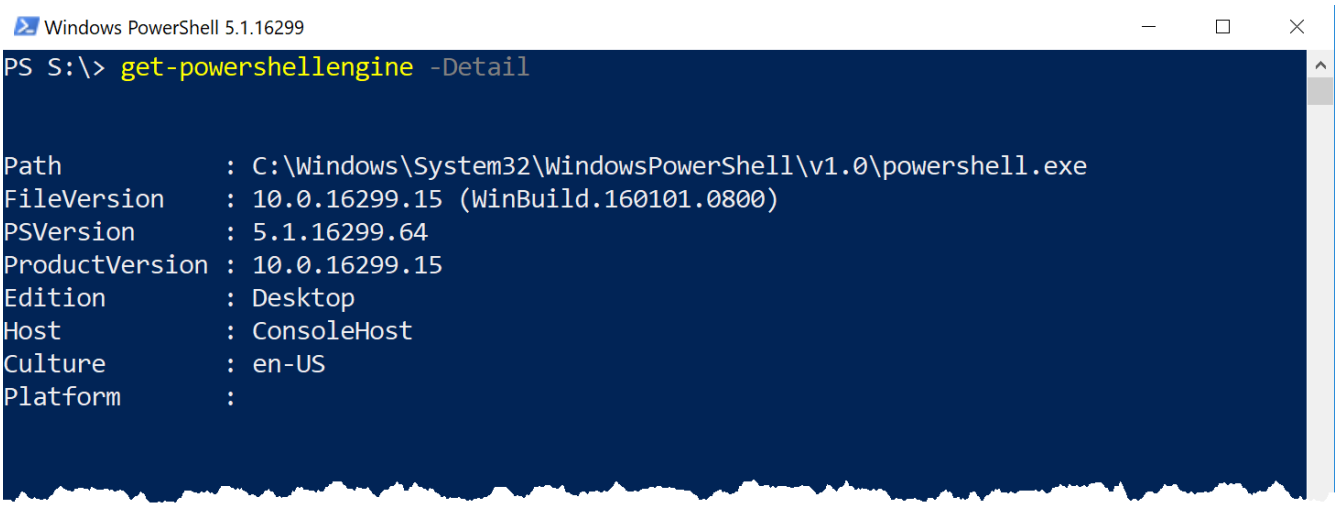
Use this command to quickly get the path to the PowerShell executable. In Windows you should get a result like this:

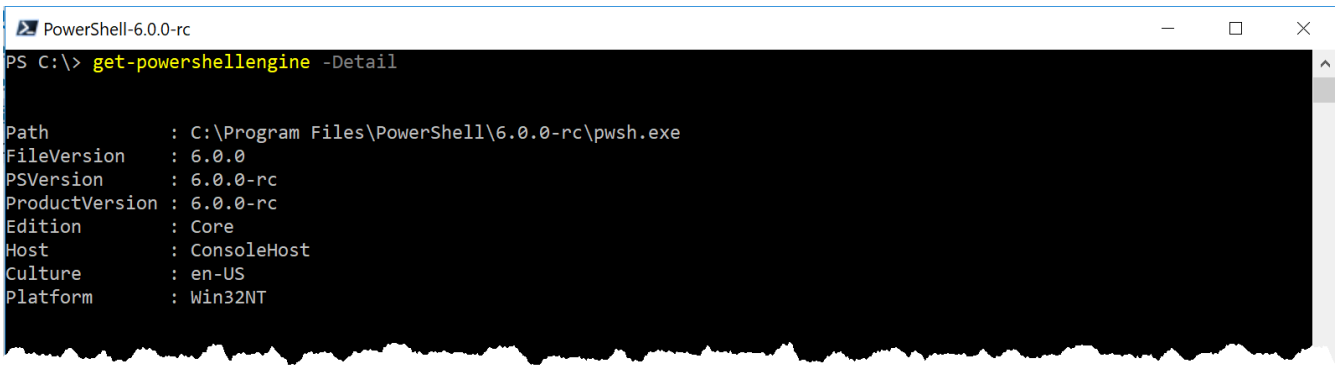
```
PS C:\> Get-PowerShellEngine
C:\Windows\System32\WindowsPowerShell\v1.0\powershell.exe
```

But PowerShell on non-Windows platforms is a bit different:

```
PS /home/jhicks> Get-PowerShellEngine
/opt/microsoft/powershell/7/pwsh
```

You can also get detailed information.





Results will vary depending on whether you are running PowerShell on Windows nor non-Windows systems.

Get-PathVariable

Over time, as you add and remove programs, your `%PATH%` might change. An application may add a location but not remove it when you uninstall the application. This command makes it easier to identify locations and whether they are still good.

```
PS C:\> Get-PathVariable

Scope   UserName Path                                                          Exists
-----   -------- ----                                                          ------
User    Jeff     C:\Program Files\kdiff3                                       True
User    Jeff     C:\Program Files (x86)\Bitvise SSH Client                     True
User    Jeff     C:\Program Files\OpenSSH                                      True
User    Jeff     C:\Program Files\Intel\WiFi\bin\                              True
User    Jeff     C:\Program Files\Common Files\Intel\WirelessCommon\            True
User    Jeff     C:\Users\Jeff\AppData\Local\Programs\Microsoft VS Code\bin    True
User    Jeff     C:\Program Files (x86)\Vale\                                  True
...
```

File Tools

Test-EmptyFolder

This command will test if a given folder path is empty of all files anywhere in the path. This includes hidden files. The command will return True even if there are empty sub-folders. The default output is True or False but you can use -Passthru to get more information.

```
PS C:\> Get-Childitem c:\work -Directory | test-EmptyFolder -passthru | Where-object {$_.Isempty} | Foreach-Object {
Remove-Item -LiteralPath $_.path -Recurse -force -whatif}
What if: Performing the operation "Remove Directory" on target "C:\work\demo3".
What if: Performing the operation "Remove Directory" on target "C:\work\installers".
What if: Performing the operation "Remove Directory" on target "C:\work\new".
What if: Performing the operation "Remove Directory" on target "C:\work\sqlback".
What if: Performing the operation "Remove Directory" on target "C:\work\todd".
What if: Performing the operation "Remove Directory" on target "C:\work\[data]".
```

Find all empty sub-folders under C:\Work and pipe them to Remove-Item. This is one way to remove empty folders. The example is piping objects to ForEach-Object so that Remove-Item can use the -LiteralPath parameter, because C:\work[data] is a non-standard path.

Get-FolderSizeInfo

Use this command to quickly get the size of a folder. You also have an option to include hidden files. The command will measure all files in all subdirectories.

```
PS C:\> get-foldersizeinfo c:\work

Computername    Path                                                TotalFiles     TotalSize
------------    ----                                                ----------     ---------
BOVINE320       C:\work                                                    931     137311146


PS C:\> get-foldersizeinfo c:\work -Hidden

Computername    Path                                                TotalFiles     TotalSize
------------    ----                                                ----------     ---------
BOVINE320       C:\work                                                   1375     137516856
```

The command includes a format file with additional view to display the total size in KB, MB, GB or TB.

```
PS C:\> Get-ChildItem D:\ -Directory | Get-FolderSizeInfo -Hidden | Where-Object TotalSize -gt 1gb | Sort-Object
TotalSize -Descending | format-table -View gb

Computername    Path                                              TotalFiles   TotalSizeGB
------------    ----                                              ----------   -----------
BOVINE320       D:\Autolab                                           159      137.7192
BOVINE320       D:\VMDisks                                            18      112.1814
BOVINE320       D:\ISO                                                17       41.5301
BOVINE320       D:\FileHistory                                    104541       36.9938
BOVINE320       D:\Vagrant                                            13       19.5664
BOVINE320       D:\Vms                                                83        5.1007
BOVINE320       D:\2016                                             1130        4.9531
BOVINE320       D:\video                                             125         2.592
BOVINE320       D:\blog                                            21804        1.1347
BOVINE320       D:\pstranscripts                                  122092        1.0914
```

Or you can use the `name` view.

```
PS C:\> Get-ChildItem c:\work -Directory | Get-FolderSizeInfo -Hidden | Where-Object {$_.totalsize -ge 2mb} | Format-
Table -view name


   Path: C:\work

Name                   TotalFiles      TotalKB
----                   ----------      -------
A                              20    5843.9951
keepass                        15     5839.084
PowerShellBooks                26    4240.3779
sunday                         47   24540.6523
```

Optimize-Text

Use this command to clean and optimize content from text files. Sometimes text files have blank lines or the content has trailing spaces. These sorts of issues can cause problems when passing the content to other commands.

This command will strip out any lines that are blank or have nothing by white space, and trim leading and trailing spaces. The optimized text is then written back to the pipeline. Optionally, you can specify a property name. This can be useful when your text file is a list of computer names and you want to take advantage of pipeline binding.

Get-FileItem

A PowerShell version of the CLI `where.exe` command. You can search with a simple or regex pattern.

```
PS C:\> pswhere winword.exe -Path c:\ -Recurse -first

C:\Program Files\Microsoft Office\root\Office16\WINWORD.EXE
```

Note that you might see errors for directories where you don't have access permission. This is normal.

New-CustomFileName

This command will generate a custom file name based on a template string that you provide.

```
PS C:\> New-CustomFileName %computername_%day%monthname%yr-%time.log
COWPC_28Nov19-142138.log

PS C:\> New-CustomFileName %dayofweek-%####.dat
Tuesday-3128.dat
```

You can create a template string using any of these variables. Most of these should be self-explanatory.

- %username
- %computername
- %year - 4 digit year
- %yr - 2 digit year
- %monthname - The abbreviated month name
- %month - The month number
- %dayofweek - The full name of the week day
- %day
- %hour
- %minute
- %time
- %string - A random string
- %guid

You can also insert a random number using `%` followed by a `#` character for each digit you want.

```
22 = %##
654321 = %######
```

New-RandomFileName

Create a new random file name. The default is a completely random name including the extension.

```
PS C:\> new-randomfilename
fykxecvh.ipw
```

But you can specify an extension.

```
PS C:\> new-randomfilename -extension dat
emevgq3r.dat
```

Optionally you can create a random file name using the TEMP folder or your HOME folder. On Windows platforms this will default to your Documents folder.

```
PS C:\> new-randomfilename -extension log -UseHomeFolder
C:\Users\Jeff\Documents\kbyw4fda.log
```

On Linux machines it will be the home folder.

```
PS /mnt/c/scripts> new-randomfilename -home -Extension tmp
/home/jhicks/oces0epq.tmp
```

ConvertTo-Markdown

This command is designed to accept pipelined output and create a markdown document. The pipeline output will formatted as a text block or a table You can optionally define a title, content to appear before the output and content to appear after the output. You can run a command like this:

```
Get-Service Bits,Winrm | Convertto-Markdown -title "Service Check" -precontent "## $($env:computername)"  -postcontent
"_report $(Get-Date)_"
```

which generates this markdown:

```
    # Service Check

    ## BOVINE320

    ```text

    Status   Name               DisplayName
    ------   ----               -----------+
    Running  Bits               Background Intelligent Transfer Ser...
    Running  Winrm              Windows Remote Management (WS-Manag...
    ```

    report 09/25/2019 09:57:12
```

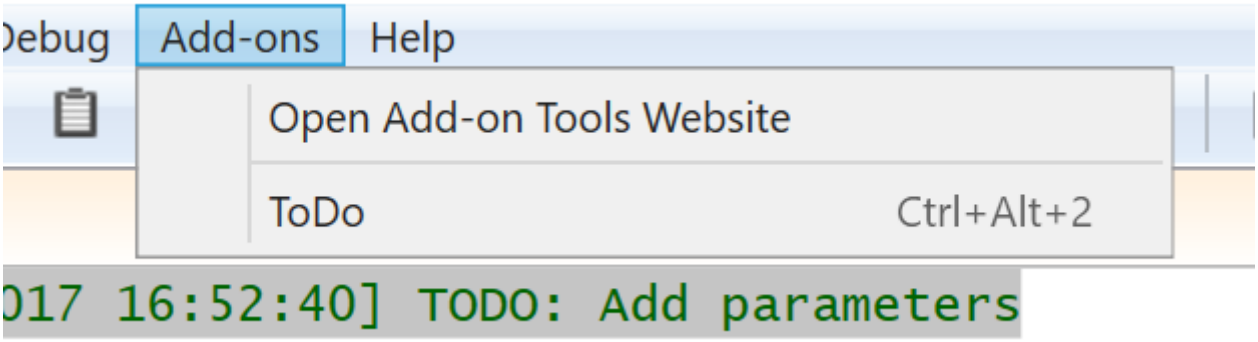
Because the function writes markdown to the pipeline you will need to pipe it to a command `Out-File` to create a file.

ToDo

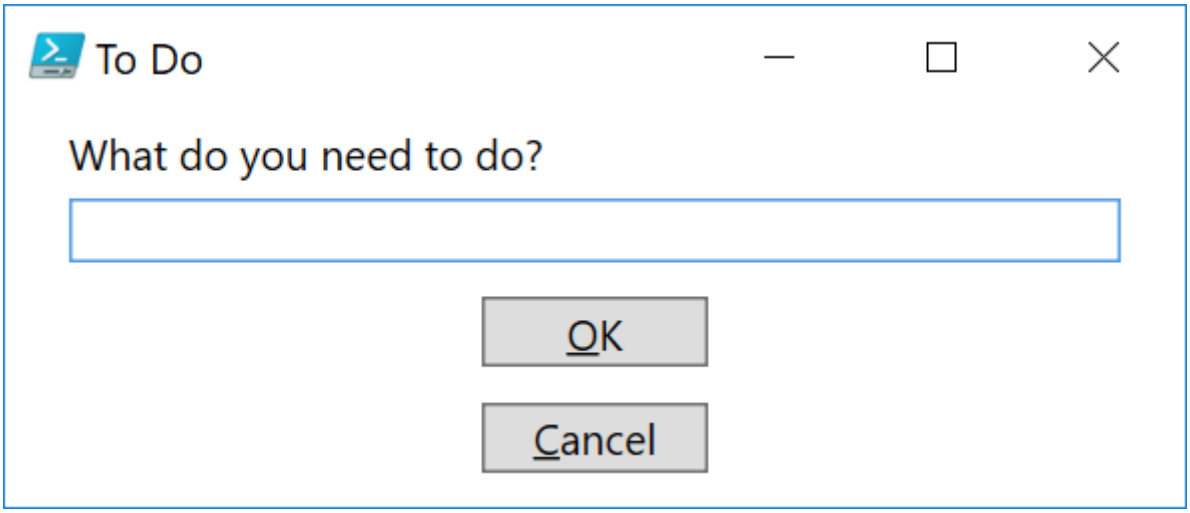
Because this module is intended to make scripting easier for you, it adds options to insert ToDo statements into PowerShell files. If you are using the PowerShell ISE or VS Code and import this module, it will add the capability to insert a line like this:

```
    # [12/13/2018 16:52:40] TODO: Add parameters
```

In the PowerShell ISE, you will get a new menu under Add-Ons.



You can use the menu or keyboard shortcut which will launch an input box.



The comment will be inserted at the current cursor location.

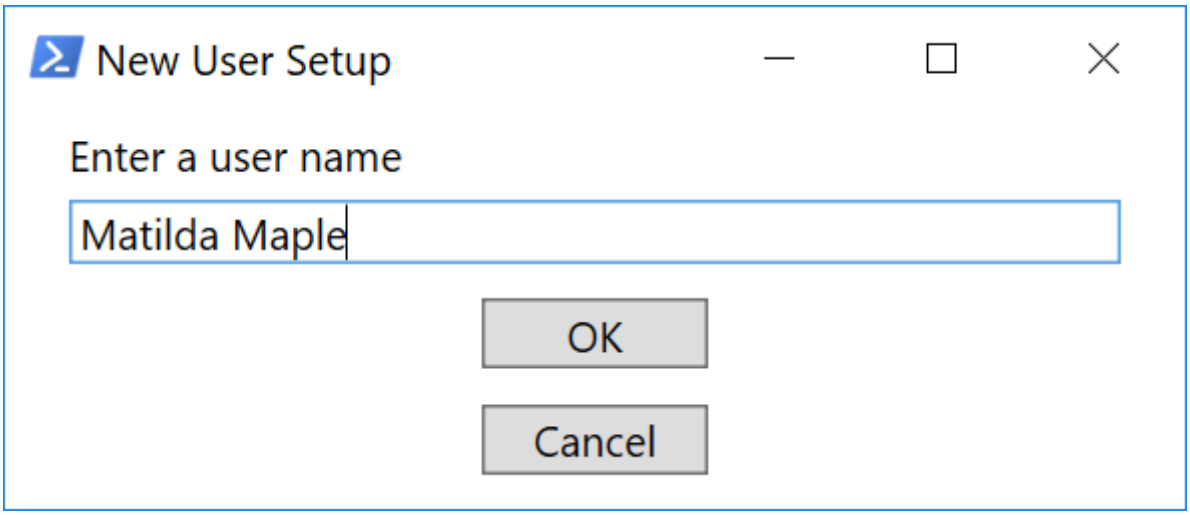
In VS Code, access the command palette (Ctrl+Shift+P) and then `PowerShell: Show Additional Commands from PowerShell Modules`. Select `Insert ToDo` from the list and you'll get the same input box. Note that this will only work for PowerShell files.

Graphical Tools

Invoke-InputBox

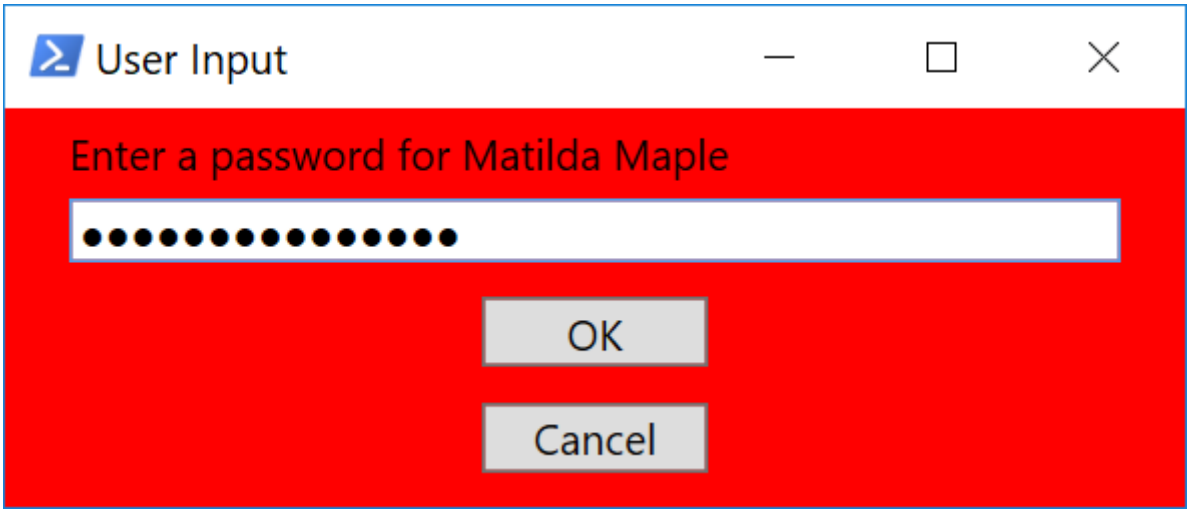
This function is a graphical replacement for `Read-Host`. It creates a simple WPF form that you can use to get user input. The value of the text box will be written to the pipeline.

```
$name = Invoke-InputBox -Prompt "Enter a user name" -Title "New User Setup"
```



You can also capture a secure string.

```
Invoke-Inputbox -Prompt "Enter a password for $Name" -AsSecureString -BackgroundColor red
```



This example also demonstrates that you can change form's background color. This function will **not** work in PowerShell Core.

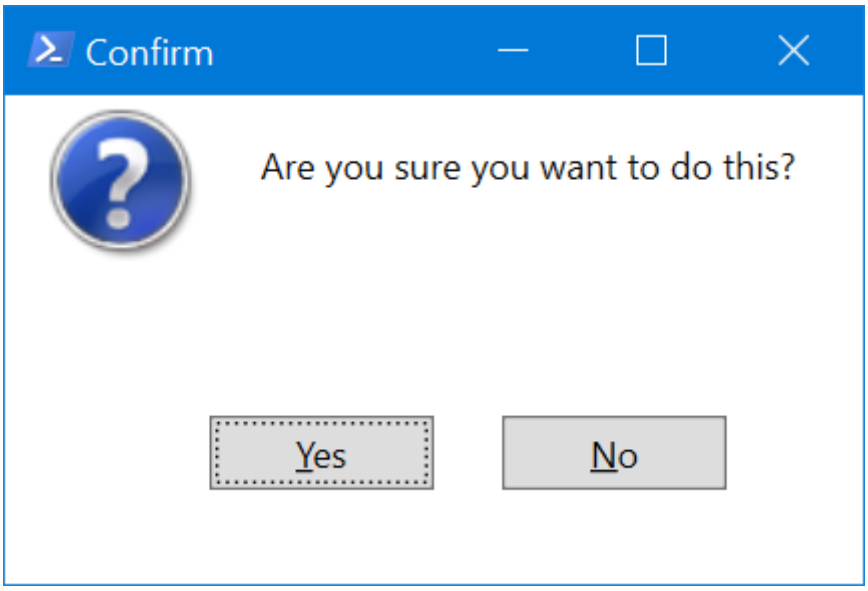
New-WPFMessageBox

This function creates a Windows Presentation Foundation (WPF) based message box. This is intended to replace the legacy MsgBox function from VBScript and the Windows Forms library. The command uses a set of predefined button sets, each of which will close the form and write a value to the pipeline.

- OK = 1
- Cancel = 0
- Yes = $True
- No = $False

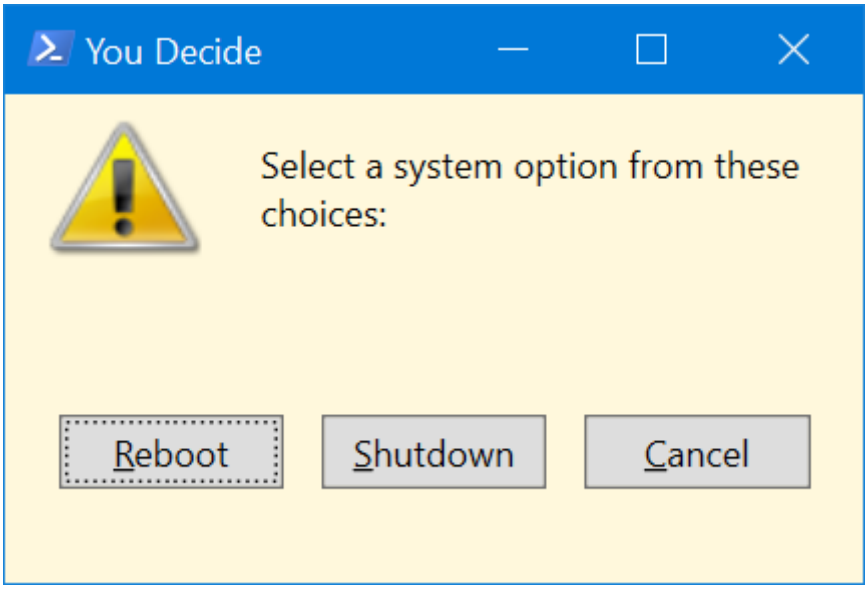
You can also create an ordered hashtable of your own buttons and values. It is assumed you will typically use this function in a script where you can capture the output and take some action based on the value.

```
PS C:\> New-WPFMessageBox -Message "Are you sure you want to do this?" -Title Confirm -Icon Question -ButtonSet YesNo
```



You can also create your own custom button set as well as modify the background color.

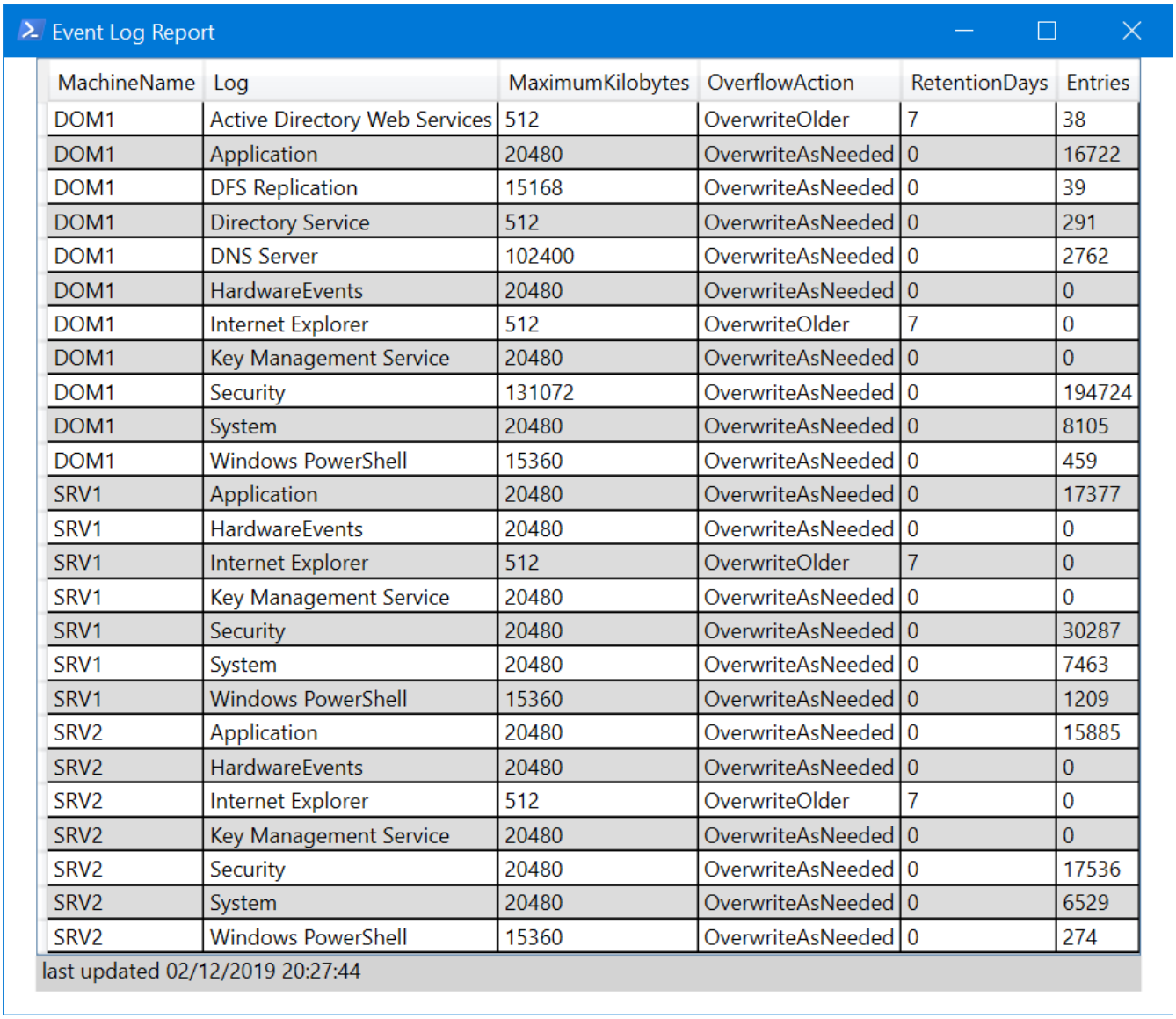
```
PS C:\> New-WPFMessageBox -Message "Select a system option from these choices:" -Title "You Decide" -Background cornsilk
-Icon Warning -CustomButtonSet ([ordered]@{"Reboot"=1;"Shutdown"=2;"Cancel"=3})
```



ConvertTo-WPFGrid

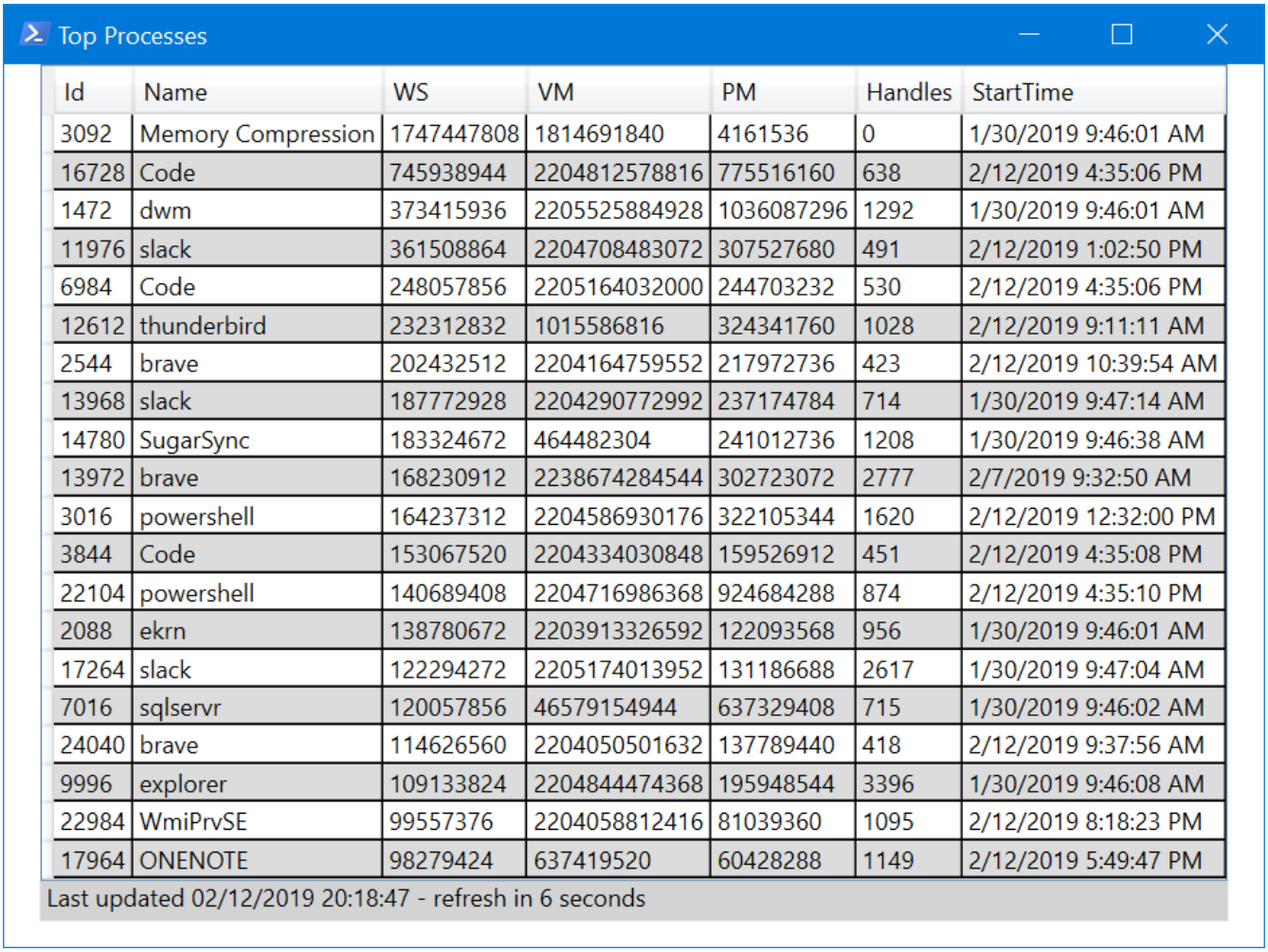
This command is an alternative to `Out-Gridview`. It works much the same way. Run a PowerShell command and pipe it to this command. The output will be displayed in an auto-sized data grid. You can click on column headings to sort. You can resize columns and you can re-order columns.

```
get-eventlog -list -ComputerName DOM1,SRV1,SRV2 |
Select Machinename,Log,MaximumKilobytes,Overflowaction,
@{Name="RetentionDays";Expression={$_.MinimumRetentionDays}},
@{Name="Entries";Expression = {$_.entries.count}} |
ConvertTo-WPFGrid -Title "Event Log Report"
```



You can also have automatically refresh the data.

```
get-process | sort-object WS -Descending | Select -first 20 ID,Name,WS,VM,PM,Handles,StartTime |
Convertto-WPFGrid -Refresh -timeout 20 -Title "Top Processes"
```



Note that in v2.4.0 the form layout was modified and may not be reflected in these screen shots.

Hashtable Tools

Convert-CommandtoHashtable

This command is intended to convert a long PowerShell expression with named parameters into a splatting alternative.

```
PS C:\> Convert-CommandtoHashtable -Text "get-eventlog -listlog -computername a,b,c,d -erroraction stop"

$paramHash = @{
  listlog = $True
   computername = "a","b","c","d"
   erroraction = "stop"
}

Get-EventLog @paramHash
```

Convert-HashtableString

This function is similar to `Import-PowerShellDataFile`. But where that command can only process a file, this command will take any hashtable-formatted string and convert it into an actual hashtable.

```
PS C:\> get-content c:\work\test.psd1 | unprotect-cmsmessage | Convert-HashtableString

Name                           Value
----                           -----
CreatedBy                      BOVINE320\Jeff
CreatedAt                      10/02/2018 21:28:47 UTC
Computername                   Think51
Error
Completed                      True
Date                           10/02/2018 21:29:35 UTC
Scriptblock                    restart-service spooler -force
CreatedOn                      BOVINE320
```

The test.psd1 file is protected as a CMS Message. In this example, the contents are decoded as a string which is then in turn converted into an actual hashtable.

Convert-HashTableToCode

Use this command to convert a hashtable into its text or string equivalent.

```
PS C:\> $h = @{Name="SRV1";Asset=123454;Location="Omaha"}
PS C:\> convert-hashtabletocode $h
@{
        Name = 'SRV1'
        Asset = 123454
        Location = 'Omaha'
}
```

Convert a hashtable object to a string equivalent that you can copy into your script.

ConvertTo-HashTable

This command will take an object and create a hashtable based on its properties. You can have the hashtable exclude some properties as well as properties that have no value.

```
PS C:\> Get-Process -id $pid | select name,id,handles,workingset | ConvertTo-HashTable

Name                           Value
----                           -----
WorkingSet                     418377728
Name                           powershell_ise
Id                             3456
Handles                        958
```

Join-HashTable

This command will combine two hashtables into a single hashtable.Join-Hashtable will test for duplicate keys. If any of the keys from the first, or primary hashtable are found in the secondary hashtable, you will be prompted for which to keep. Or you can use -Force which will always keep the conflicting key from the first hashtable.

```
PS C:\> $a=@{Name="Jeff";Count=3;Color="Green"}
PS C:\> $b=@{Computer="HAL";Enabled=$True;Year=2020;Color="Red"}
PS C:\> join-hashtable $a $b
Duplicate key Color
A Green
B Red
Which key do you want to KEEP \[AB\]?: A

Name                           Value
----                           -----
Year                           2020
Name                           Jeff
Enabled                        True
Color                          Green
Computer                       HAL
Count                          3
```

Rename-Hashtable

This command allows you to rename a key in an existing hashtable or ordered dictionary object.

```
PS C:\> $h = Get-Service Spooler | ConvertTo-HashTable
```

The hashtable in $h has Machinename property which can be renamed.

```
PS C:\> Rename-HashTable -Name h -Key Machinename -NewKey Computername -Passthru

Name                           Value
----                           -----
ServiceType                    Win32OwnProcess, InteractiveProcess
ServiceName                    Spooler
Container
CanPauseAndContinue            False
RequiredServices               {RPCSS, http}
ServicesDependedOn             {RPCSS, http}
Computername                   .
CanStop                        True
StartType                      Automatic
Site
ServiceHandle                  SafeServiceHandle
DisplayName                    Print Spooler
CanShutdown                    False
Status                         Running
Name                           Spooler
DependentServices              {Fax}
```

Select Functions

The module contains 2 functions which simplify the use of `Select-Object`. The commands are intended to make it easier to select the first or last X number of objects. The commands include features so that you can sort the incoming objects on a given property first.

```
PS C:\> get-process | select-first 5 -Property WS -Descending

Handles  NPM(K)    PM(K)      WS(K)     CPU(s)      Id  SI ProcessName
-------  ------    -----      -----     ------      --  -- -----------
    696      89   615944     426852     391.97    7352   0 sqlservr
    541      78   262532     274576     278.41    6208   8 Code
   1015      70   227824     269504     137.39   16484   8 powershell_ise
   1578     111   204852     254640      98.58   21332   8 firefox
    884      44   221872     245712     249.23   12456   8 googledrivesync
```

Time Functions

The module has a few date and time related commands.

ConvertTo-UTCTime

Convert a local datetime value to universal time. The default is to convert now but you can specify a datetime value.

```
PS C:\> ConvertTo-UTCTime

Monday, March 4, 2019 5:51:26 PM
```

Convert a datetime that is UTC-5 to universal time.

ConvertFrom-UTCTime

```
PS C:\> ConvertFrom-UTCTime "3/4/2019 6:00PM"

Monday, March 4, 2019 1:00:00 PM
```

Convert a universal datetime to the local time.

Get-MyTimeInfo

Display a time settings for a collection of locations. This command is a PowerShell equivalent of a world clock. It will display a datetime value against a collection of locations. You can specify an ordered hashtable of locations and time zones. You can run command like:

```
[System.TimeZoneinfo]::GetSystemTimeZones() | out-gridview
```

or

```
Get-TimeZone -listavailable
```

To discover time zone names. Note that the ID is case-sensitive. You can then use the command like this:

```
PS C:\> Get-MyTimeInfo -Locations ([ordered]@{Seattle="Pacific Standard time";"New Zealand" = "New Zealand Standard
Time"}) -HomeTimeZone "central standard time" | Select Now,Home,Seattle,'New Zealand'

Now                 Home                Seattle             New Zealand
---                 ----                -------             -----------
3/4/2019 1:18:36 PM 3/4/2019 12:18:36 PM 3/4/2019 10:18:36 AM 3/5/2019 7:18:36 AM
```

This is a handy command when traveling and your laptop is using a locally derived time and you want to see the time in other locations. It is recommended that you set a PSDefaultParameter value for the HomeTimeZone parameter in your PowerShell profile.

ConvertTo-LocalTime

It can be tricky sometimes to see a time in a foreign location and try to figure out what that time is locally. This command attempts to simplify this process. In addition to the remote time, you need the base UTC offset for the remote location.

```
PS C:\> get-timezone -ListAvailable | where id -match hawaii


Id                         : Hawaiian Standard Time
DisplayName                : (UTC-10:00) Hawaii
StandardName               : Hawaiian Standard Time
DaylightName               : Hawaiian Daylight Time
BaseUtcOffset              : -10:00:00
SupportsDaylightSavingTime : False

PS C:\> Convertto-LocalTime "10:00AM" -10:00:00

Thursday, March 14, 2019 4:00:00 PM
```

In this example, the user if first determining the UTC offset for Hawaii. Then 10:00AM in say Honolulu, is converted to local time which in this example is in the Eastern Time zone.

Get-TZList

This command uses a free and publicly available REST API offered by http://worldtimeapi.org to get a list of time zone areas. You can get a list of all areas or by geographic location. Use Get-TZData to then retrieve details.

```
PS C:\> get-tzlist Australia
Australia/Adelaide
Australia/Brisbane
Australia/Broken_Hill
Australia/Currie
Australia/Darwin
Australia/Eucla
Australia/Hobart
Australia/Lindeman
Australia/Lord_Howe
Australia/Melbourne
Australia/Perth
Australia/Sydney
```

Get-TZData

This command also uses the API from worldtimeapi.org to retrieve details about a give time zone area.

```
PS C:\> Get-TZData Australia/Hobart

Timezone                      Label        Offset     DST                  Time
--------                      -----        ------     ---                  ----
Australia/Hobart              AEDT       11:00:00    True  3/16/2019 3:43:14 AM
```

The Time value is the current time at the remote location. The command presents a formatted object but you can also get the raw data.

```
PS C:\> Get-TZData Australia/Hobart -Raw


week_number  : 11
utc_offset   : +11:00
unixtime     : 1552668285
timezone     : Australia/Hobart
dst_until    : 2019-04-06T16:00:00+00:00
dst_from     : 2018-10-06T16:00:00+00:00
dst          : True
day_of_year  : 75
day_of_week  : 6
datetime     : 2019-03-16T03:44:45.689655+11:00
abbreviation : AEDT
```

ConvertTo-LexicalTime

When working with timespans or durations in XML files, such as those from scheduled tasks, the format is a little different than what you might expect. The specification is described at https://www.w3.org/TR/xmlschema-2/#duration. Use this command to convert a timespan into a lexical format you can use in an XML file where you need to specify a duration.

```
PS C:\> ConvertTo-LexicalTimespan (New-TimeSpan -Days 7 -hours 12)

P7DT12H
```

ConvertFrom-LexicalTime

Likewise, you might need to convert a lexical value back into a timespan.

```
PS C:\> ConvertFrom-LexicalTimespan P7DT12H


Days              : 7
Hours             : 12
Minutes           : 0
Seconds           : 0
Milliseconds      : 0
Ticks             : 6480000000000
TotalDays         : 7.5
TotalHours        : 180
TotalMinutes      : 10800
TotalSeconds      : 648000
TotalMilliseconds : 648000000
```

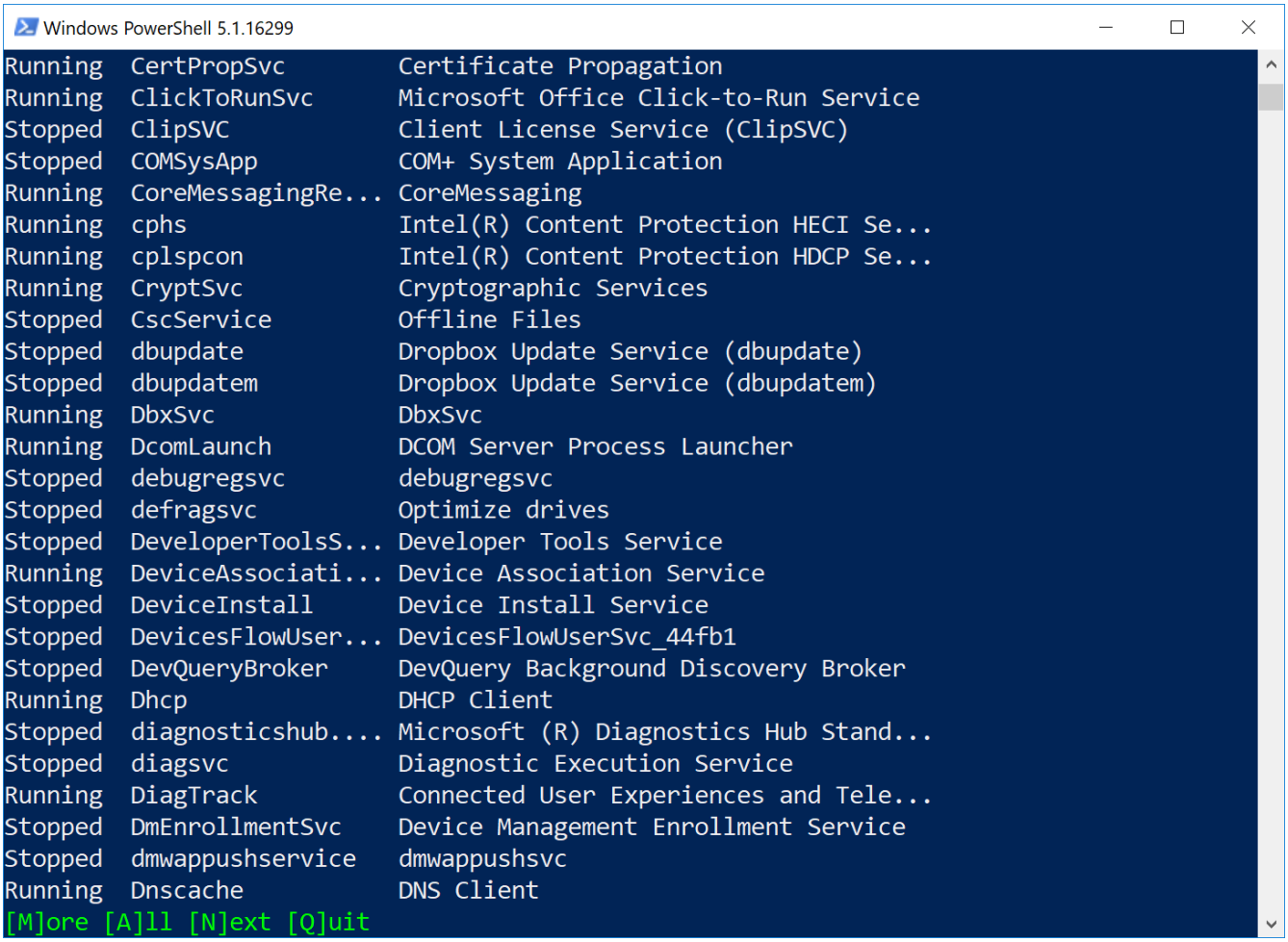
These functions were first described at https://jdhitsolutions.com/blog/powershell/7101/converting-lexical-timespans-with-powershell/

Console Utilities

Out-More

This command provides a PowerShell alternative to the cmd.exe **MORE** command, which doesn't work in the PowerShell ISE. When you have screens of information, you can page it with this function.

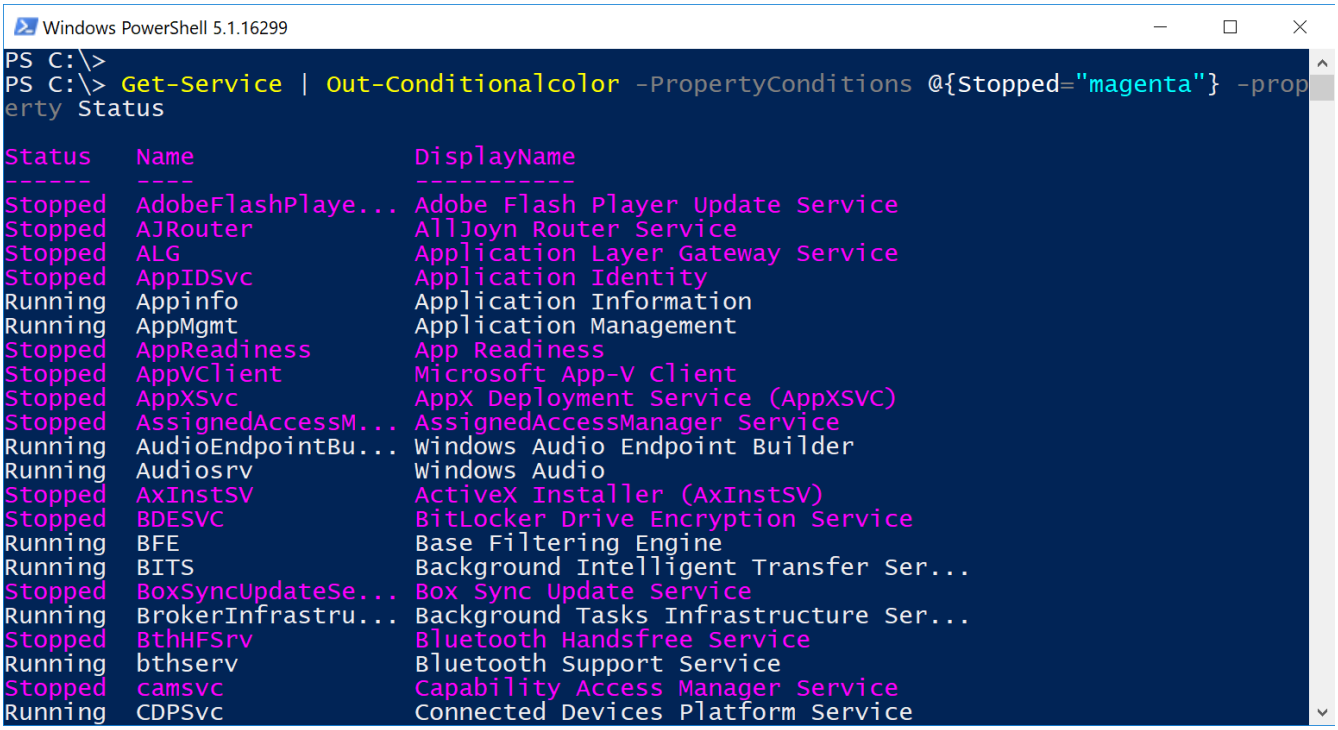
```
get-service | out-more
```



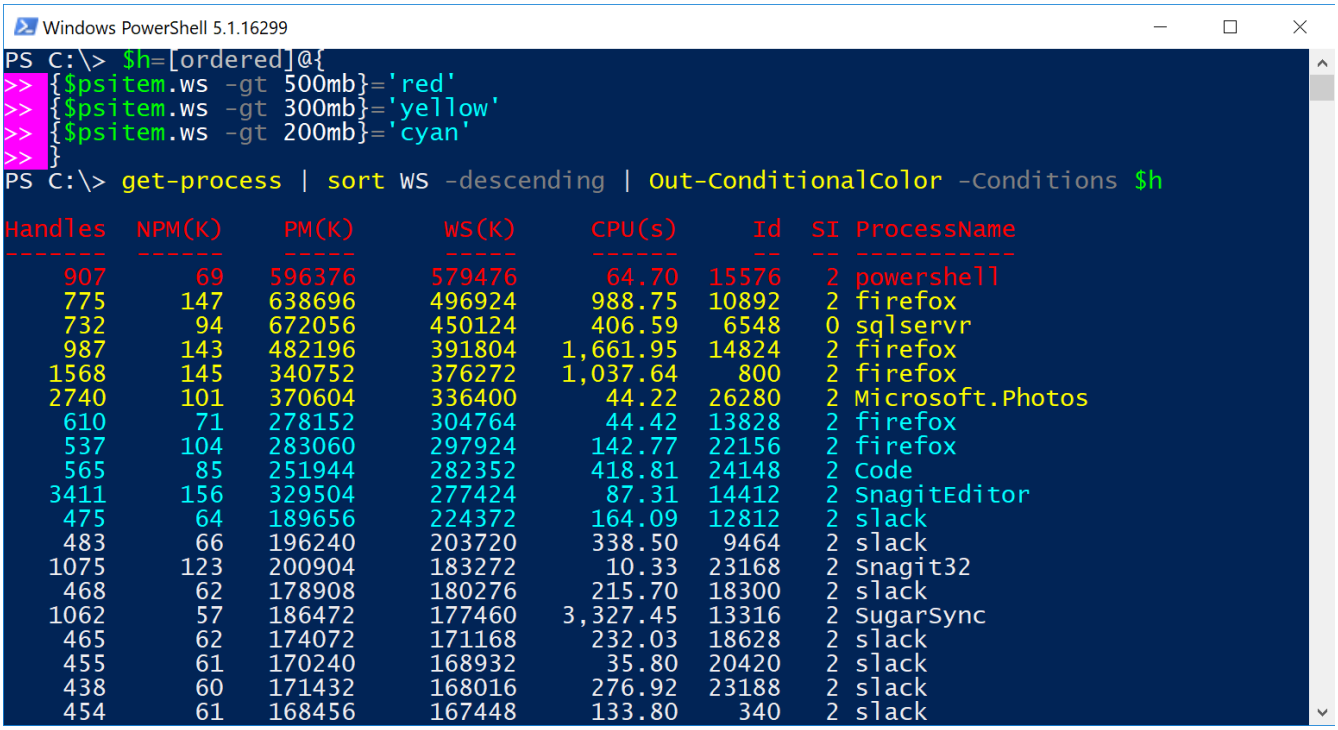
This also works in PowerShell Core.

Out-ConditionalColor

This command is designed to take pipeline input and display it in a colorized format,based on a set of conditions. Unlike `Write-Host` which doesn't write to the pipeline, this command will write to the pipeline. You can use a simple hashtable to define a color if the given property matches the hashtable key.



Or you can specify an ordered hashtable for more complex processing.



This command doesn't always work depending on the type of object you pipe to it. The problem appears to be related to the formatting system. Development and testing is ongoing.

Set-ConsoleTitle

Set the title bar of the current PowerShell console window.

```
PS C:\> if (Test-IsAdministrator) { Set-ConsoleTitle "Administrator: $($PSVersionTable.PSedition)
$($PSVersionTable.PSVersion)" -Verbose }
VERBOSE: [10:33:17.0420820 BEGIN  ] Starting Set-ConsoleTitle
VERBOSE: [10:33:17.0440568 PROCESS] Setting console title to Administrator: Desktop 5.1.17763.316
VERBOSE: Performing the operation "Set-ConsoleTitle" on target "Administrator: Desktop 5.1.17763.316".
VERBOSE: [10:33:17.0584056 END    ] Ending Set-ConsoleTitle
```

Set-ConsoleColor

Configure the foreground or background color of the current PowerShell console window. Note that if you are running the PSReadline module, this command won't work. You should use Set-PSReadlineOption or similar command to configure your session settings.

```
Set-ConsoleColor -background DarkGray -foreground Yellow
```

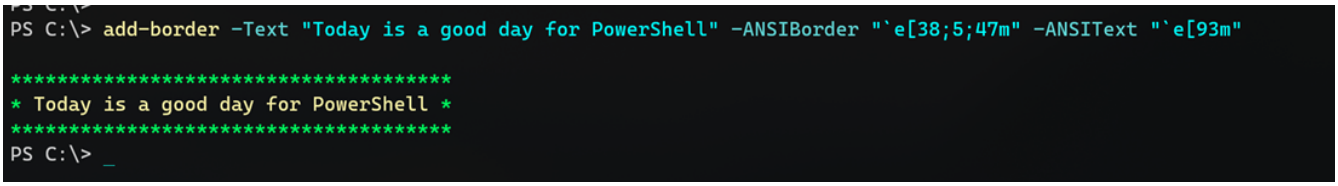
Add-Border

This command will create a character or text based border around a line of text. You might use this to create a formatted text report or to improve the display of information to the screen.

```
PS C:\> add-border $env:computername

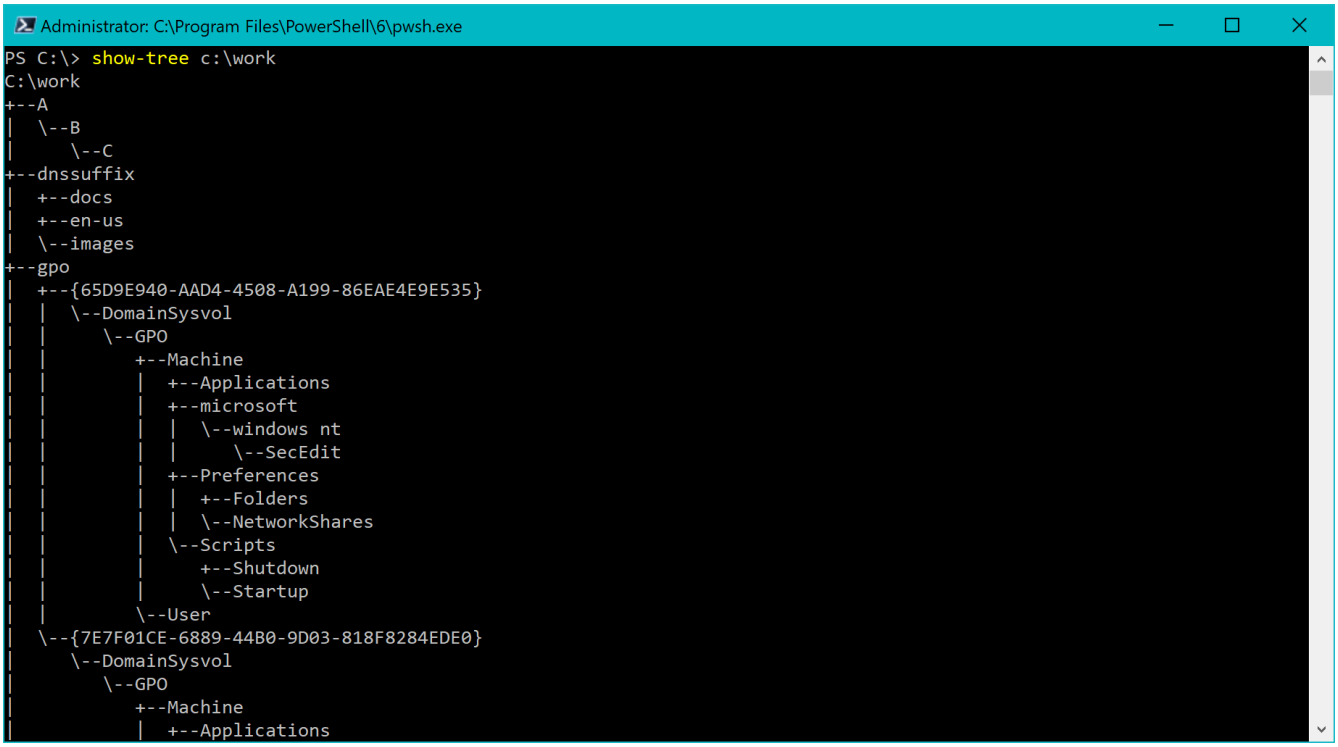
**************
*    COWPC    *
**************
```

Starting in v2.23.0 you can also use ANSI escape sequences to color the text and/or the border.

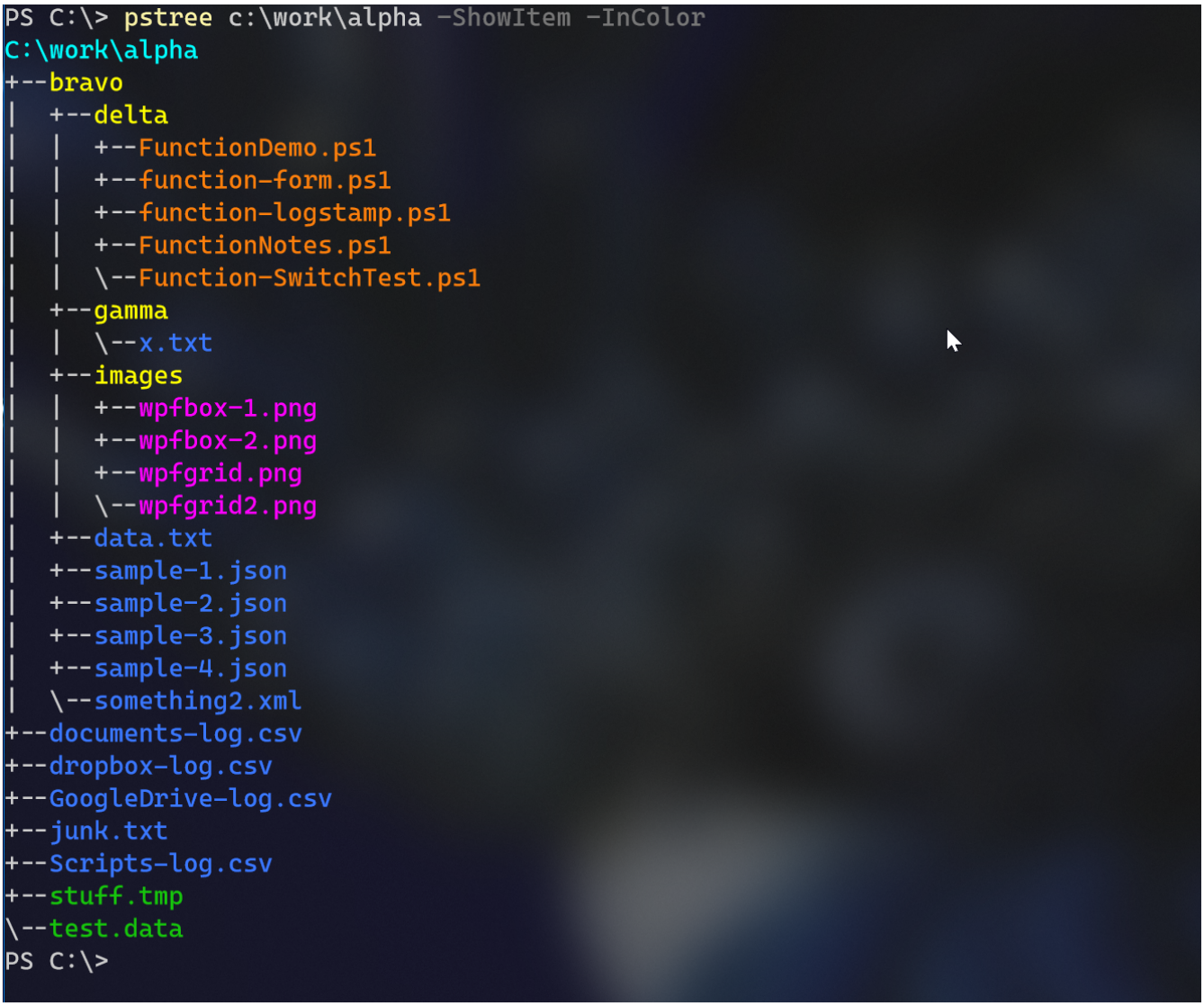


Show-Tree

Shows the specified path as a graphical tree in the console. This is intended as PowerShell alternative to the tree DOS command. This function should work for any type of PowerShell provider and can be used to explore providers used for configuration like the WSMan provider or the registry. By default, the output will only show directory or equivalent structures. But you can opt to include items well as item details.



If you are running PowerShell 7 and specifying a file system path, you can display the tree in a colorized format by using the `-InColor` dynamic parameter.



Beginning with v2.21.0, this command uses ANSI Color schemes from a json file. You can customize the file if you wish. See the PSAnsiMap section of this README.

This command has an alias of `pstree`.

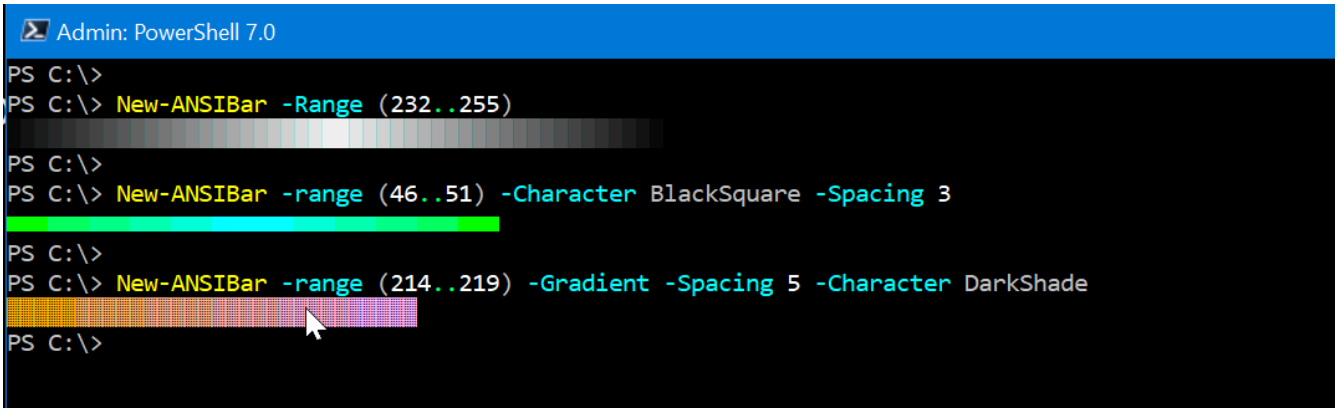
```
PS C:\> pstree c:\work\alpha -files -properties LastWriteTime,Length

C:\work\Alpha\
+-- LastWriteTime = 02/28/2020 11:19:32
+--bravo
|  +-- LastWriteTime = 02/28/2020 11:20:30
|  +--delta
|  |  +-- LastWriteTime = 02/28/2020 11:17:35
|  |  +--FunctionDemo.ps1
|  |  |  +-- Length = 888
|  |  |  \-- LastWriteTime = 06/01/2009 15:50:47
|  |  +--function-form.ps1
|  |  |  +-- Length = 1117
|  |  |  \-- LastWriteTime = 04/17/2019 17:18:28
|  |  +--function-logstamp.ps1
|  |  |  +-- Length = 598
|  |  |  \-- LastWriteTime = 05/23/2007 11:39:55
|  |  +--FunctionNotes.ps1
|  |  |  +-- Length = 617
|  |  |  \-- LastWriteTime = 02/24/2016 08:59:03
|  |  \--Function-SwitchTest.ps1
|  |     +-- Length = 242
|  |     \-- LastWriteTime = 06/09/2008 15:55:44
|  +--gamma
...
```

This example is using parameter and command aliases. You can display a tree listing with files including user specified properties. Use a value of * to show all properties.

New-ANSIBar

You can use this command to create colorful bars using ANSI escape sequences based on a 256 color scheme. The default behavior is to create a gradient bar that goes from first to last values in the range and then back down again. Or you can create a single gradient that runs from the beginning of the range to the end. You can use one of the default characters or specify a custom one.

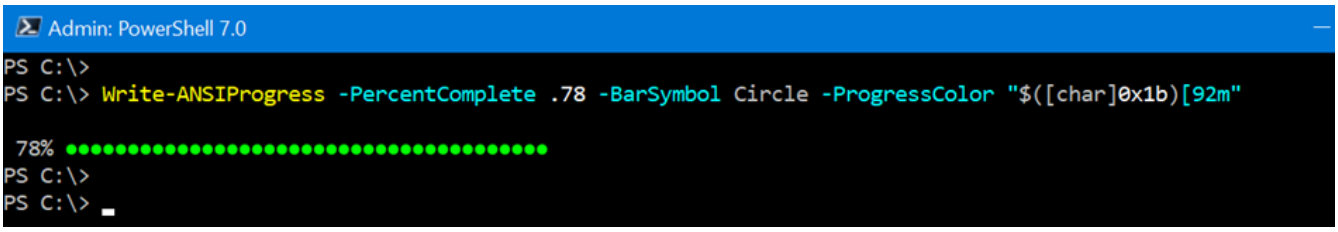


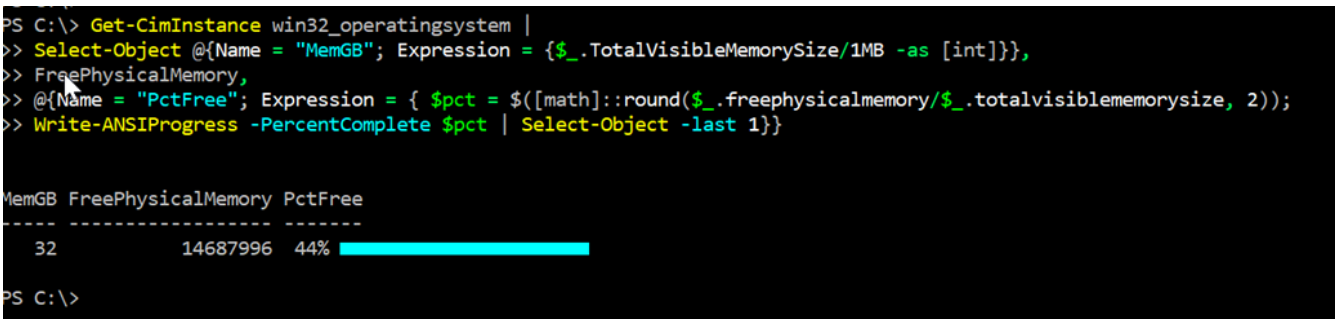
New-RedGreenGradient

A related command is `New-RedGreenGradient` which displays a bar going from red to green. This might be handy when you want to present a visual indicator.

Write-ANSIProgress

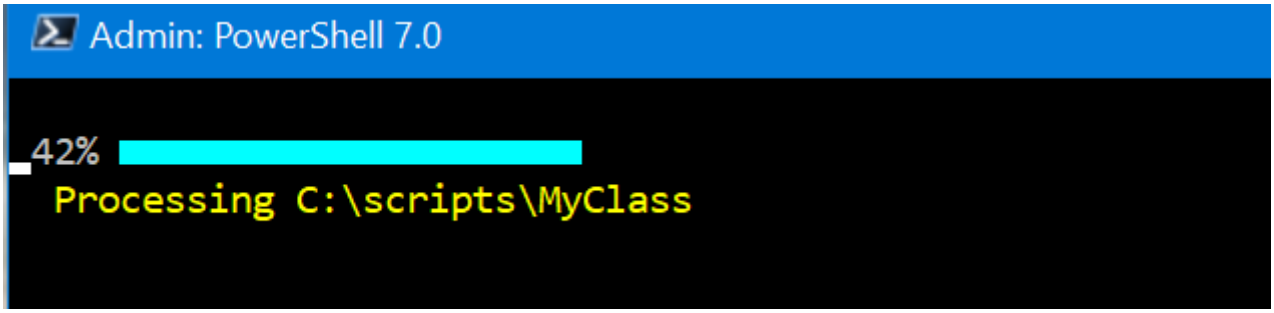
You could also use `Write-ANSIProgress` to show a custom ANSI bar.





Or you can use it in your code to display a console progress bar.

```powershell
$sb = {
        Clear-Host
        $top = Get-ChildItem c:\scripts -Directory
        $i = 0
        $out=@()
        $pos = $host.ui.RawUI.CursorPosition
        Foreach ($item in $top) {
            $i++
            $pct = [math]::round($i/$top.count,2)
            Write-ANSIProgress -PercentComplete $pct -position $pos
            Write-Host "  Processing $(($item.fullname).padright(80))" -ForegroundColor Yellow -NoNewline
            $out+= Get-ChildItem -path $item -Recurse -file | Measure-Object -property length -sum |
            Select-Object @{Name="Path";Expression={$item.fullname}},Count,@{Name="Size";Expression={$_.Sum}}
        }
        Write-Host ""
        $out | Sort-object -property Size -Descending
    }
```



Format Functions

A set of simple commands to make it easier to format values.

Format-Percent

Treat a value as a percentage. This will write a [double] and not include the % sign.

```
PS C:\> format-percent -Value 123.5646MB -total 1GB -Decimal 4
12.0669
```

Format-String

Use this command to perform one of several string manipulation "tricks".

```
PS C:\> format-string "powershell" -Reverse -Case Proper
Llehsrewop
PS C:\> format-string PowerShell -Randomize
wSlhoeePlr
PS C:\> format-string "!MySecretPWord" -Randomize -Replace @{S="$";e=&{Get-Random -min 1 -max 9};o="^"} -Reverse
yr7!^7WcMtr$Pd
```

Format-Value

This command will format a given numeric value. By default it will treat the number as an integer. Or you can specify a certain number of decimal places. The command will also allow you to format the value in KB, MB, etc.

```
PS C:\>  format-value 1235465676 -Unit kb
1206509
PS C:\> format-value 123.45 -AsCurrency
$123.45
PS C:\> (get-process | measure-object ws -sum).sum | format-value -Unit mb | format-value -AsNumber
9,437
```

Or pull it all together:

```
PS C:\> Get-CimInstance win32_operatingsystem |
select-object @{Name = "TotalMemGB";Expression={Format-Value $_.TotalVisibleMemorySize -Unit mb}},
@{Name="FreeMemGB";Expression={Format-Value $_.FreePhysicalMemory -unit mb -Decimal 2}},
@{Name="PctFree";Expression={Format-Percent -Value $_.FreePhysicalMemory -Total $_.totalVisibleMemorySize -Decimal 2}}

TotalMemGB FreeMemGB PctFree
---------- --------- -------
        32     14.05   44.06
```

Scripting Tools

Test-Expression

The primary command can be used to test a PowerShell expression or scriptblock for a specified number of times and calculate the average runtime, in milliseconds, over all the tests.

Why

When you run a single test with `Measure-Command` the result might be affected by any number of factors. Likewise, running multiple tests may also be influenced by things such as caching. The goal in this module is to provide a test framework where you can run a test repeatedly with either a static or random interval between each test. The results are aggregated and analyzed. Hopefully, this will provide a more meaningful or realistic result.

Examples

The output will also show the median and trimmed values as well as some metadata about the current PowerShell session.

```
PS C:\> $cred = Get-credential globomantics\administrator
PS C:\> Test-Expression {param($cred) get-wmiobject win32_logicaldisk -computer chi-dc01 -credential $cred }
-argumentList $cred

Tests        : 1
TestInterval : 0.5
AverageMS    : 1990.6779
MinimumMS    : 1990.6779
MaximumMS    : 1990.6779
MedianMS     : 1990.6779
TrimmedMS    :
PSVersion    :5.1.17763.134
OS           : Microsoft Windows 10 Pro
```

You can also run multiple tests with random time intervals.

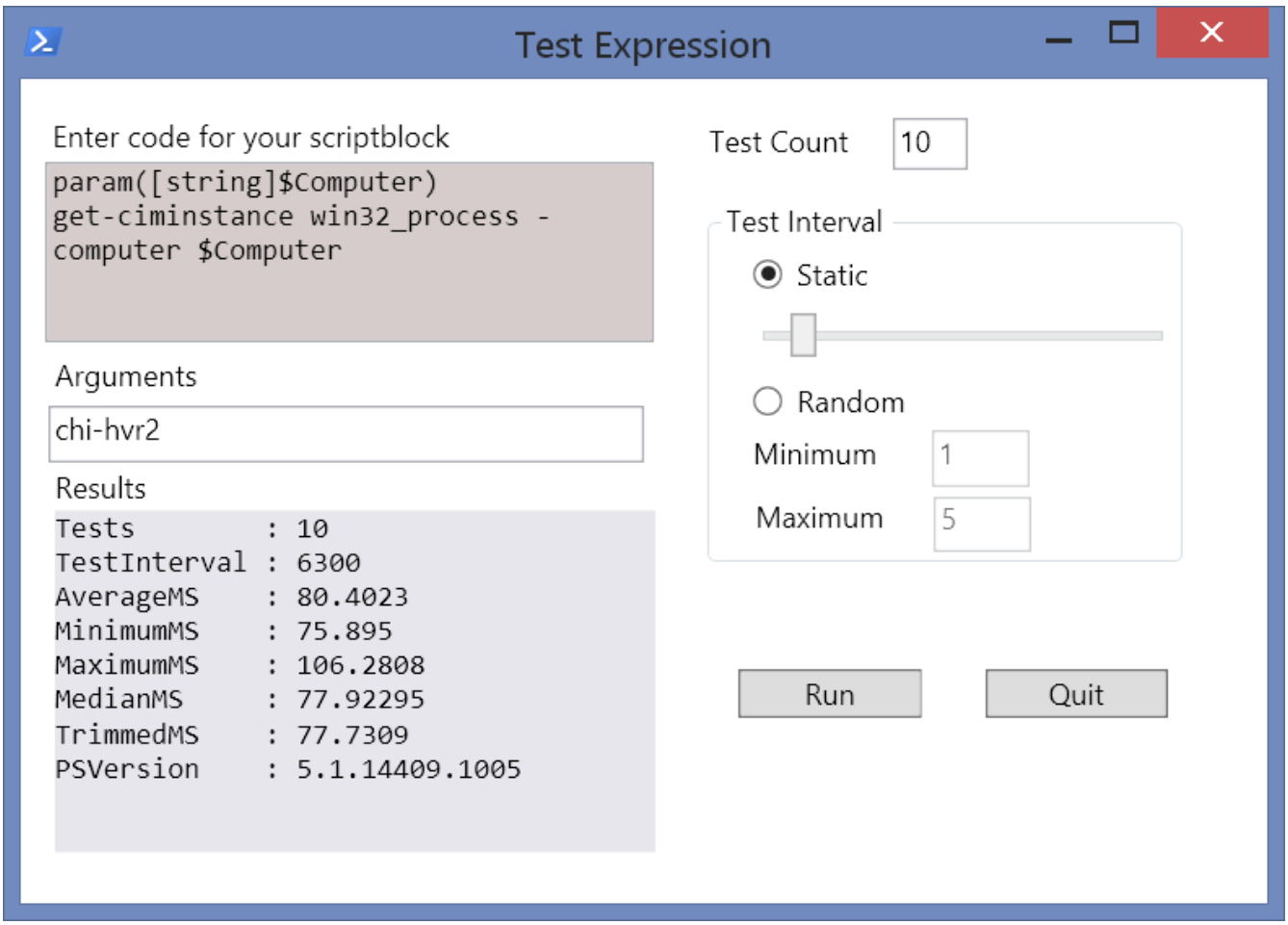
```
PS C:\>Test-Expression {param([string[]]$Names) get-service $names} -count 5 -IncludeExpression -argumentlist
@('bits','wuauserv','winrm') -RandomMinimum .5 -RandomMaximum 5.5

Tests        : 5
TestInterval : Random
AverageMS    : 1.91406
MinimumMS    : 0.4657
MaximumMS    : 7.5746
MedianMS     : 0.4806
TrimmedMS    : 0.51
PSVersion    : 5.1.17763.134
OS           : Microsoft Windows 10 Pro
Expression   : param([string[]]$Names) get-service $names
Arguments    : {bits, wuauserv, winrm}
```

For very long running tests, you can run them as a background job.

Graphical Testing

The module also includes a graphical command called `Test-ExpressionForm`. This is intended to serve as both an entry and results form.

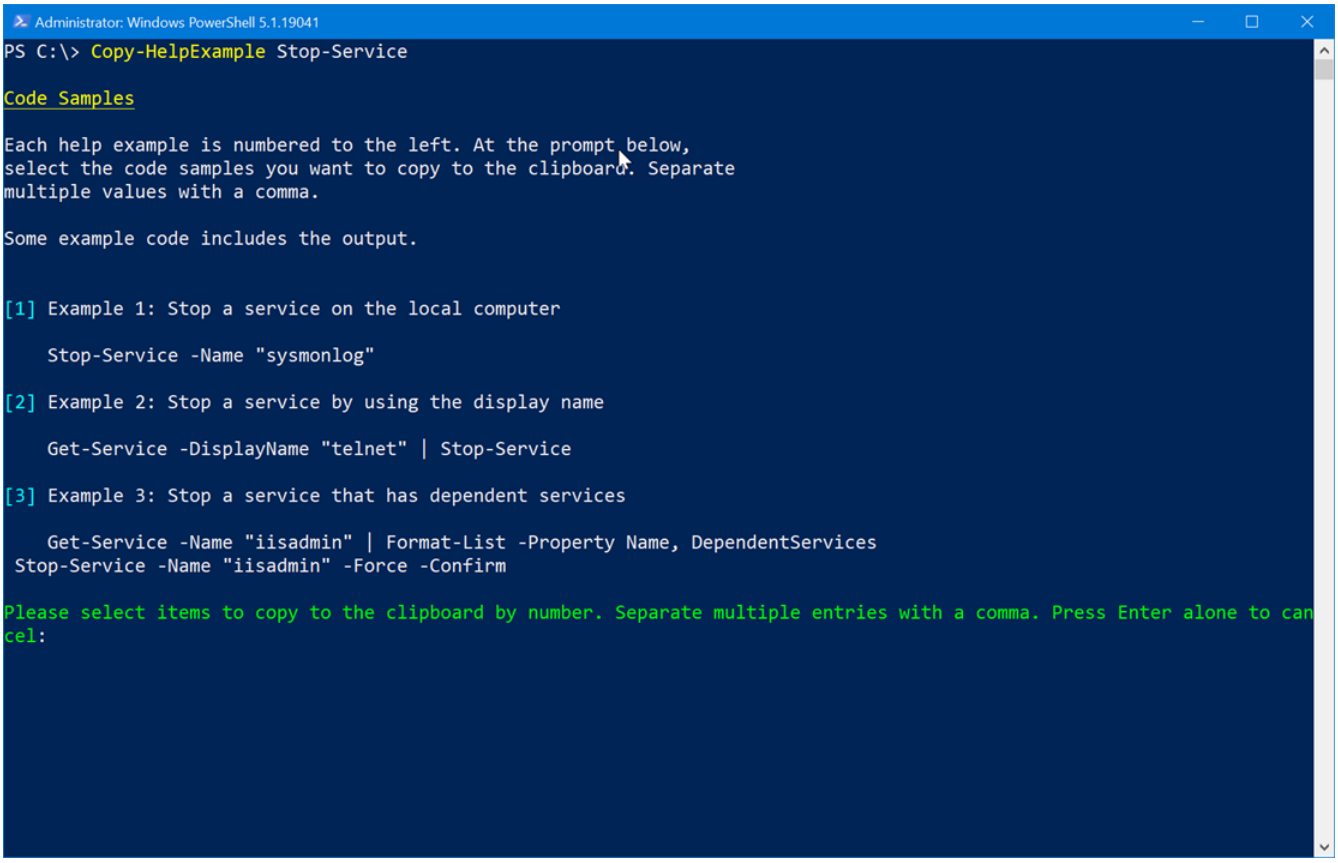


When you quit the form the last result will be written to the pipeline including all metadata, the scriptblock and any arguments.

Copy-HelpExample

This command is designed to make it (slightly) easier to copy code snippets from help examples. Specify the name of a function or cmdlet, presumably one with documented help examples, and you will be offered a selection of code snippets to copy to the clipboard. Code snippets have been trimmed of blank lines, most prompts, and comments. Many examples include output. You will have to manually remove what you don't want after pasting.

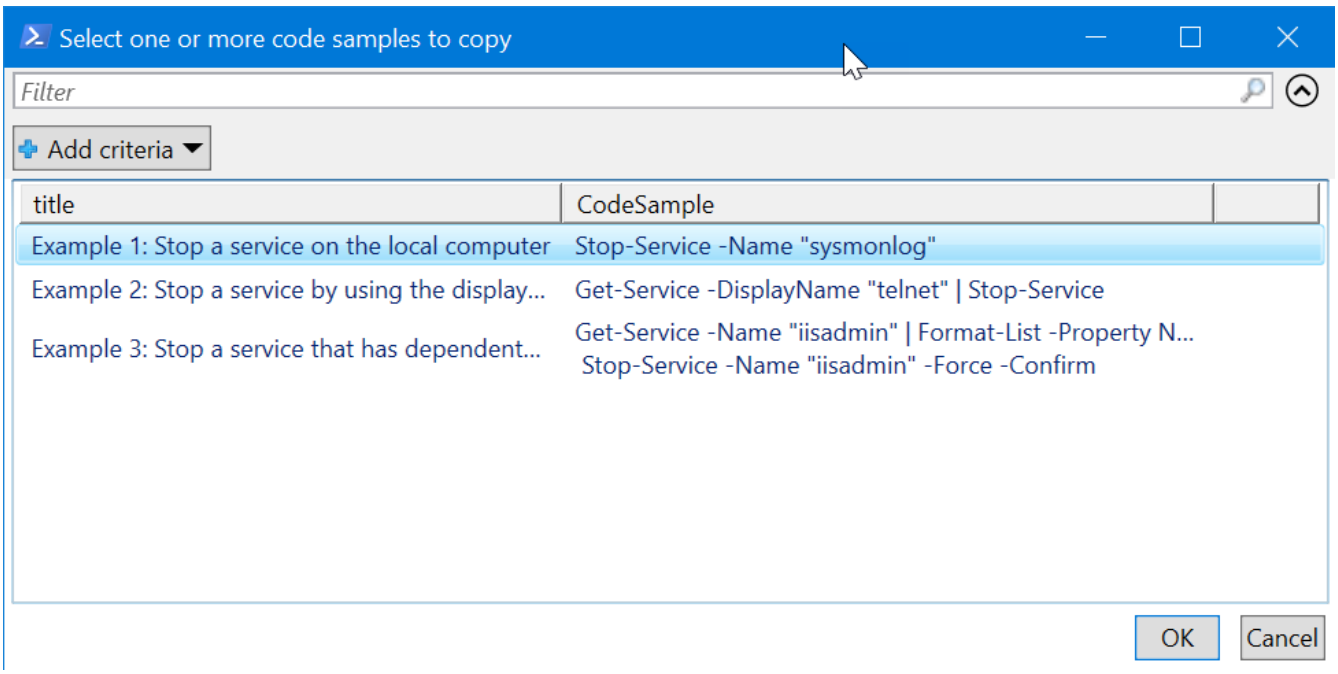
The default behavior is to use a console based menu which works cross-platform.



Enter the number of the code to copy to the clipboard. Enter multiple numbers separated by commas.

If you are running a Windows platform there is a dynamic help parameter to use Out-Gridview.

```
Copy-HelpExample Stop-Service -UseGridView
```



If you are running this in the PowerShell ISE, this is the default behavior even if you don't specify the parameter.

Get-GitSize

Use this command to determine how much space the hidden `.git` folder is consuming.

```
PS C:\scripts\PSScriptTools> Get-GitSize

Path                                        Files          SizeKB
----                                        -----          ------
C:\scripts\PSScriptTools                      751       6859.9834
```

This is the default, formatted view. The object has other properties you can use.

```
Name         : PSScriptTools
Path         : C:\scripts\PSScriptTools
Files        : 751
Size         : 7024623
Date         : 3/5/2020 2:57:06 PM
Computername : BOVINE320
```

Remove-MergedBranch

When using `git` you may create a number of branches. Presumably you merge these branches into the main or master branch. You can this command to remove all merged branches other than master and the current branch. You must be in the root of your project to run this command.

```
PS C:\MyProject> Remove-MergedBranch

Remove merged branch from MyProject?
2.1.1
[Y] Yes  [N] No  [S] Suspend  [?] Help (default is "Y"): n

Remove merged branch from MyProject?
dev1
[Y] Yes  [N] No  [S] Suspend  [?] Help (default is "Y"): y
Deleted branch dev1 (was 75f6ab8).

Remove merged branch from MyProject?
dev2
[Y] Yes  [N] No  [S] Suspend  [?] Help (default is "Y"): y
Deleted branch dev2 (was 75f6ab8).

Remove merged branch from MyProject?
patch-254
[Y] Yes  [N] No  [S] Suspend  [?] Help (default is "Y"): n

PS C:\MyProject>
```

By default you will be prompted to remove each branch.

Test-WithCulture

When writing PowerShell commands, sometimes the culture you are running under becomes critical. For example, European countries use a different datetime format than North Americans which might present a problem with your script or command. Unless you have a separate computer running under the foreign culture, it is difficult to test. This command will allow you to test a scriptblock or even a file under a different culture, such as DE-DE for German.

```
PS C:\> Test-WithCulture fr-fr -Scriptblock {
    Get-winEvent -log system -max 500 |
    Select-Object -Property TimeCreated,ID,OpCodeDisplayname,Message |
    Sort-Object -property TimeCreated |
    Group-Object {$_.TimeCreated.ToShortDateString()} -NoElement}

Count Name
----- ----
  165 10/07/2019
  249 11/07/2019
   17 12/07/2019
   16 13/07/2019
   20 14/07/2019
   26 15/07/2019
    7 16/07/2019
```

Copy-Command

This command will copy a PowerShell command, including parameters and help to a new user-specified command. You can use this to create a "wrapper" function or to easily create a proxy function. The default behavior is to create a copy of the command complete with the original comment-based help block.

Get-ParameterInfo

Using Get-Command, this function will return information about parameters for any loaded cmdlet or function. The common parameters like Verbose and ErrorAction are omitted. `Get-ParameterInfo` returns a custom object with the most useful information an administrator might need to know.

```
PS C:\> Get-ParameterInfo -Command Get-Counter -Parameter computername


Name                            : computername
Aliases                         : Cn
Mandatory                       : False
Position                        : Named
ValueFromPipeline               : False
ValueFromPipelineByPropertyName : False
Type                            : System.String[]
IsDynamic                       : False
ParameterSet                    : __AllParameterSets
```

New-PSFormatXML

When defining custom objects with a new typename, PowerShell by default will display all properties. However, you may wish to have a specific default view, be it a table or list. Or you may want to have different views display the object differently. Format directives are stored in format.ps1xml files which can be tedious to create. This command simplifies that process.

Define a custom object:

```
$tname = "myThing"
$obj = [PSCustomObject]@{
    PSTypeName   = $tname
    Name         = "Jeff"
    Date         = (Get-Date)
    Computername = $env:computername
    OS           = (Get-CimInstance win32_operatingsystem -Property Caption).caption
}
Update-TypeData -TypeName $tname -MemberType "ScriptProperty" -MemberName "Runtime" -value {(Get-Date) - [datetime
]"1/1/2019"} -force
```

The custom object looks like this by default:

```
PS C:\> $obj

Name         : Jeff
Date         : 2/10/2019 8:49:10 PM
Computername : BOVINE320
OS           : Microsoft Windows 10 Pro
Runtime      : 40.20:49:43.9205882
```

Now you can create new formatting directives.

```
$obj | New-PSFormatXML -Properties Name, Date, Computername, OS -FormatType Table -path "C:\work\$tname.format.ps1xml"
$obj | New-PSFormatXML -Properties Name, OS, Runtime -FormatType Table -view runtime -path "C:\work\$tname.format.ps1xml"
-append
$obj | New-PSFormatXML -FormatType List -path "C:\work\$tname.format.ps1xml" -append
Update-FormatData -appendpath "C:\work\$tname.format.ps1xml"
```

And here is what the object looks like now:

```
PS C:\> $obj

Name Date                 Computername Operating System
---- ----                 ------------ ----------------
Jeff 2/10/2019 8:49:10 PM BOVINE320    Microsoft Windows 10 Pro

PS C:\> $obj | format-table -View runtime

Name OS Runtime
---- -- -------
Jeff    40.20:56:24.5411481

PS C:\> $obj | format-list


Name            : Jeff
Date            : Sunday, February 10, 2019
Computername    : BOVINE320
OperatingSystem : Microsoft Windows 10 Pro
Runtime         : 40.21:12:01
```

If you run this command within VS Code and specify `-Passthru`, the resulting file will be opened in your editor.

Test-IsPSWindows

PowerShell Core introduced the `$IsWindows` variable. However it is not available on Windows PowerShell. Use this command to perform a simple test if the computer is either running Windows or using the Desktop PSEdition. The command returns `True` or `False`.

Write-Detail

This command is designed to be used within your functions and scripts to make it easier to write a detailed message that you can use as verbose output. The assumption is that you are using an advanced function with a `Begin`, `Process` and `End` scriptblocks. You can create a detailed message to indicate what part of the code is being executed. The output can be configured to include a datetime stamp or just the time.

```
PS C:\> write-detail "Getting file information" -Prefix Process -Date
9/15/2018 11:42:43 [PROCESS] Getting file information
```

In a script you might use it like this:

```
Begin {
    Write-Detail "Starting $($myinvocation.mycommand)" -Prefix begin -time | Write-Verbose
    $tabs = "`t" * $tab
    Write-Detail "Using a tab of $tab" -Prefix BEGIN -time | Write-Verbose
} #begin
```

Save-GitSetup

This command is intended for Windows users to easily download the latest 64bit version of `Git`.

```
PS C:\> Save-GitSetup -Path c:\work -Passthru


    Directory: C:\work

Mode                 LastWriteTime         Length Name
----                 -------------         ------ ----
-a---           1/23/2020  4:31 PM       46476880 Git-2.25.0-64-bit.exe
```

You will need to manually install the file.

Other

From time to time I will include additional items that you might find useful. One item that you get when you import this module is a custom format.ps1xml file for services. You can run `Get-Service` and pipe it to the table view.

```
PS C:\> Get-Service | Format-Table -view ansi
```

This will display the service status color-coded.

This will not work in the PowerShell ISE as it is not ANSI aware.

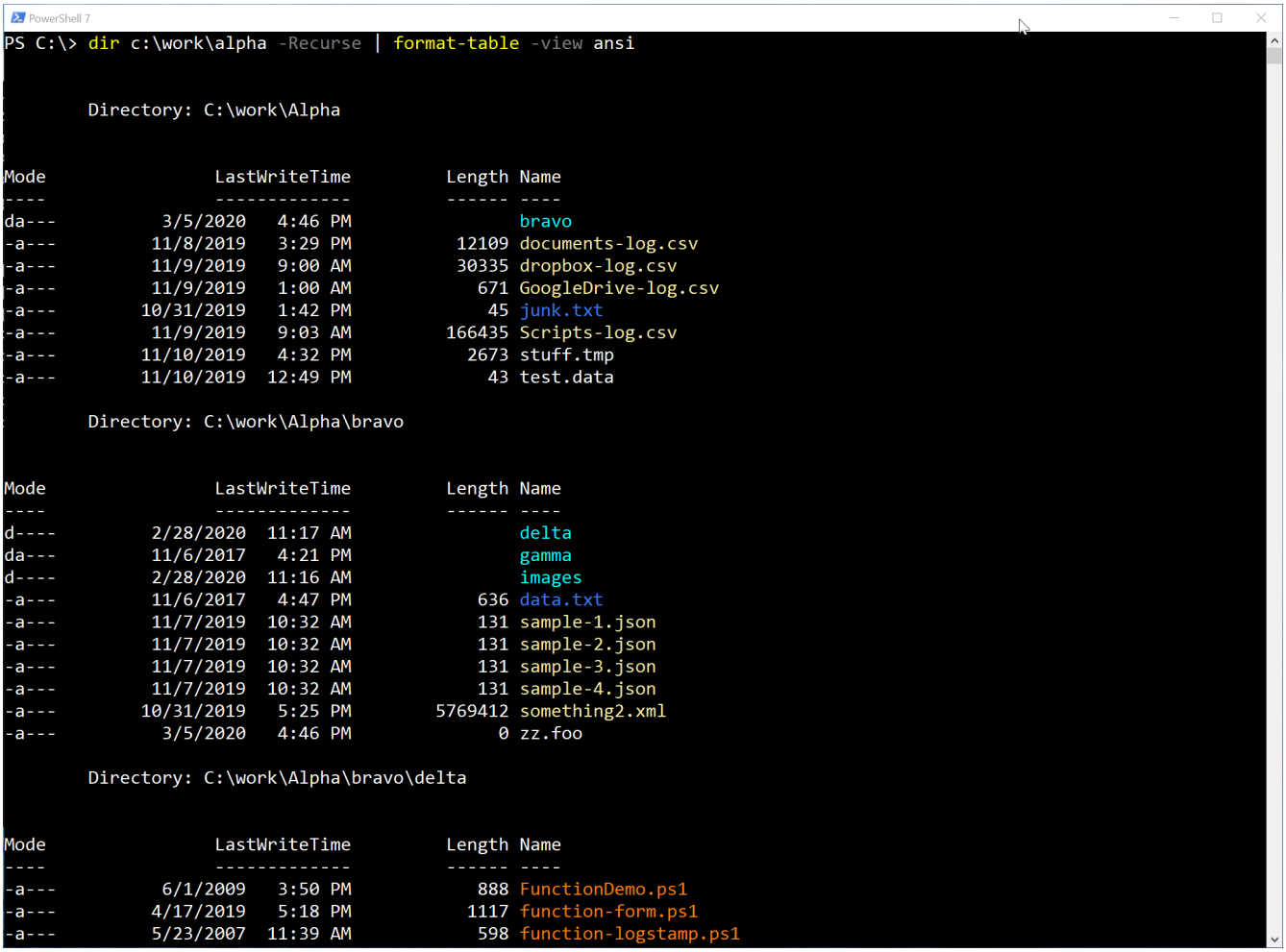
PSAnsiMap

I have done something similar for output from `Get-ChildItem`. The module includes json file that is exported as a global variable called `PSAnsiFileMap`.

```
PS C:\scripts\PSScriptTools> $PSAnsiFileMap

Description    Pattern                                  Ansi
-----------    -------                                  ----
PowerShell     \.ps(d|m)?1$
Text           \.(txt)|(md)|(log)$
DataFile       \.(json)|(xml)|(csv)$
Executable     \.(exe)|(bat)|(cmd)|(sh)$
Graphics       \.(jpg)|(png)|(gif)|(bmp)|(jpeg)$
Media          \.(mp3)|(m4v)|(wav)|(au)|(flac)|(mp4)$
Archive        \.(zip)|(rar)|(tar)|(gzip)$
TopContainer
ChildContainer
```

The map includes ANSI settings for different file types. You won't see the ANSI value in the output. The module will add a custom table view called `ansi` which you can use to display file results colorized in PowerShell 7.



The mapping file is user customizable. Copy the `psansifilemap.json` file from the module's root directory to $HOME. When you import this module, if the file is found, it will be imported and used as `psansifilemap`, otherwise the module's file will be used.

The file will look like this:

```
[
  {
    "Description": "PowerShell",
    "Pattern": "\\.ps(d|m)?1$",
    "Ansi": "\u001b[38;2;252;127;12m"
  },
  {
    "Description": "Text",
    "Pattern": "\\.(txt)|(md)|(log)$",
    "Ansi": "\u001b[38;2;58;120;255m"
  },
  {
    "Description": "DataFile",
    "Pattern": "\\.(json)|(xml)|(csv)$",
    "Ansi": "\u001b[38;2;249;241;165m"
  },
  {
    "Description": "Executable",
    "Pattern": "\\.(exe)|(bat)|(cmd)|(sh)$",
    "Ansi": "\u001b[38;2;197;15;31m"
  },
  {
    "Description": "Graphics",
    "Pattern": "\\.(jpg)|(png)|(gif)|(bmp)|(jpeg)$",
    "Ansi": "\u001b[38;2;255;0;255m"
  },
  {
    "Description": "Media",
    "Pattern": "\\.(mp3)|(m4v)|(wav)|(au)|(flac)|(mp4)$",
    "Ansi": "\u001b[38;2;255;199;6m"
  },
  {
    "Description": "Archive",
    "Pattern": "\\.(zip)|(rar)|(tar)|(gzip)$",
    "Ansi": "\u001b[38;2;118;38;113m"
  },
  {
    "Description": "TopContainer",
    "Pattern": "",
    "Ansi": "\u001b[38;2;0;255;255m"
  },
  {
    "Description": "ChildContainer",
    "Pattern": "",
    "Ansi": "\u001b[38;2;255;255;0m"
  }
]
```

You can create or modify file groups. The Pattern value should be a regular expression pattern to match on the filename. Don't forget you will need to escape characters for the json format. The Ansi

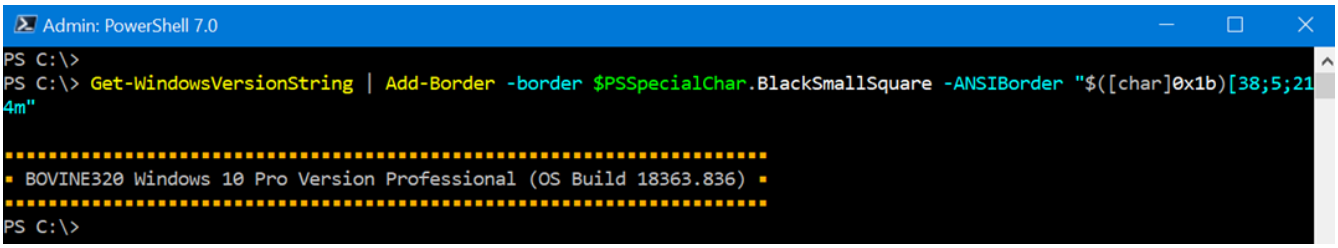
value will be an ANSI escape sequence. You can use `\u001b` for the `` `e `` character.

PSSpecialChar

A number of the commands in this module can use special characters. To make it easier, when you import the module it will create a global variable that is a hash table of common special characters. Because it is a hashtable you can add ones you also use.

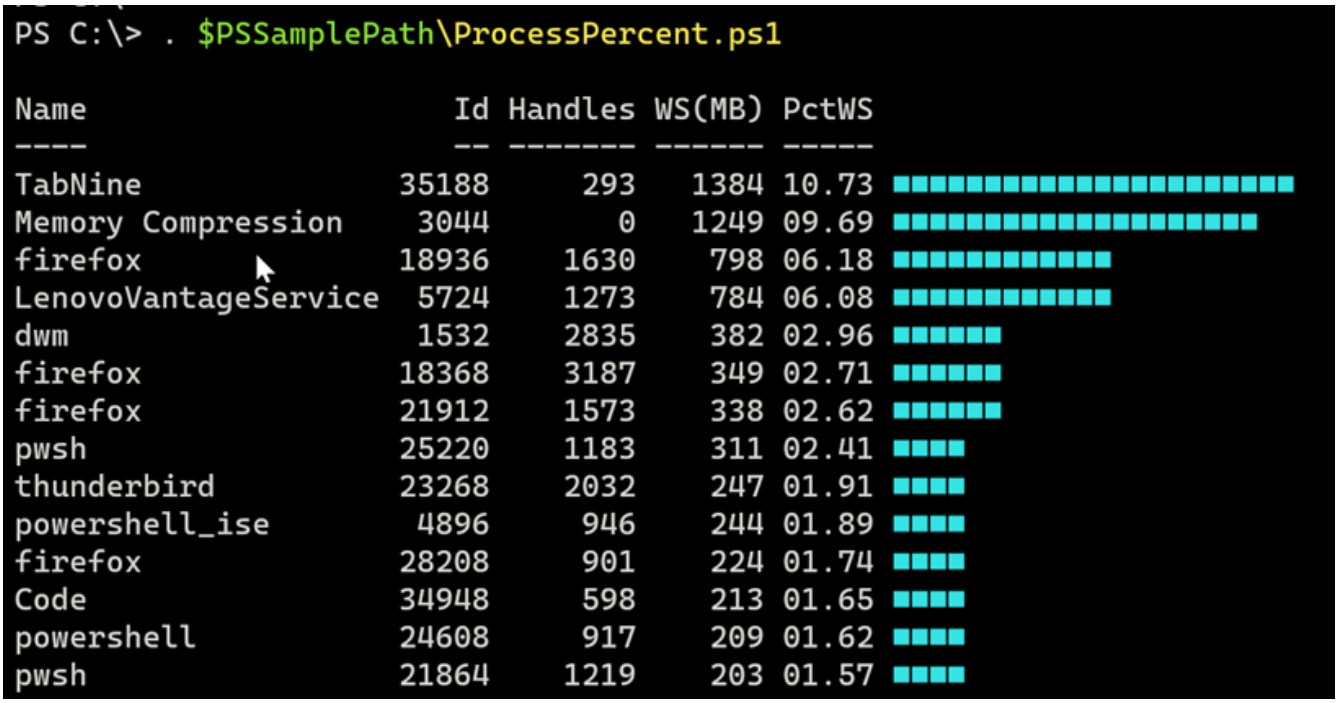
The names are the same as used in CharMap.exe. Don't let the naming confuse you. It may say `BlackSquare` but the color will depend on how you use it.

```
Get-WindowsVersionString | Add-Border -border $PSSpecialChar.BlackSmallSquare -ANSIBorder "$([char]0x1b)[38;5;214m"
```



Sample Scripts

This PowerShell module contains a number of functions you might use to enhance your own functions and scripts. The Samples folder contains demonstration script files. You can access the folder in PowerShell using the $PSSamplePath. The samples provide suggestions on how you might use some of the commands in this module. The scripts are offered AS-IS and are for demonstration purposes only.



Open-PSScriptToolsHelp

I've created a PDF version of this document which I thought you might find useful since it includes screen shots and sample output rendered nicer than what you can get in PowerShell help. Run this to open the PDF using your default associated application.

```
Open-PSScriptToolsHelp
```

Related Modules

If you find this module useful, you might also want to look at my tools for creating and managing custom type extensions, managing scheduled jobs and running remote commands outside of PowerShell Remoting.

Compatibility

Where possible these commands have been tested with PowerShell 7, but not every platform. If you encounter problems, have suggestions or other feedback, please post an issue. It is assumed you will **not** be running this commands on any edition of PowerShell Core or any beta releases of PowerShell 7.

> Last Updated *2020-07-09 15:16:38Z UTC*