Windows PowerShell 3.0 Language Quick Reference

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Useful Commands

Update-Help	Downloads and installs newest help files
Get-Help	Displays information about commands and concepts
Get-Command	Gets all commands
Get-Member	Gets the properties and methods of objects
Get-Module	Gets the modules that have been imported or that can be imported into the current session

Operators

Assignment Operators

=, +=, -=, *=, /=, %=, ++, --	Assigns one or more values to a variable

Comparison Operators

-eq, -ne	Equal, not equal
-gt, -ge	Greater than, greater than or equal to
-lt, -le	Less than, less than or equal to
-replace	changes the specified elements of a value

"abcde" -replace "bc", "TEST"

-match, -notmatch	Regular expression match
-like, -notlike	Wildcard matching
-contains, -notcontains	Returns TRUE if the scalar value on its right is contained in the array on its left

1,2,3,4,5 -contains 3

-in, -notin	Returns TRUE only when test value exactly matches at least one of the reference values.

"Windows"-in "Windows","PowerShell"

Bitwise Operators

-band	Bitwise AND
-bor	Bitwise OR (inclusive)
-bxor	Bitwise OR (exclusive)
-bnot	Bitwise NOT
-shl, -shr	Bitwise shift operators. Bit shift left, bit shift right (arithmetic for signed, logical for unsigned values)

Other Operators

-Split	Splits a string

"abcdefghi" -split "de"

-join	Joins multiple strings

"abc","def","ghi" -join ";"

..	Range operator

1..10 | foreach {$_ * 5}

-is, -isnot	Type evaluator (Boolean). Tells whether an object is an instance of a specified .NET Framework type.

42 –is [int]

-as	Type convertor. Tries to convert the input object to the specified .NET Framework type.

$a = 42 –as [String]

-f	Formats strings by using the format method of string objects

1..10 | foreach { "{0:N2}" -f $_ }

[ ]	Cast operator. Converts or limits objects to the specified type

[datetime]$birthday = "1/10/66"

,	Comma operator (Array constructor)
.	Dot-sourcing operator runs a script in the current scope

. c:\scripts\sample.ps1

$( )	Subexpression operator
@( )	Array subexpression operator
&	The call operator, also known as the "invocation operator," lets you run commands that are stored in variables and represented by strings.

$a = "Get-Process"
& $a
$sb = { Get-Process | Select –First 2 }
& $sb

Logical Operators

-and, -or, -xor, -not, !	Connect expressions and statements, allowing you to test for multiple conditions

Redirection Operators

>, >>	The redirection operators enable you to send particular types of output (success, error, warning, verbose, and debug) to files and to the success output stream.
Output streams	* All output 1 Success output 2 Errors 3 Warning messages 4 Verbose output 5 Debug messages

Writes warning output to warning.txt
Do-Something 3> warning.txt
Appends verbose.txt with the verbose output
Do-Something 4>> verbose.txt
Writes debug output to the output stream
Do-Something 5>&1
Redirects all streams to out.txt
Do-Something *> out.txt

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Arrays

"a", "b", "c"	Array of strings
1,2,3	Array of integers
@()	Empty array
@(2)	Array of one element
1,(2,3),4	Array within array
,"hi"	Array of one element
$arr[5]	Sixth element of array*
$arr[2..20]	Returns elements 3 thru 21
$arr[-1]	Returns the last array element
$arr[-3..-1]	Displays the last three elements of the array
$arr[1,4+6..9]	Displays the elements at index positions 1,4, and 6 through 9
@(Get-Process)	Forces the result to an array using the array sub-expression operator
$arr=1..10	
$arr[($arr.length-1)..0]	Reverses an array
$arr[1] += 200	Adds to an existing value of the second array item (increases the value of the element)
$b = $arr[0,1 + 3..6]	Creates a new array based on selected elements of an existing array
$z = $arr + $b	Combines two arrays into a single array, use the plus operator (+)

*Arrays are zero-based

Associative Arrays (Hash tables)

$hash = @{}	Creates empty hash table
@{foo=1; bar='value2'}	Creates and initialize a hash table
[ordered]@{a=1; b=2; c=3}	Creates an ordered dictionary
$hash.key1 = 1	Assigns 1 to key key1
$hash.key1	Returns value of key1
$hash["key1"]	Returns value of key1
$hash.GetEnumerator | sort Key	Sorts a hash table by the Key property
[pscustomobject]@{x=1; y=2}	Creates a custom object

Comments

```
# This is a comment because # is the first character of a token

$a = "#This is not a comment…"
$a = "something" # …but this is.

Write-Host Hello#world
```

Block Comments

```
<# This is
A multi-line comment #>
```

Object Properties

An object's properties can be referenced directly with the "." operator.

```
$a = Get-Date
$a | Get-Member –MemberType Property
$a.Date
$a.TimeOfDay.Hours
$a | Get-Member -MemberType Property –Static
```

Static properties can be referenced with the "::" operator.

```
[DateTime]::Now
```

Methods

Methods can be called on objects.

```
$a = "This is a string"
$a | Get-Member –MemberType Method
$a.ToUpper()
$a.Substring(0,3)
$a | Get-Member -MemberType Method -Static
```

Static methods are callable with the "::" operator.

```
[DateTime]::IsLeapYear(2012)
```

Strings

```
"This is a string, this $variable is expanded as is $(2+2)"
'This is a string, this $variable is not expanded'

@"
This is a here-string which can contain anything including carriage returns and quotes. Expressions are evaluated: $(2+2*5). Note that the end marker of the here-string must be at the beginning of a line!
"@

@'
Here-strings with single quotes do not evaluate expressions: $(2+2*5)
'@
```

Variables

Format: $[scope:]name or ${anyname} or ${any path}

```
$path = "C:\Windows\System32"
Get-ChildItem ${env:ProgramFiles(x86)}
$processes = Get-Process

$global:a =1 # visible everywhere
$local:a = 1 # defined in this scope and visible to children
$private:a = 1 # same as local but invisible to child scopes
$script:a = 1 # visible to everything is this script
# Using scope indicates a local variable in remote commands and with Start-Job
$localVar = Read-Host "Directory, please"
Invoke-Command -ComputerName localhost -ScriptBlock { dir $using:localVar }
Start-Job { dir $using:localVar -Recurse}
$env:Path += ";D:\Scripts"
```

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```
Get-Command -Noun Variable # the Variable Cmdlets
Get-ChildItem variable: # listing all variables using the variable drive

# strongly-typed variable (can contain only integers)
[int]$number=8

# attributes can be used on variables
[ValidateRange(1,10)][int]$number = 1
$number = 11 #returns an error

# flip variables
$a=1;$b=2
$a,$b = $b,$a

# multi assignment
$a,$b,$c = 0
$a,$b,$c = 'a','b','c'
$a,$b,$c = 'a b c'.split()

# create read only variable (can be overwritten with -Force)
Set-Variable -Name ReadOnlyVar -Value 3 -Option ReadOnly

# create Constant variable (cannot be overwritten)
Set-Variable -Name Pi -Value 3.14 -Option Constant
```

Windows PowerShell Automatic Variables (not exhaustive)

$$	Last token of the previous command line
$?	Boolean status of last command
$^	First token of the previous command line
$_, $PSItem	Current pipeline object
$Args	Arguments to a script or function
$Error	Array of errors from previous commands
$ForEach	Reference to the enumerator in a foreach loop
$Home	The user's home directory
$Host	Reference to the application hosting the POWERSHELL language
$Input	Enumerator of objects piped to a script
$LastExitCode	Exit code of last program or script
$Matches	Exit code of last program or script
$MyInvocation	An object with information about the current command
$PSHome	The installation location of Windows PowerShell
$profile	The standard profile (may not be present)
$Switch	Enumerator in a switch statement
$True	Boolean value for TRUE
$False	Boolean value for FALSE
$PSCulture	Current culture
$PSUICulture	Current UI culture
$PsVersionTable	Details about the version of Windows PowerShell
$Pwd	The full path of the current directory

Windows PowerShell Preference Variables

$ConfirmPreference	Determines whether Windows PowerShell automatically prompts you for confirmation before running a cmdlet or function
$DebugPreference	Determines how Windows PowerShell responds to debugging
$ErrorActionPreference	Determines how Windows PowerShell responds to a non-terminating error
$ErrorView	Determines the display format of error messages in Windows PowerShell
$FormatEnumerationLimit	Determines how many enumerated items are included in a display
$MaximumHistoryCount	Determines how many commands are saved in the command history for the current session
$OFS	Output Field Separator. Specifies the character that separates the elements of an array when the array is converted to a string. The default value is: Space.
$OutputEncoding	Determines the character encoding method that Windows PowerShell uses when it sends text to other applications
$PSDefaultParameterValues	Specifies default values for the parameters of cmdlets and advanced functions
$PSEmailServer	Specifies the default e-mail server that is used to send e-mail messages
$PSModuleAutoLoadingPreference	Enables and disables automatic importing of modules in the session. "All" is the default.
$PSSessionApplicationName	Specifies the default application name for a remote command that uses WS-Management technology
$PSSessionConfigurationName	Specifies the default session configuration that is used for PSSessions created in the current session
$PSSessionOption	Establishes the default values for advanced user options in a remote session
$VerbosePreference	Determines how Windows PowerShell responds to verbose messages generated by a script, cmdlet or provider
$WarningPreference	Determines how Windows PowerShell responds to warning messages generated by a script, cmdlet or provider
$WhatIfPreference	Determines whether WhatIf is automatically enabled for every command that supports it

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Windows PowerShell Learning Resources

Microsoft Resources

Microsoft Windows PowerShell
http://www.microsoft.com/powershell

Windows PowerShell Team Blog
http://blogs.msdn.com/PowerShell

MS TechNet Script Center
http://www.microsoft.com/technet/scriptcenter/hubs/msh.mspx

PowerShell Forum
http://social.technet.microsoft.com/Forums/en-US/winserverpowershell/

Hey, Scripting Guy! Blog
http://blogs.technet.com/b/heyscriptingguy/

Windows PowerShell Survival Guide
http://social.technet.microsoft.com/wiki/contents/articles/183.windows-powershell-survival-guide-en-us.aspx

Community Resources

PowerShell Community
http://powershellcommunity.org

PowerShell Code Repository
http://poshcode.org

PowerShell.com Community
http://powershell.com

PowerGUI.org Community
http://powergui.org

PowerShell Community Groups
http://powershellgroup.org

PowerShell Magazine
http://powershellmagazine.com

The PowerShell Community Toolbar
http://powershell.ourtoolbar.com/

irc.freenode.net #PowerShell

Free eBooks and Guides

Mastering PowerShell, Second Edition - Dr. Tobias Weltner
http://powershell.com/cs/blogs/ebookv2/default.aspx

Secrets of PowerShell Remoting - Don Jones and Dr. Tobias Weltner
http://powershellbooks.com

Administrator's Guide to Windows PowerShell Remoting
Dr. Tobias Weltner, Aleksandar Nikolic, Richard Giles
http://powershell.com/cs/media/p/4908.aspx

Layman's Guide to PowerShell 2.0 Remoting - Ravikanth Chaganti
http://www.ravichaganti.com/blog/?page_id=1301

WMI Query Language via PowerShell - Ravikanth Chaganti
http://www.ravichaganti.com/blog/?page_id=2134

PowerShell 2.0 One Cmdlet at a Time - Jonathan Medd
http://www.jonathanmedd.net/2010/09/powershell-2-0-one-cmdlet-at-a-time-available-as-pdf-download.html

Effective Windows PowerShell - Keith Hill
http://rkeithhill.wordpress.com/2009/03/08/effective-windows-powershell-the-free-ebook/

Books

Don Jones, Learn Windows PowerShell in a Month of Lunches

Bruce Payette, Windows PowerShell in Action, Second Edition

Lee Holmes, Windows PowerShell Cookbook, Second Edition