



# DSC in PowerShell 4.0

**Martin Schwartzman**

Senior Premier Field Engineer  
[maschvar@microsoft.com](mailto:maschvar@microsoft.com)

# WMF 4.0

- PowerShell 4.0
- PowerShell Integrated Scripting Environment (ISE)
- PowerShell Web Services (OData IIS Extension)
- Remote Management (WinRM)
- Management Infrastructure (WMI)
- PowerShell Desired State Configuration (DSC)

Windows Management Framework 4.0

<http://www.microsoft.com/en-us/download/details.aspx?id=40855>

Requires .NET Framework 4.5

<http://www.microsoft.com/en-us/download/details.aspx?id=30653>

# The good and the bad

Scale	
😊	Business is growing
😞	More servers = More Failures

Rapid changes	
😊	Adjust and respond fast
😞	More changes = More Failures

Scale + Rapid changes = Constant failures?

# Desired State Configuration

Enables you to **ensure** that the components of your data center have the **correct configuration**

Allows **"continuous deployment"** and prevents **"configuration drift"**

Uses language extensions and providers to enable declarative, autonomous and idempotent (repeatable) Deployment, Configuration and Conformance of **standards-based managed elements**

# Imperative vs. Declarative

- **Imperative** - **How** a task should be performed
- **Declarative** – **What** needs to be done

Meaning, you'll write "configuration documents", not scripts

# DSC Practical Applications

- Install or remove server roles and features
- Manage registry settings
- Manage files and directories
- Start, stop, and manage processes and services
- Manage local groups and user accounts
- Install and manage packages such as .msi and .exe
- Manage environment variables
- Run Windows PowerShell scripts
- and many more...

# DSC Components

- PowerShell Language Extensions
- MOF (Managed Object Format) Instance doc
- WMI Service
- Local Configuration Store
- Local Configuration Manager (a WMI Provider)
- Configuration Agent (CA)
- Resource Provider

# DSC Resources

**Archive  
Resource**

**Environment  
Resource**

**File Resource**

**Group  
Resource**

**Log Resource**

**Package  
Resource**

**Process  
Resource**

**Registry  
Resource**

**Role  
Resource**

**Script  
Resource**

**Service  
Resource**

**User  
Resource**



# DSC Resource Kit Waves (3)

<b>Active Directory</b>	<b>Computer Management</b>	<b>Database</b>
<b>Failover Cluster</b>	<b>Hyper-V</b>	<b>Networking</b>
<b>Remote Desktop</b>	<b>SmbShare</b>	<b>SQL</b>
<b>System Security</b>	<b>Web Admin- istration</b>	<b>...</b>

And you can build your own custom resources

# Archive Resource

- Provides a mechanism to unpack archive (.zip) files at a specific path on a target node

```
Archive myArchiveExample
{
    Ensure = "Present" # You can also set Ensure to "Absent"
    Path = "\\RepositoryServer01\Share\SysinternalsSuite.zip"
    Destination = "C:\Tools\SysinternalsSuite"
}
```

# Demo

Archive Resource

# Environment Resource

- Provides a mechanism to manage system environment variables on a target node

```
Environment myEnvironmentExample
{
    Ensure = "Present" # You can also set Ensure to "Absent"
    Name = "_NT_SYMBOL_PATH"
    Value = "SRV*C:\symbols*http://msdl.microsoft.com/download/symbols"
}
```

# File Resource

- Provides a mechanism to manage files and folders on a target node

```
File myDirectoryCopy
{
    Ensure = "Present" # You can also set Ensure to "Absent"
    Type = "Directory" # Default is "File".
    Recurse = $true # Ensure presence of subdirectories, too
    SourcePath = "\\DC01\DSC\FourthCoffeeWebSite"
    DestinationPath = "C:\inetpub\wwwroot"
}
```

# Group Resource

- Provides a mechanism to manage local groups on a target node

```
Group myGroupExample
{
    # This will remove the myTestGroup ,if present
    # To create a new group, set Ensure to "Present"
    Ensure = "Absent"
    GroupName = "myTestGroup"
}
```

# Log Resource

- Provides a mechanism to write messages to the Microsoft-Windows-Desired State Configuration/Analytic event log

```
Log myLogExample
{
    Message = "This is a test message."
}
```

# Package Resource

- Provides a mechanism to install or uninstall packages (setup.exe or \*.msi), on a target node

```
Package myPackageExample
{
    Ensure = "Present" # You can also set Ensure to "Absent"
    Path = "\\DC01\DSC\WPTx64-x86_en-us.msi"
    Name = "WPTx64"
    ProductId = "{986EABFC-92F6-CECD-9E5A-B13CAC40BB1D}"
    Arguments = "/qn"
    LogPath = "C:\myMsiInstall.log"
}
```



# Demo

Package Resource and Configuration Parameters

# Process Resource

- Provides a mechanism to configure processes on a target node

```
WindowsProcess myProcess
{
    Arguments = "/a /b /c"
    Path = "C:\myPath\myApp.exe"
    Ensure = "Absent"
    WorkingDirectory = "C:\Windows"
}
```

# Registry Resource

- Provides a mechanism to manage registry keys and values on a target node

```
Registry myRegistryExample
{
    Ensure = "Present" # You can also set Ensure to "Absent"
    Key = "HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE\SOFTWARE\myApplication"
    ValueName = "DatabaseServerName"
    ValueData = "SQLServer01.contoso.com"
}
```

# Role Resource

- Provides a mechanism to ensure that roles and features are added or removed on a target node

```
WindowsFeature myIIS
{
    Ensure = "Present"
    Name = "Web-Server"
}
```

# Script Resource

- Provides a mechanism to run Windows PowerShell script blocks on target nodes
- The TestScript block runs first
- If it returns False, the SetScript block will run

```
Script myScriptExample
{
    SetScript = { Set-Content -Path "C:\Temp\TestFile.txt" -Value "Test" }
    TestScript = { Test-Path "C:\Temp\TestFile.txt" -PathType Leaf}
    GetScript = { <# This must return a hash table #> }
}
```

# Service Resource

- Provides a mechanism to manage services on the target node

```
Service myServiceExample
{
    Name = "TermService"
    StartupType = "Manual"
    State = "Running"
}
```

# User Resource

- Enables local user accounts management on a target node

```
User myUserExample
{
  Ensure = "Present" # To delete a user account, set Ensure to "Absent"
  Username = "Martin"
  Password = $passwordCred # This needs to be a credential object
  DependsOn = "[Group]myGroupExample" # Configures the group first
}
```

# Deploying Configuration

**Configuration** MyConfig

```
{  
    # A Configuration block can have zero or more Node blocks  
    Node "Server01"  
    {  
        # Next, specify one or more resource blocks  
  
        # Ensure the Web Server (IIS) role is installed  
        WindowsFeature MyRoleIIS  
        {  
            Ensure = "Present" # To uninstall the role, set to "Absent"  
            Name = "Web-Server"  
        }  
    }  
}
```

PS C:\> MyConfig

PS C:\> Start-DscConfiguration -Wait -Verbose -Path .\MyConfig



# Demo

Web Server installation, configuration and continuous deployment

# \*-DscConfiguration

- Start-DscConfiguration
  - Applies configuration to nodes
- Get-DscConfiguration
  - Gets the node's current configuration
- Test-DscConfiguration
  - Tests whether the actual configuration on the nodes matches the desired configuration
- Restore-DscConfiguration
  - Restores the previous configuration for the node

# Demo

Get, Test and Restore Configuration

# Demo

Multi-node configuration and parameters

# Push Model

*Authoring Phase*  
(May include imperative as well as declarative code)

PS V1, V2, V3

PS V4\*

3<sup>rd</sup> party languages and tools

*Staging Phase*

- Fully declarative configuration representation using DMTF standard MOF instances
- Configuration is calculated for all nodes

**Configuration Staging Area**  
(Contains DSC data)

*Set Phase*

(Declarative configuration is reified through imperative providers.)

Local Configuration Store

Parser and Dispatcher

Imperative Providers

\*When authoring in PowerShell, on top of PSV3 imperative features, PSV4 adds:

- Declarative syntax extensions
- Schema-driven Intellisense
- Schema validation (early-binding)

Providers implement changes:

- Monotonic
- Imperative
- Idempotent

# Pull Model

*Authoring Phase*  
(May include imperative as well as declarative code)

PS V1, V2, V3

PS V4\*

3<sup>rd</sup> party languages and tools

*Staging Phase*

- Fully declarative configuration representation using DMTF standard MOF instances
- Configuration is calculated for all nodes

**Pull Server**  
(Contains DSC data and Modules)

*Set Phase*

(Declarative configuration is reified through imperative providers.)

Local Configuration Store

Parser and Dispatcher

Imperative Providers

\*When authoring in PowerShell, on top of PSV3 imperative features, PSV4 adds:

- Declarative syntax extensions
- Schema-driven Intellisense
- Schema validation (early-binding)

Providers implement changes:

- Monotonic
- Imperative
- Idempotent

# Push vs. Pull

- Push
  - Simple
  - Control
  - Immediately applies the configuration
- Pull
  - Complete Automation
  - Scalability
  - Dedicated Pull Server

# Local Configuration Manager

- Runs on all nodes (as a WMI provider)
- Responsible for calling the DSC resources
- LCM Properties can be set using DSC

```
PS> Get-DscLocalConfigurationManager
```

```
AllowModuleOverwrite           : False
CertificateID                   :
ConfigurationID                 :
ConfigurationMode               : ApplyAndMonitor
ConfigurationModeFrequencyMins : 30
Credential                     :
DownloadManagerCustomData      :
DownloadManagerName            :
RebootNodeIfNeeded             : False
RefreshFrequencyMins           : 15
RefreshMode                    : PUSH
PSComputerName                 :
```



# ConfigurationMode

- Apply

Will apply the configuration once and after a successful run is logged, it will stop attempting to apply configuration or checking the configuration

- ApplyAndMonitor

Will apply a configuration as in Apply, but will continue to validate that a node is configured as described. No corrective action will take place if there is configuration drift

- ApplyAndAutoCorrect

Applies a configuration and checks it regularly. If configuration drift is detected, the configuration manager will attempt to return the machine to the *desired state*

# \*FrequencyMins

- ConfigurationModeFrequencyMins

Determines how frequently the configured method (RefreshMode) is run. In the case of a pull server, this is how frequently the pull server will be checked for updated configurations. The minimum value for this is 30.

- RefreshFrequencyMins

Determines how often DSC runs an integrity check against the cached configuration value. The minimum value for this setting is 15 minutes

# Configuring LCM

```
Configuration mySetLcmConfiguration
{
    Node "localhost"
    {
        LocalConfigurationManager
        {
            ConfigurationMode = "ApplyAndAutoCorrect"
            RefreshFrequencyMins = 30
            ConfigurationModeFrequencyMins = 60
            RefreshMode = "PUSH"
            RebootNodeIfNeeded = $true
        }
    }
}
```

```
PS> mySetLcmConfiguration
```

```
PS> Set-DscLocalConfigurationManager -Path .\mySetLcmConfiguration -Verbose
```

# Demo

LCM Configuration

# Desired State Configuration...

- Declarative syntax
- Simplify configuration
- Prevent configuration drift
- Enable continuous deployment

*"Hey, you're a Web server  
Here's what you should look like. Get to it, and stay  
that way!"*

# Q & A





# Microsoft