



# Top 10 PowerShell mistakes and traps to avoid

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# Objects

- Don't parse text
- Everything in PowerShell is an object
- Use Get-Member

# Types

- Beware of the “auto-casting monster”
- `$true` and `$false` are not strings
- `$null` is something (“Pipelineable”)

# Aliases

- Aliases are fine for interactive sessions
- *You* know what you're typing
  - Don't use aliases in scripts

# Variables

- Variable names should be meaningful
- Be strict!

# Write-Host

- Write-Host writes to the console, not the pipeline
- You can only work with objects written to the pipeline

# PS is not .NET

- Use Cmdlets wherever possible
- .NET classes and methods are for exceptions or large scale performance benefits

# PS is not VBS

- Don't turn VBScript into PowerShell
- Use objects in the pipeline

# Errors

- Don't turn off error pipeline
  - ~~`$ErrorActionPreference = "SilentlyContinue"`~~
- Learn how to handle errors
  - `$?`
  - Trap
  - Try+Catch
  - `$LastExitCode`

# Format-\*

- Formatting is bad for your pipeline
- Filter left, format right

# “One-Liners”

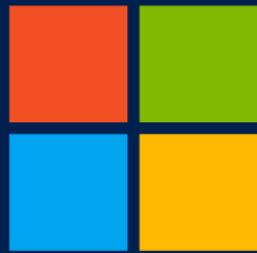
- One-line commands can be efficient
- Great for interactive console
- Not necessarily a benefit in scripting
- Don't code yourself into a corner

# Q & A



# Resources

- Microsoft Virtual Academy:
  - [Getting Started with PowerShell 3.0 Jump Start](#)
  - [Advanced Tools & Scripting with PowerShell 3.0 Jump Start](#)
- Repositories:
  - <http://technet.microsoft.com/en-us/scriptcenter>
  - <http://poshcode.org/>
  - <http://powershell.com/cs/media/13>



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