



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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