

# F1 Solutions - April 2004



## ::REM

Welcome back to the second edition of F1 Solutions. I want to thank many of you for your kind comments and suggestions on the first issue. Please feel free to forward any issues to anyone you feel might benefit. I have plans to make all issues available online, and possibly even by the time you receive this. I hope to publish directly to the web and send you a short email announcement with the link. If there is anything else I can do to provide more timely or useful information, please let me know. I'm especially interested to hear suggestions for future 10 Minute Script ideas and Tech Tutor sections.



Although this is the April issue, I have forgone the usual April Fool's prank (at least for this year). You will find nothing but reliable and useful information. Inside we take a quick peek at the Seiko Ink Link. This month's Tech Tutorial highlights a new command line tool in Windows 2003 that you can use to add not only new users, but also computers, contacts, groups and organizational units to Active Directory. We will focus on using the tool to create new user accounts. Finally, there is a quick and dirty 10 minute script you can use to generate a text list of all your user accounts in a domain.

In the last issue I profiled PEBuilder. I have recently learned that a new version is complete and ready for download. There are a number of additional features. If you haven't taken a look at it yet, I urge you to do so now at <http://www.nu2.nu/pebuilder>.

As always, I appreciate your continued support and welcome all comments, suggestions and feedback at [jhicks@jdhitsolutions.com](mailto:jhicks@jdhitsolutions.com).

*~Jeff*

## Product Feature – Ink Link

I always thought I would want a Tablet PC, but I love my Dell Latitude and Dell Axim handheld. I do a lot of diagramming and illustrations which I always felt would be terrific to have in a digital format. I found a very inexpensive solution in the Seiko Instruments Ink Link (<http://www.siibusinessproducts.com/products/link-ir-p.html>). The Ink Link consists of a infrared scanner that clips to just about anything you can write on from a cocktail napkin to a legal size tablet. The accompanying pen has an IR transmitter and together the system keeps track of the pen's position and movement, translating the results to a graphic that is displayed on your PC, laptop or handheld. This allows me to digitize my drawings and notes. The Ink Link doesn't do character recognition or handwriting translation but simply saves your work as a graphic. That is more than adequate for my purpose. The Ink Link manager integrates with Outlook so you can use keywords and categories to organize your drawings.

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### Special points of interest:

- Seiko Ink Link
- Windows 2000 Scripting Guide
- DSAdd
- Dump User List script

### Inside this issue:

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*..A well-managed Windows 2000 environment would reduce TCO by as much as 46 percent (considering the client only) compared to an unmanaged Windows 98 or NTW4 environment”*

*— Gartner Desktop TCO Update 2003*



## Product Review cont'd.

The device connects via USB on a laptop or desktop computer and via your handheld's IR port. The one drawback for me is that my Axim is much thinner than handheld models of even a few years ago. The Ink Link has a clip which is supposed to hold the IR receiver in place on the handheld, but it is too big for my Axim. I lose some of the mobility because I have to leave the Axim on the table with the IR receiver balanced close by. However, I haven't found even this to be a major obstacle and when I use the

Ink Link with my laptop it is not an issue at all.

I can customize the output as well through changing things like line weight and color. There is even a highlighter option. I can make changes on the fly or edit the drawing after the fact. And because the format is merely a jpg file, you can easily share it with others.

Now I can draw, take notes, doodle, and diagram without having to keep track of scraps of paper. All work for a client can be digitized, organized,

shared and backed up.

The Ink Link retails for around \$130 now, although you can find some deals online for around \$100. That's not a bad price for a "poor man's Tablet PC."



## Web Crawling - KBAlertz.com

Like many of you, it is sometimes next to impossible to 1) keep up with new Microsoft knowledge base articles or 2) find pertinent Microsoft Knowledge base articles. Lucky for us there is a web site that takes the drudgery out of this task. KBAlertz.com polls Microsoft's vast knowledge base nightly seeking new articles. The headers are then collated and organized. This makes searching for articles very easy. I also appreciate the fact that I can, for example, browse all the knowledge base articles about Exchange 2003 in one place.



The site is free to use and one of its best benefits are email notifications. After you sign up, select all the Microsoft technologies or platforms you are interested in. Then decide how often you want to receive updates. You will receive an email with new knowledge base titles and a link to the header on the KBAlertz site. From there, you can follow a link to the full article at Microsoft if you would like. Now there is no excuse for not keeping up on the latest news, bugs, fixes, and how-to articles on Microsoft products. Take a look for yourself at <http://www.kbalertz.com>.

## The IT Bookshelf - Windows 2000 Scripting Guide

The Windows 2000 Scripting Guide: Automating System Administration is Microsoft's official entry in the scripting reference guidebook competition. It is authored by the operators of the Technet scripting center. The book should be able to teach you just about everything you need to know about scripting. Most of the scripts are short examples which are useful even as production scripts themselves, however I use them as examples of how to do something which I can then incorporate into more complex scripts. Even though the title says Windows 2000, many of the scripts will work on Windows XP and Windows 2003. All of the script examples, as well as a searchable version of the book are on the included CD. If you are looking for an inclusive scripting resource, this is the book you should add to your library. Drop by your or favorite online or local bookseller and see for yourself.

**Microsoft Press, Paperback, Bk&CD edition, December 2002, 1287 pages, ISBN 07356186740735618674**

## Tech Tutor – DSAdd

One of the great things about Microsoft technologies is that there is usually more than one way to accomplish a given task. I'm a firm believer in the right tool for the right job, and Microsoft provides plenty of tools. User account management in Active Directory can be time consuming process, especially if you are in an environment where there is constant turnover, or (hopefully) a growing company with many new employees. In addition to use Active Directory Users & Computers, there are other ways to add new user accounts such as CSVDE, LDIFDE and custom VBScripts. One of the many new command line utilities with Windows 2003 is DSADD. You can use this tool to create Active Directory objects such as users, computers, and organizational units. I'll just take a look at using the tool to create user accounts.

Open a command prompt and type DSADD /? and you will see a great deal of information about using the tool. However, to create a new user you don't need anything more than a few parameters. The container you will be creating the user object in must already exist. The following example creates a new user object in the Gryffindor OU, which is a child OU of Students in the Hogwarts.local domain. Type it all on one line.

```
dsadd user "CN=Neville Longbottom, OU=Gryffindor, OU=students, DC=hogwarts, dc=local" -samid nlongbottom -pwd P@sswOrd -fn neville -ln longbottom
```

If you don't specify a password the user account is created but disabled. If you don't want to have the password displayed on the screen, use -pwd \* and you will be prompted to enter and confirm a password.. Use “-mustchpwd yes” if you want to force the user to change their password the next time they logon. You should put the distinguished name of the user in quotes, especially if there are any spaces.

Even though that is the least amount of information you need, I would take advantage of the parameters for description (-desc), User Principal name (-upn), and display name (-display). You can also specify group membership by using the -memberof switch. You follow it with the distinguished names of all the groups the user should belong to:

```
-memberof "CN=All Gryffindor",OU=StudentGroups,dc=hogwarts,dc=local"
```

If you want to specify multiple groups, add them one after the other separated by spaces. The group must already exist or you will get an error.

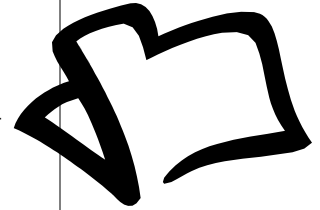
You can specify a home drive (-hmdrv) and home directory (-hmdir). You can substitute the username as a variable by using \$username\$ like this:

```
-hmdrv U: -hmdir "\\file01\users\$username$"
```

Finally, I realize this may be a lot of typing, although you enjoy doing work “by hand”. I used Excel to help me build a text file of command parameters, essentially everything that you would have to type after *dsadd user*. I then used the FOR command at a prompt to process the file and very quickly add new users.

```
For /f "tokens=*" %i in (newusers.txt) do @dsadd user %i
```

DSAdd may not change the way you manage new user accounts on a daily basis, but it could be a useful tool if you have delegated account creation. You can hand the text file to a junior admin to process and you won't have to worry about data entry mistakes. There is much, much more to this command, and related commands like DSMOD and DSREM. Try it out, test for yourself and see if this can make your life easier.



*“80 percent of wireless users planned to increase their investments during the first six months of 2004. The number one reason for this enthusiasm: productivity. Two-thirds of WLAN users said they had anticipated that previous wireless would increase productivity and, according to the survey, nearly all of those respondents said they did indeed receive gains in productivity.”*

*–Sage Research*

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**10 Minute Scripts**

Often times a script will require a list of user account names to process. Fortunately, it is not a difficult task to query your domain and send the output to a text file. This script will run against Windows NT/2000/2003 domains and return the SAMAccount name of every user, regardless of what OU or container they might reside in. The account used to run this script must have appropriate permissions, especially if you have configured your domain to prevent anonymous enumeration. As always, this is a quick and dirty script. Add error handling, any additional functionality and test thoroughly.

```
'GetUserList.vbs
On error resume next
'usage cscript|wscript getuserlist.vbs
dim wshnetwork,objDomain,fso,f

'specify the filename and path to store the results
strOutput="domainusers.txt"

set wshNetwork=CreateObject("wscript.network")
set fso=CreateObject("Scripting.FileSystemObject")

set f=fso.CreateTextFile(strOutPut)

wscript.echo "Getting user list for: " & wshNetwork.UserDomain

'WinNT is case-sensitive
set objDomain=GetObject("WinNT:// " & wshNetwork.UserDomain)

objDomain.Filter=array("user")
For each member in objDomain
  f.writeline member.name
next

f.close

wscript.echo "User list complete. See " & strOutput & " for the
results."

wscript.quit

'eof
```