

# F1 Solutions December 2004



## ::REM

Hello All,

It's hard to believe another year is almost behind us. I hope 2004 was a healthy, happy and prosperous one for you and your organization. I trust my little newsletter has offered at least one useful bit of information this year.

I didn't plan it, but this issue has become almost a theme issue on Scripting. I start out by profiling a new tool I've developed for scripting administrators. I hope you'll let me know what you think. Our web review is script related and the book review is all about the command line. We also wrap up our mini-tutorial on netdom.

The last item I want to mention is that ScriptingAnswers.com is now offering a premier membership service that will provide among other things ready-to-use scripts, private forums, video tips and one-on-one assistance among other things. I'll be working with the site to provide content and answers. My newsletter subscribers can get a discount on the first year by going to <http://www.scriptinganswers.com/Default.aspx?tabid=118> before December 31, 2004. There is also a special 3 day trial membership if you are interested.

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

*Happy Holidays!*  
~Jeff



## Scripting Assistant

As most of you are aware I have a keen interest in scripting. During the recent Techment conference a number of sessions talked about management consoles, which I'm know you are all familiar with. It struck me that there needed to be a management console for scripting. I have many scripting tools and resources installed on my laptop. However, finding the right tool when I need it sometimes takes longer than I would like. I'm not a big fan of desktops stuffed with a hundred shortcuts. So I created the Scripting Assistant console.

The Scripting Assistant is custom MMC designed for the scripting administrator. It will discover all scripting related resources on your computer and provide a single interface to access them all. The utility doesn't include things like Microsoft's Scriptomatic or the VBScript help file, but if you have them, the console will make it easier to find them. If you don't have some of the resources, I've added many scripting relate web links, including links to the download pages for many of the tools and

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### Special points of interest:

- Scripting Assistant
- Jesseweb
- Netdom Part 3
- Get Password Age

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## Scripting Assistant - cont'd.

utilities a scripting administrator should have.

Finally, I've also included a few utility scripts to manage your own scripts. These scripts will export a script to a line numbered version or a color coded html version with optional line numbering.

You can see more screen shots, view a FAQ and take a 3 minute video tour at <http://scriptingassistant.jdhitsolutions.com/>



“The market for consulting has been shifting in 2004, and Forrester expects those changes to accelerate in 2005 as firms focus on strategic business issues like growth and globalization. The nature of those issues will change the way clients hire and work with consulting firms ”

—Forrester Research

## Web Crawling



Several years ago I moderated scripting forums at Brainbuzz.com (now Cramsession.com). At that time I had the opportunity to review a copy of Windows Admin Scripting Little Black Book by Jesse Torres. This is a nice book that is organized by task. (The book is in its second edition which I've not looked at yet). In support, Jesse has a free web site you may be interested in. On the site (free membership required), you can find many script samples organized by task such as Backup, Logging and Inventory. The scripts are a mix of Vbscript, Kixtart and batch files, plus some registry hacks thrown in to spice things up.

The scripts for the most part are short and to the point. Sometimes just a few lines which makes them ideal for incorporating into your scripts as functions or subroutines. You can quickly download each code sample with a single click. Very nice.

The site has a few other non-IT section so visit <http://www.jesseweb.com/scripting/> to get right to the good stuff.

## IT Bookshelf

I am a big proponent of the Windows command line and always encourage administrators to be familiar with this environment. There are terrific command line utilities that don't have a direct GUI alternative. Plus, there may be times in a crunch when all you have is a command line. Obviously the more you know about the command line the better. So it should be no surprise that this month's book recommendation is Microsoft Windows Command-Line by Williams Stanek (Microsoft Press 2004). This is a small soft cover book that will give you fast answers to command line tasks. The book is organized by job task such as partitioning disks, managing Active Directory users and computer accounts, and managing Windows systems. The appendix lists essential command line tools with a brief description and the command line syntax.

I think you'll find this a handy addition to your reference library. Go to: <http://www.microsoft.com/MSPress/books/6787.asp> to learn more.



## Tech Tutor — Netdom Part 3

This month we'll finish up our tutorial on netdom by learning how to use it to discover information about our domain. As you will see, netdom can not only retrieve information from Active Directory, but also reach out and touch the network. Let's start by finding all the computer accounts in our domain. As far as Active Directory is concerned a server is no different than a workstation so if we run `netdom query /domain:matrix /workstation` at a command prompt we will get a list of all computer accounts in the domain. But are all those accounts current? The query command has a verify switch that will check the secure channel between the computer and a domain controller. At the prompt type:

```
C:\>Netdom query /domain:matrix /verify workstation
```

Workstations or servers that are offline or unavailable will be noted as such.

Netdom will also help you identify server roles in any domain you have administrative access to. One option is to identify the PDC or the server functioning as the PDC emulator:

```
C:\>Netdom query /domain:matrix /pdc
```

If this command fails, I would expect you are having problems with the domain! In a related manner, you can use netdom to identify all the FSMO role holders. Given the critical role these domain controller play in Active Directory, I always stress that administrators document which servers have which roles. You can go to the different management consoles to get the information, but netdom can provide all the information with a single command:

```
C:\>netdom query /domain:matrix fsmo
Schema owner          trinity.matrix.local
Domain role owner     trinity.matrix.local
PDC role              trinity.matrix.local
RID pool manager      trinity.matrix.local
Infrastructure owner  trinity.matrix.local
```

If you want to save the results to a text file run:

```
C:\>Netdom query /domain:matrix /fsmo > fsmoroles.txt
```

Finally, netdom can also be used to document domain and forest trusts:

```
C:\>netdom query /domain:matrix trust
```

```
Direction Trusted\Trusting domain          Trust type
=====
<->      win2kdom.local                      Direct
<->      JDHNT                              Direct
```

The output of this command will display all domain trusts, whether they are inbound or outbound and the trust type. Another way to view trusts from the command line is by using NLTEST.:

```
C:\>nltest /domain_trusts
List of domain trusts:
    0: WIN2KDOM win2kdom.local (NT 5) (Direct Outbound) (Direct In-
bound)
    1: JDHNT (NT 4) (Direct Outbound) (Direct Inbound)
    2: MATRIX matrix.local (NT 5) (Forest Tree Root) (Primary Do-
main)
```

As with the workstation option, you can also use `/verify` to check the trust.

There are a few more options I haven't covered but you can see for yourself by running `netdom query /?`. I hope this mini-series was helpful and would love to hear from you.



“Information networks straddle the world. Nothing remains concealed. But the sheer volume of information dissolves the information. We are unable to take it all in ”

— Günther Grass

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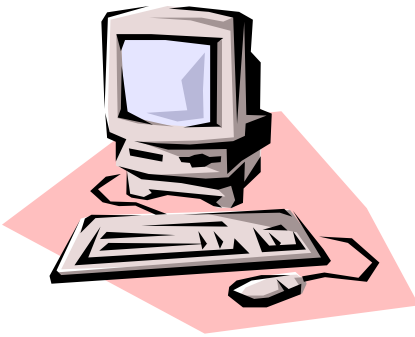
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**10 Minute Scripts**

The script for this month could be incorporated into your user logon script. A popup box will be displayed indicating how old their password is in days. You can specify how long you want the message to be displayed. The default is 10 seconds. The popup also will display the information icon.

You may want to enhance the script to provide a specific message for non-expiring passwords or maybe to display how many days are left before the password must be changed.

```
'GetPasswordAge.vbs
On Error Resume Next
Dim wshNetwork,wshell,oUserNT

'Set the number of seconds to display the message before it
'disappears. User can click OK at any time.
Const DisplayFor=10

Set wshNetwork=CreateObject("wscript.Network")
Set wshell=CreateObject("wscript.shell")

'display user's password age
Set oUserNT=GetObject("WinNT://" & wshNetwork.userDomain &
"/"&wshNetwork.Username & ",user")

PassAge=FormatNumber(oUserNT.PasswordAge/86400,0)

'Password age message to display
PassMsg="Your password is " & PassAge & " days old."

wshell.Popup PassMsg,DisplayFor,"Password
Age",vbOkOnly+vbInformation

Set wshell=Nothing
Set wshNetwork=Nothing
Set oUserNT=Nothing

'EOF
```