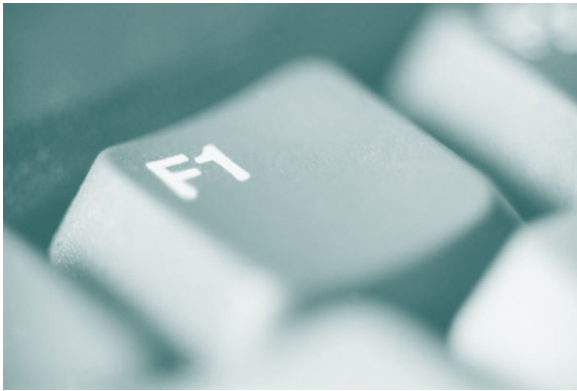




# F1 Solutions - May 2004



## ::REM

Hello All,

Here we are with another edition of F1 Solutions. We start out with a quick review of Dell's Axim x3i Pocket PC. I've had one for a few months now and thought I would share my experiences. Our web site recommendation this month might come as a surprise to some. Even though our focus is Microsoft technologies, I realize Linux has a growing place in many organizations. Distrowatch.org is a one-stop shop for the latest Linux distributions.



This month's quick and dirty script uses WMI to search drive C: for a user specified file type, like .doc. The script then builds a csv file that shows filename with path and the creation, last modified and last access dates. The report can help you decide what files to delete or archive. You can modify the drive to search (don't use a trailing \) and the name of the output file. As always, this is a barebones script with no error handling. Test thoroughly in a non-production environment.

Finally, you may notice a new logo on our web site. JDH Information Technology Solutions is now a member of the Independent Computer Consultants Association (<http://www.icca.org>). As members we pledge to adhere to a [code of ethics](#) and professional standards.

I hope you have enjoyed reading these newsletters as much as I enjoy putting them together. 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 – Dell Axim x3i



Earlier this year I took the plunge and purchased a [Dell Axim x3i](#). I haven't regretted it one bit. My unit has integrated 802.11b, a very bright TFT display, an SDIO slot and plenty of memory. I also added a travel kit with adapters so I can recharge on the road or in my car as well as a Rhinoskin metal case. Once I received my Axim, I realize I probably would have been fine with the standard carrying case, but I like the Rhinoskin's brushed aluminum look and it has protected my Axim from a few hard knocks already.

The Axim runs Microsoft Pocket PC 2003. I synchronize my Outlook email, calendar and tasks. Although I don't use it as much for sending email, the Axim is handy for adding new events and tasks as I think of them. No more slips of paper to keep track of until I can enter them in Outlook. I also use the Notes feature extensively. I can jot down ideas as I have them or take notes using either the soft keyboard or freehand text. It is very easy to write with the stylus and the handwriting recognition

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### Special points of interest:

- Dell Axim x3i
- Windows Management Instrumentation
- What Are You Waiting FOR?
- WMI File Query

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*“A recent META Group survey [April 2003] found that 80% of businesspeople prefer e-mail over the phone as a business communication tool. This startling finding underscores the need for organizations to craft a productive, cost-effective, secure, and hygienic e-mail system.”*

*~META Group*

## Dell Axim x3i cont'd.

is very good, assuming your handwriting is neat enough to begin with. Often, I just leave my handwritten notes as they are since I'm the only one who has to decipher my scratches!

The wireless connectivity is the most useful feature. Wireless can be disabled to extend batter life. Dell has a WLAN utility that shows available wireless networks, signal strength and IP information. There is even a rudimentary PING utility for troubleshooting connectivity. Obviously a

handheld wireless device offers tremendous freedom, and you might be surprised how many places have Wi-Fi service. I find myself keeping on top of email and news, while waiting in line at Starbucks. The one drawback is that the Dell TrueLAN chipset isn't supported for the handheld version of NetStumbler. My only other frustration is that many web sites aren't optimized for handheld devices

In addition to the many bundled apps, there is a growing

library of shareware and free-ware PocketPC applications, not to mention commercial offerings. Webattack.com is developing a PocketPC section and I have discovered some useful and free utilities such as email signatures, network tools, and of course, games. I use MS MapPoint 2004 and download maps to my Axim which has been very helpful when traveling. I'm now considering investing in a GPS solution that would use the SDIO slot.

Visit Dell to learn more.

## Web Crawling - Distrowatch.org

For many organizations, it's no longer a Windows only world. Linux distributions are numerous and vying for a spot in your network. For those of us new to the Linux world, the number of offerings can be overwhelming. Fortunately I found a web site that keeps track of all the major Linux distributions and applications. Distrowatch.org (<http://www.distrowatch.org>) is the place I frequent to find out what's new in the Linux world and to download some of the latest distributions. The site includes links to download mirrors, reviews and comments on distributions and applications.

If you've never used Linux, I encourage you to try out some of the CD-based distributions like Knoppix which lets you run a full-fledged Linux system from a bootable CD. Great for getting your feet wet without going through the pain of a "real" installation or configuring a dual boot system.

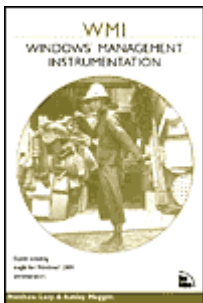
The power of the penguin isn't going away and this is a handy site to keep tabs on it.

## The IT Bookshelf - WMI

**Windows Management Instrumentation**—Matthew Lavy & Ashley Meggitt (New Riders 2001)

For my money there is no better book for learning about WMI, especially for scripting administrators. While WMI is used extensively by Microsoft and ISV developers, administrators can also leverage the power of WMI with administrative scripts. This title covers everything you need to know about how WMI works, and how to make it work for you. WMI is a complicated technology, but the authors do an excellent job in explaining even the most complex topic. Many useful examples and scripts which can be downloaded from the publisher's web site. When I have a question about WMI, this is the book I turn to.

<http://www.bookpool.com/.x/d3dwt510fr/sm/1578702607>



## Tech Tutor — What Are You Waiting FOR?

This article will introduce the FOR command and illustrate basic usage that will expand your scripting possibilities and hopefully make your work a bit more enjoyable. At a command prompt type FOR /? to see basic help information.

In a nutshell, the FOR command allows us to perform some action on a set of files. The command says that FOR every X (the variable) IN some set of files, then DO some command and pass any other command parameters as needed. The variable is usually a letter such as %i. Be careful, as variable names are case sensitive. The rest of the command is not case sensitive, but I have used upper case for emphasis and clarity.

Let's begin with a very basic example. At a command prompt type:

```
FOR %i IN (*.*) DO echo %i
```

Our command is that FOR every file in the current directory (\*.\*), assign it a variable %i and then simply echo that variable to the console. This will list all files in the current directory. It is comparable to the dir /b command but listing only files. The command to be run, echo in this case, can be any OS command, executable or batch file. You'll notice that when you run this example you get output like the following:

```
E:\scripts>echo xlshares.vbs
xlshares.vbs
```

```
E:\scripts>echo xltest.vbs
xltest.vbs
```

```
E:\scripts>echo y2k.vbs
y2k.vbs
```

To clean up the output, use the @ symbol before your command:

```
FOR %i IN (*.*) DO @echo %i
```

Now let's try another example. Suppose you have a batch file that will run a virus scan on a document, compress it using PKZIP, and copy it to an archive server or ZIP drive. I know this may not be the most practical example, but you get the idea. Let's call the batch file SAVEIT.BAT and it takes the filename as a parameter, SAVEIT expenses.doc. Obviously, you want to run this batch file on many documents without intervention. At a command prompt you type:

```
FOR %i IN (*.doc) DO @C:\SCRIPTS\SAVEIT %i
```

What we are asking is that for every .doc file in the current directory, we want to run SAVEIT and pass it the filename in the set as the parameter. The set (\*.doc) assumes the existing directory. If you wanted to run SAVEIT.BAT on files in another directory, simply use the full path for the set.

```
FOR %i IN ("e:\my documents\april 99\reports\*.doc") DO @c:\SCRIPTS\SAVEIT %i
```

Of course, you don't want to have to be at a console manually typing all of this. You want to integrate it this into a batch file. The only thing you need to remember to change is to use %%i for the variable, as opposed to %i.

```
@echo off
::ADMIN.BAT
for %%i in ("e:\my documents\april 99\reports\*.doc") DO @C:\SCRIPTS\SAVEIT %%i
for %%i in ("e:\your documents\*.*) DO @C:\SCRIPTS\SAVEIT %%i
for %%i in ("f:\public\inventory reports\*.xls") DO @C:\SCRIPTS\SAVEIT %%i
```

We schedule ADMIN.BAT to run and the specified documents will be scanned, compressed and archived. I'll cover additional uses of the FOR command next month.



*“Technology ... is a queer thing. It brings you great gifts with one hand, and it stabs you in the back with the other.”*

*C. P. Snow*

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**10 Minute Scripts**

Using WMI, create a csv report for a specified file type, such as .doc, on drive C: that shows when created, last modified and last accessed. Useful for decided what can be deleted or archived.

On Error Resume Next

```
strTitle="File Type Search"
strType=InputBox("What type of file do you want to look for? Do
NOT use a period.",strTitle,"vbs")
strDrive=InputBox("What local drive do you want to search? Do
NOT use a trailing \",strTitle,"c:")
strOutput="c:\filequery.csv"
strQuery="Select Name,CreationDate,LastAccessed,LastModified," &
"FileSize,Extension,Drive FROM CIM_DATAFILE WHERE Extension='" &
strType & "' AND Drive='C:'"
Set fso=CreateObject("Scripting.FileSystemObject")
If fso.FileExists(strOutput) Then fso.DeleteFile(strOutput)
Set f=fso.CreateTextFile(strOutput)
Set oWmi=GetObject("winmgmts:")
Set oRef=oWmi.ExecQuery(strQuery)
wscript.echo "Working ...."
f.Writeline "FilePath,Size bytes),Created,LastAccessed, LastModi-
fied"
For Each file In oRef
f.Writeline file.Name & "," & file.FileSize & "," & ConvWMITime
(file.CreationDate) & "," & ConvWMITime(file.LastAccessed) & ","
& ConvWMITime(file.LastModified)
Next
f.Close
wscript.echo "Finished. See " & strOutput & " for results"
wscript.quit
```

```
Function ConvWMITime(wmiTime)
```

```
On Error Resume Next
```

```
yr = left(wmiTime,4)
```

```
mo = mid(wmiTime,5,2)
```

```
dy = mid(wmiTime,7,2)
```

```
tm = mid(wmiTime,9,6)
```

```
ConvWMITime = mo & "/" & dy & "/" & yr & " " & FormatDateTime
(left(tm,2) & ":" & Mid(tm,3,2) & ":" & Right(tm,2),3)
```

```
End Function
```