

F1 Solutions September 2004



::REM

Hello All,

September and time for school. I always enjoyed going back to school because I looked forward to learning new things. I still have that zeal, hopefully evident from my career and this newsletter. As IT professionals, our learning never ceases. If we're not attending formal training classes, reading books, magazines, or newsletters, we're learning from the (sometimes painful) on the job experience.



This month's newsletter does what it can to stuff a few more items in your cranium. If you learn at least one new tidbit of knowledge from each issue, I would be very satisfied. This month's Tech Tutor article concludes our mini-series on stress test tools by looking at another resource kit utility. Our 10 Minute Script demonstrates how to use the Scripting.FileSystemObject to return drive utilization information.

Finally, I'm trying something new with this newsletter issue and substituting a security section in place of the regular Product Review section. Please let me know what you think about the change.

I mentioned last month I am on attending the Techmentor Conference in San Jose at the end of the month. If you are attending, I hope you'll try and find me and say hello.

As always, I appreciate your continued support and welcome all comments, suggestions and feedback at jhicks@jdhitsolutions.com.

~Jeff

Security Watch

Wi-Fi Security Is Just Around the Corner

IEEE recently ratified the new standard for wireless security – 802.11i. Previously, the Wi-Fi Alliance embraced the 802.11i standard's core components in an interim specification called Wireless Protected Access (WPA). [Read More](#)



What to Look for in Your Security Logs

Windows provides nine categories of audit activity that you can track in the security event log. [Read More](#)

There Is More to Information Security Than Viruses

There is a lot more to information security than worms and viruses. [Read More](#)

Best Practice Account Management Requires Management Support

Properly managing user accounts through their life cycle has a major impact on your

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Special points of interest:

- Security Watch
- MIT Technology Review
- Stress Test Part 2
- Drive Information Script

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Security Watch - cont'd.

organization's security. [Read More](#)

Cleaning a Compromised System

So, you didn't patch the system and it got hacked. What to do? Well, click [here](#) to learn more.

Enterprise Security Best Practices

To help you evaluate and plan the security of your network, Microsoft has compiled a list of best practices for securing an enterprise. [Read more.](#)

RECENT SECURITY ALERTS

(as of August 4)

- * Microsoft (8)
- * Oracle (1)
- * RedHat (13)
- * Sun (2)
- * SuSe (3)

[Read More](#)

Security Watch is brought to you by JDH Information Technology Solutions in partnership with Windows & .NET Magazine. Each Security Watch eNewsletter is produced independently by the Windows & .NET Magazine Custom Media Group and is distributed by various Micro-

soft security partners. Each eNewsletter contains up-to-date information about security strategies, technologies, and alerts.

Remember, if you can see the Internet, the Internet can see you!



“Forrester recently surveyed nearly 1,400 technology decision-makers at North American and European enterprises about their purchase plans for the second half of 2004. Upgrading existing hardware is a key initiative — 80% plan to purchase PCs, 72% will buy servers. Among software buyers, infrastructure software is top priority.”

—Forrester Research

Web Crawling - World of Windows Networking



I recently came across this site and am hoping to make it a regular target. World of Windows Networking offers a wealth of articles and tutorials on all things Windows. The current list of articles covers DFS, Sharepoint Services, high availability and setting up FTP sites in Windows 2003.

The articles are brief but meaty and usually illustrated. As the name suggests, the focus is on networking so you will find information on topics such as RAS,DSL,ICS, cabling and other hardware related topics. I was impressed to find networking topics going all the way back to Windows 95 and up to the latest wireless technologies.

The site offers a free newsletter that keeps you up to date with recent article additions. You can either get a monthly update or a notice every time a new article or tutorial is published.

So if you are supporting legacy systems that just won't die or want to keep abreast of the latest networking technologies, take a look at <http://www.windowsnetworking.com>.

MIT Technology Review

I thought I'd deviate slightly from the norm and recommend a magazine. I subscribe to many industry and trade magazines with free subscriptions and only pay for 2 technology or computer related periodicals. This is one of them. This magazine focuses on current trends in computers, nanotechnology, biotech, energy and business. While I rarely find anything that directly affects me or my business, I appreciate articles that present technology advances in the context of the business world. This month's issue discusses the Linux movement and how it is changing corporate America.

If you are at all interested in science and technology, then you have to take a look at this. You can subscribe online or learn more at <http://www.technologyreview.com>. A paid subscription also gives you online access to 6 years of content. You can get 2 free issues at <http://www.technologyreview.com/new/topad>



Tech Tutor – Stress Test Part 2

Last month we looked at Consume.exe and explored how to use it stress test a system. This month we'll look at Creatfil .exe and explore not only how to stress out your file server but how this tool can bail you out when space gets tight. Creatfil is a command line tool that creates a file of just about any size you specify. For example to create a 4MB file called filler.dat, run creatfil filler.dat 4096. You can call the file anything you want. Specify the file size in KB. If you don't specify a size, the default is 1MB. You can create the file on any physical drive, either local or mapped. Now how can we use this?

First, you could use a command line like this:

```
For /l %x in (1,1,50) do @creatfil c:\temp\dummy%x.dat 2048 &&
sleep 30
```

This command will create 50 files each 2MB in size and wait for 30 seconds between each one. (The command utilizes sleep.exe which is also in the resource kit.) You might want to raise or lower any of the values. While the script is running you can then use performance monitor to track how your system responds.

If you wrap creatfil in a vbscript, then you have even more possibilities. Here is a vbscript way to accomplish the same thing as above:

```
On Error Resume Next
Dim wshShell

Set wshShell=CreateObject("Wscript.Shell")
For x=1 To 50
    wshShell.Exec "creatfil c:\temp\vbdummy" & x & ".dat 2048"
    WScript.Sleep 30000 'time in milliseconds
Next
```

But with VBScript we can also generate random numbers and hence random file sizes. The function generates a random number between the specified minimum and maximum. In this case, we will generate files between 100K and 4MB.

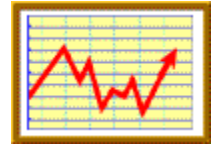
```
On Error Resume Next
Dim wshShell
Set wshShell=CreateObject("Wscript.Shell")
For x=1 To 5
    wshShell.Exec "creatfil c:\temp\vbdummy" & x & ".dat " & GetRand(100,4096)
    WScript.Sleep 30000 'milliseconds
Next
Set wshShell=Nothing
WScript.Quit

Function GetRand(iLower,iUpper)
Randomize
GetRand=Int((iUpper - iLower + 1) * Rnd + iLower)
End Function
```

It would not be too difficult to incorporate consume.exe and creatfil.exe in a single VBScript. I've hopefully just given you a small taste of how to use these utilities.

Of course, don't forget to delete all those dummy files. This is where the utility can save you in a pinch. On your file servers, create some large dummy files of 100MB and up. When your users run out of disk space, you can delete as many dummy files as you need to give yourself some breathing room until users clean up or you can install additional storage. I'd also recommend excluding these files from your backup sets.

I hope you'll give these tools a whirl for yourself.



“When asked what learning was the most necessary, he said, “Not to unlearn what you have learned”

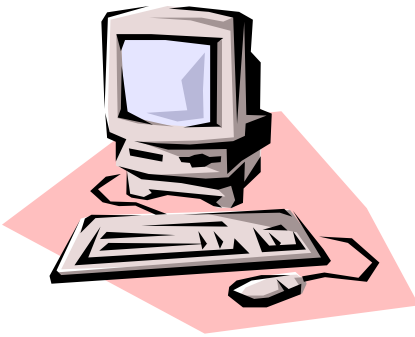
- Diogenes Laërtius

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Mission Statement

Our mission is to provide outstanding information technology consulting services and solutions to our clients utilizing a value-oriented approach. We recognize that most information technology projects are goal not hour driven. Our aim is to leverage technology to solve our clients' business challenges in the most cost-effective manner possible. We succeed when they succeed.

10 Minute Scripts

This month's script demonstrates how to use the FileSystemObject to report on drive utilization. You don't need any fancy WMI code, although it only works on the local computer. However, if you have mapped network drives, it will report on the logical mapped drive. The script also demonstrates how to use the FormatNumber function to return more "user friendly" information.

```
'DriveInfo.vbs
'get local drive utilization
'usage: cscript|wscript driveinfo.vbs
dim objFSO,collDrv
dim fs,d

set objFSO=wscript.CreateObject("Scripting.FileSystemObject")
set collDrv=objFSO.Drives
  for each drv in collDrv
    if drv.DriveType=2 then          'check fixed drives only
      Set fs = CreateObject("Scripting.FileSystemObject")
      Set d = fs.GetDrive(fs.GetDriveName(drv))
      t = FormatNumber(d.TotalSize/(1024*1024),0)
      f = FormatNumber(d.FreeSpace/(1024*1024),0)
      u = 100-FormatNumber(f/t,2)*100

'The following code starting with s= should all be on
'one line
      s = s & drv & " " & drv.VolumeName & "(" &
drv.FileSystem & ")" & vbtab & t & " MB Total"& vbtab & f & "
MB Free" & vbtab & u & "% Utilized" & vbcrlf

      end if
    next

wscript.echo s

set objFSO=Nothing
set collDrv=Nothing
set fs=Nothing
set d=Nothing

wscript.quit
```