

# F1 Solutions

## April 2005



### ::REM



Hello All,

I've been busy lately with a number of little projects. Last month I filled in for Don Jones and did a Microsoft Technet webcast on scripting with ADO. If you've ever wondered how to script with databases, this webcast will give you a good foundation. You can view an on demand version of the webcast at

<http://msevents.microsoft.com/cui/eventdetail.aspx?eventID=1032262060&Culture=en-US>.

You have to register and in order view it. The demo scripts and database are in my-Script Library.

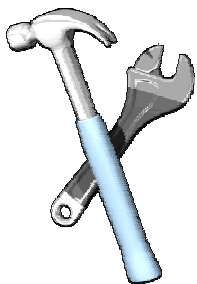
I've also updated the Scripting Assistant to add more functionality, improve performance and make even a little fun. You can read more about the update below.

I have some other new projects on the horizon and once they are a bit more finalized I'll be sure to share them with you.

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

*~Jeff*

### Scripting Assistant v3.0



I'm happy to announce that I have released an update to the Scripting Assistant console at <http://scriptingassistant.jdhitsolutions.com>. Previous versions used the MMC format. While the format was familiar and I like the taskpad feature, it was tedious to modify and update the MMC without revising the entire tool. I decided to rewrite the console as an HTA. All the original functionality is retained in a easy to use HTA.

The HTA format makes it easier for me to update and add additional functionality. One major addition which I'm happy with is the ability to add custom tools and links. Have a tool or shortcut you use, now you can add it to the console and it won't be lost or overwritten during future upgrades. On top of that, I've added new tool links, shortcuts to more help files, many you may already have and new web links. Web links are now categorized, something that was very difficult to maintain in the previous version.

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#### Special points of interest:

- Scripting Assistant
- PacketStorm
- SrvInfo
- Local Admin Age

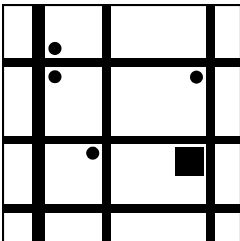
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“Advanced Micro Devices Inc. has offered its first peek at Pacifica, its virtualization technology for use on server and desktop processors, ahead of the April launch of the Pacifica specifications.

The technology is designed to allow multiple operating systems and applications to run in independent partitions on a single processor, turning one compute system into multiple "virtual" systems.”

—IDG News Service

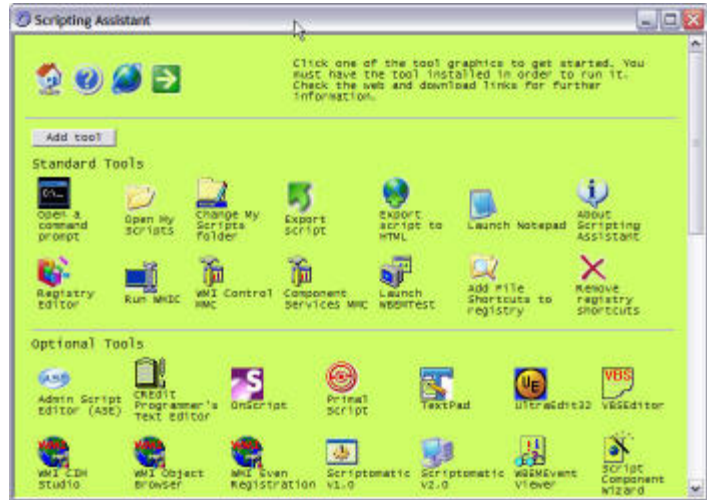


## Product - cont'd.

Speaking of web links, the new version has an improved web preview feature which includes a link to open the page in an external browser.

The Scripting Assistant includes a few extras to manage your own scripts such as exporting a script to a color coded html file with optional line numbering.

I have posted some additional screen shots, a FAQ and a 4 minute annotated Flash demo on the web site. Follow the Scripting Assistant link.



## Web Crawling—Packetstorm.org

If security is on your to-do list, and who doesn't these days, then you owe it to yourself to take a look at <http://packetstormsecurity.org>. This non-profit site offers a wealth of information on Windows and \*nix vulnerabilities, news, papers and advisories. The site now has an RSS feed to make it even easier to keep on top of what sometimes seems like an overwhelming amount of information. As you might expect, Packetstorm offers a number of forums, including some in languages other than English, on all manner of security topics.

If you are responsible for security auditing and curious about how to defend yourself, take a look at the defense links for a list of tools and techniques. There doesn't seem to be anything specific to Windows 2003, but I expect most of the Windows 2000 tools would work just fine. Packetstorm provides a link to other sites where you can download the files.

Packetstorm has been around for a number of years and some of the files available are pretty old by Internet standards. However, as you poke around, I think you'll realize that some information never gets old.

## Geek Humor—Things computers do in movies\*

Movie characters never make typing mistakes.

All monitors display inch-high letters.

You can also infect a computer with a destructive virus by simply typing "UPLOAD VIRUS". (See "Fortress".)

A hacker is always able to break into the most sensitive computer in the world by guessing the secret password in two tries.

You may bypass "PERMISSION DENIED" message by using the "OVERRIDE" function. (See "Demolition Man".)

\*<http://www.jdbshow.com/geek2.html#MOVIES>

## Tech Tutor — SrvInfo

Long time readers will know that I am a strong proponent of the right tool for the job. While administrative scripting is a powerful tool, sometimes a command line utility will quickly get the job done. Perhaps the output isn't exactly what you are hoping for, but when pressed for time I would rather have information as quickly as possible. This is typically the situation when there is a problem with a server or I quickly need some information such as what services are running. While the computer management MMC makes it easy to connect to a remote system, it takes time to launch the MMC, connect to the remote system, then navigate to the Services section. That's where a tool like SrvInfo from the Resource Kit comes in handy. By the way, you can download the Windows 2003 Resource Kit tools at <http://www.microsoft.com/downloads/details.aspx?familyid=9d467a69-57ff-4ae7-96ee-b18c4790cffd&displaylang=en>.

This command line tool will quickly gather pertinent information about a remote server (or the local system if you don't specify a system). Let's take a quick look at how you might use the tool.

```
Usage: SRVINFO [[-?|-ns|-d|-v|-s] \\computer_name]
```

Open a command prompt and run SrvInfo with no switches. You will get a full report on your computer. I won't show any output here because it can be extensive, but it includes OS and hardware information, service status, installed hotfixes, and network configuration. Fortunately, you can be somewhat selective about what information to display. Unfortunately, you can only use one switch at a time. When you use the -v switch, IIS, Exchange and SQL version information is displayed along side the service status.

Of course, because SrvInfo is a command line tool you can use all the nifty command line tricks like filtering and redirection. Suppose you want to find all the services that are stopped on server APP02. At a command prompt from your desktop run:

```
srvinfo -nf \\app02|find /i "stopped"
```

Even though we're already filtering for lines that include the word stopped, I use the -nf switch to not display hot fix info just to speed things up a little bit. Here's another idea where I've wrapped SrvInfo in a batch file. This little script reads a list of computers, runs SrvInfo and gets the System Uptime line. Once it has this information, it is echoed to the screen in a csv format of computername,uptime.

```
@echo off
:UpTimeReport.bat
for /f %i in (list.txt) do Call :GetInfo %i
goto EOF

:GetInfo
srvinfo \\%1|find /i "system up time" >~tmp.$$$
for /f "tokens=*" %j in (~tmp.$$$) do @set ztmp=%j
echo %1,%ztmp%

:EOF
if exist ~tmp.$$$ del ~tmp.$$$ >NUL
set ztmp=
```

To save results you would run Uptimereport >uptimelog.txt

There are other ways to get this information, such as using WMI. But if you just need a quick answer or don't feel ready to tackle WMI, then command line utility like this and a simple batch file will do the trick.

If you have a favorite command line tool or resource kit utility you can't live with out, I'd love to hear about it.



*“Time is a dressmaker specializing in alterations.”*

*— Faith Baldwin*

**JDH Information Technology Solutions**

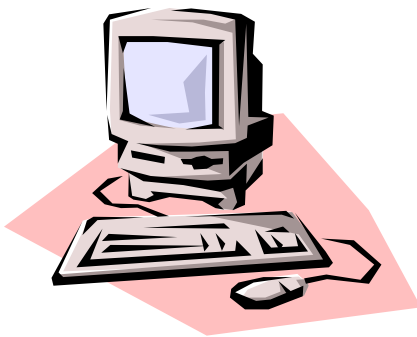
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**10 Minute Scripts**

We all know the importance of changing the local administrator password on servers and desktops. But sometimes you may just need to know how old that password is. This quick and dirty script connects to a remote computer and gets not only the password age, but also the date the account last logged in. Output is in a csv format.

If you had a list of servers, you could use the FOR command to parse the list, run the script and use console redirection to save the output to a file:

```
For /f %x in (servers.txt) do @cscript LocalAdminAge.vbs %x >>adminage.csv
```

This script lacks all the necessary error handling but has enough functionality to get you started.

```
On Error Resume Next
```

```
'usage: cscript LocalAdminAge.vbs computername
dim oAdmin,wshNetwork
```

```
Set wshNetwork=CreateObject("wscript.network")
```

```
if wscript.Arguments.Item(0)=" " Then
    strSrv=wshNetwork.ComputerName
```

```
Else strSrv=Trim(UCASE(WScript.Arguments.Item(0)))
```

```
End if
```

```
set oAdmin=GetObject("WinNT://" & strSrv &_
"/Administrator,user")
```

```
If oAdmin.Name=" " Then
```

```
WScript.Echo strSrv & ",FAILED TO CONNECT,,"
```

```
Else
```

```
If oAdmin.LastLogin=" " Then
```

```
strLastLogin="NEVER"
```

```
Else
```

```
strLastLogin=oAdmin.LastLogin
```

```
End If
```

```
WScript.Echo strSrv & "," & oAdmin.Name & "," &_
```

```
Chr(34) & FormatNumber(oAdmin.PasswordAge/86400) &_
```

```
Chr(34) &_ "," & strLastLogin
```

```
End if
```