



F1 Solutions February 2005

::REM



Hello All,

I've developed a new HTA tool you can use to monitor disk utilization for a list of servers. You get a nice graphical display showing how much each logical drive is being used. A free, "lite" version is available for download on the web site. There is also a more feature-rich version for sale. Read more about Disk Reporter and be sure to visit the site for better screen shots and a video demo.,

I love the Windows Resource Kit. Granted they are officially unsupported, but there are plenty of tools that once you learn about them you realize how much you need it. I'll be detailing some of these tools over the next few issues. This month we look at linkspeed.exe and explore how to use it to troubleshoot network connectivity or use it as part of a logon script for those pesky dialup users.

I really like this month's book recommendation. When I saw the title, I couldn't wait to get my hands on a copy and I'm not disappointed. If you have always wanted to better understand technologies like clustering and load balancing you should take a look at [Building High Availability Windows Server 2003 Solutions](#).

Finally, we wrap up with a quick batch file you can run to fix NTFS permissions on home folders. There are any number of ways permissions can get snarled. This is an easy way to reset them.

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

~Jeff

Disk Reporter



Are you struggling to keep on top of server utilization? Are you tired of being surprised when users run out of disk space? The Disk Reporter by JDH Information Technology Solutions will analyze all logical drives from a list of servers (or workstations) and display a report showing drive size, a colorized graphical depiction of drive utilization and a percentage of disk space free. Now you can see at a glance the "big picture" of server utilization as well as manage those servers directly from a resizable console. I have created a free "lite" with some reduced functionality. The standard version features include:

- Unlimited server monitoring
- Report Printing
- Links for computer management consoles to remote servers

Volume 2, Issue 2

February 2005

Special points of interest:

- Disk Reporter
- Computer Stupidities
- High Availability
- LinkSpeed
- Fix Home Directory Permissions

Inside this issue:

Web Crawling	2
IT Bookshelf	2
Tech Tutor	3
10 Minute Scripts	4

“As organizations continue to battle the proliferation of spam in the enterprise, the importance of choosing the right e-mail hygiene vendor becomes increasingly apparent. In recognizing the critical need for spam-blocking tools, organizations and publications have rushed to develop testing processes in order to segment the vendor landscape and evaluate product offerings. While the importance of testing cannot be overlooked, the type of testing in which many organizations have engaged has been flawed, at best. At root, the issue with many of the most common testing techniques is that they do not simulate real-world conditions or replicate real-time anti-spam abilities.”

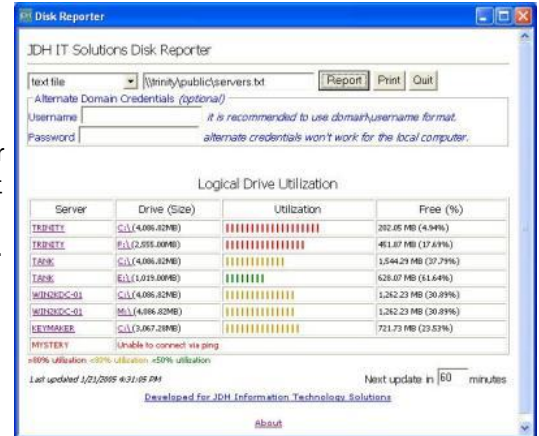
— Meta Group

Disk Reporter - cont'd.

- Options for opening remote drives in Windows Explorer are available at <http://www.jdhitsolutions.com/diskreporter/index.html>. The screen shots on the web site are of much higher quality. I wanted to at least give you a taste here of what the console looks like. The free “lite” version is available for download on this page.
- Automatic and periodic display refresh
- Color coding utilization graph so you can tell at a glance where you might have a problem
- Ping testing for more efficient processing
- Alternate credentials integration

More information, including screenshots and a video demo

If you are interested in purchasing the utility, it is for sale in the store at ScriptingAnswers.com. A link is provided on the same page.



I hope you'll try it out and let me know what you think.

Web Crawling—Computer Stupidities

This month's site is meant to be a bit of a break from the usual. I'm sure we've all done our share of end user support and have a war story or two about a end user and their problem. If you like that sort of thing, then <http://www.rinkworks.com/stupid/> will be worth a visit. The site's “stupid” anecdotes are categorized by topic such as *Hardware - Floppy Abuse* and *Networks - Online Folly*.

I have to admit I dislike the habit of referring to a user with a problem as “stupid”. It's been my experience that users want to get their jobs done and it's our job to help them. So even though I can't help but laugh at some of the anecdotes, I try to think about what could have been done differently prevent the call in the first place. Obviously, some calls really are just plain “stupid” and are worth a chuckle or more.

If you visit the site, be sure to take a look at anecdotes under Stupid Tech Support. It's not just end users who can end up sounding idiotic. In fact, it's even funnier (or scarier depending on your point of view) when it is a supposedly paid professional.

Building High Availability Windows Server 2003 Solutions

Not every organization needs it, but many would like to have it. And those who need it, need it to work. I'm talking about high availability solutions. Whether you are talking about clustering, load balancing, or making sure a user can always get a DHCP address, high availability solutions are key. I'm glad to say there is now a terrific book on the subject by Jeffrey Shapiro and Marcin Policht. In easy to follow fashion, they cover the entire spectrum of high availability solutions. From Active Directory, network services like DHCP, to SQL 2000 and Exchange clustering. In addition, there is some heft coverage on fault tolerance, load balancing and implementing Microsoft Operations Manager (MOM) 2005. If you are a senior engineer, architect, consultant or IT manager wondering about the benefits and requirements for high availability this is definitely the title to put on your shelf.

<http://www.awprofessional.com/title/0321228782>



Tech Tutor — How Fast Are You Going?

For the next few tutorials, I thought I'd bring out a few gems from the XP/2003 resource kit that you may not be aware of. If you've installed the resource kit, all these utilities should be in your path statement, allowing you to run them from any directory. This month we'll consider a command line utility that will help you troubleshoot application performance or network connectivity.

LinkSpeed is a command line utility will display the connection speed between a client and specified server. (Linkspeed with no parameters will display syntax help.)

```
P:\>linkspeed /s tank
```

```
Evaluating the performance using MultiNetGetConnectionPerformance:
System                : TANK
Flag                  : WNCON_DYNAMIC
Link Speed ( in Mbps ) : 76
Delay ( in milliseconds ) : 550
Data Packet Size     : Unknown.
```

```
Evaluating the performance using PING routine:
System                : TANK
Link Speed ( in Mbps ) : 18
Delay ( in milliseconds ) : 5
Threshold value       : TRUE
```

```
Evaluating the performance using QOS:
System                : TANK
Flag                  : MEDIUM
Link Speed ( in Mbps )[incoming] : 9
Link Speed ( in Mbps )[outgoing] : 9
```

The output gives more technical detail than you might need and more than I can go into here.. I will focus on the PING section, where you can see I have a link speed of about 18Mbps. Linkspeed also has a /DC switch you can use test connectivity to a domain controller. You can specify a particular domain controller or a domain name.

Finally, you can specify a threshold test using /T. .The documentation and help syntax tell you to specify a value in bytes. However, from my testing, at least on XP SP1, if you do, the output values (errorlevel values in a batch file) don't make sense. The only way I can make sense of the output values, is if the value is in Mbytes. I don't know if it is a bug or mistake in the documentation.

Fortunately there is another option. The output includes a threshold value of TRUE or FALSE. All we need to do is search for TRUE in the output. You could use batch file code like this to decide what additional script processing should happen based on whether the client meets your specified threshold for communicating with a specified server.

```
@echo off
::usage linktest2.bat servername threshold-in-bytes
linkspeed /S %1 /T %2|find /i ": TRUE" >NUL
if errorlevel 1 goto :SLOW
if errorlevel 0 goto :OK
:OK
echo Linkspeed meets or exceeds threshold. Please continue.
::insert commands to be run here
goto :END
:SLOW
echo The link speed is too slow for your threshold
goto :END

:END
```

This code seems to work and give you an honest assessment of linkspeed. So if you have logon scripts that dialup Windows XP users shouldn't be running, you can use code like this to verify their speed. Or use the command directly to identify slow internal links in your network that are causing problems. That's all the space I have for now. See you next month.



“Planning lies with men; success with Heaven.”

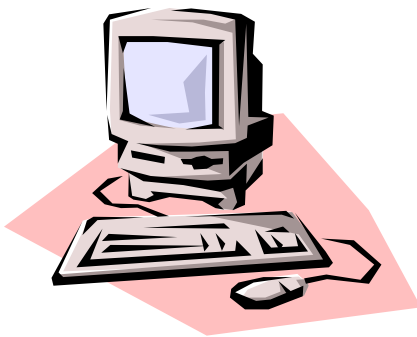
— Chinese proverb

JDH Information Technology Solutions

4233 Lafayette Road
Jamesville, NY 13078

Phone: (315) 256-7023
Fax: (315) 295-2534
E-mail: jhicks@jdhitsolutions.com

WE'RE ON THE WEB AT
HTTP://
WWW.JDHITSOLUTIONS.COM



If you wish to no longer receive this newsletter, please send an email to:

newsletters@jdhitsolutions.com

Use a subject line of Unsubscribe.

This newsletter was created with
Microsoft Publisher 2003

Copyright 2005 All Rights Reserved
JDH Information Technology Solutions, Inc.

All trademark names are property of their
respective owners

Disclaimer:

All code and script samples are provided
'as is' with no warranty, either expressed
or implied.

Use at your own risk and test thoroughly in
a non-production environment.

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 we have a short batch file to fix NTFS permissions on home folders. Sometimes, home folders need to get moved and permissions are lost along the way. Assuming home folders are all in the same directory, and are named to correspond to a username, you can put this batch file in the root of the home folder structure. When you run it, permissions on every folder and file will be replaced with Administrators having FULL control and the corresponding user CHANGE control. A log file, RestHomePerms.log, will be created to record all the changes. Depending on the size of your home directories, this script could take some time to run and I'd suggest doing it during non-production hours. And so I am on the record, make sure you test this thoroughly and have a good backup just in case. This script has been used successfully in production but everyone's network is different and I'd rather have you be safe than sorry..

```
@echo off
::FIXHOMEPERMS.BAT
::It is assumed the directory name is the same as the username
::TEST THIS IN A NON-PRODUCTION ENVIRONMENT BEFORE USING

set zLog=ResetHomePerms.log
cls
echo FIXHOME.BAT
echo This script will reset permissions for all subdirectories
echo in this folder. Administrators will have FULL control and
echo the user will have CHANGE control. It is assumed that the
echo subdirectories are named the same as the respective username.
Echo This script will reset permissions on EVERY file and folder.
echo.
choice /C YN /M "Are you sure you want to proceed?"
if errorlevel 2 GOTO :Exit
if errorlevel 1 GOTO :MAIN
:MAIN
if exist %zLog% del %zlog% >NUL

::the next command should be on one line
for /f %i in ('dir /b /ad') do @echo %i >>%zLog% && echo y|cacls %i /T /
g Administrators:F >NUL && cacls %i /T /e /g %userdomain%\%i:C >>%zLog%
&& echo *****>>%Zlog%

goto :CLOSE

:CLOSE
echo. >>%zLog%
date /t >>%zlog% && time /t >>%zLog%
echo.
echo See %zlog% for details
set zLog=
set zLogError=
:EXIT
```