



F1 Solutions July 2005



::REM

Hello All,

I hope you printed this out and are reading it on the beach, in a hammock in the backyard or by a pool. Since it's summer, I'll try to keep this issue light, but with a few nuggets for those of you who never take a vacation.



On the light side, I review the free image management product from Google and highlight a web site that could make you look like a computer science PhD.

On the serious side, this month's tutorial demonstrates how to use a Support Tools command line utility to get a handle on folder usage. We wrap up with a quick and dirty script that you can use to create a contact in Active Directory.

I haven't heard any news on when the new Microsoft scripting journal that I mentioned last month will be available or in what format. But I am doing a webcast on August 9th with Don Jones on scripting with Exchange 2003. You can read more and register at <http://msevents.microsoft.com/cui/WebCastEventDetails.aspx?EventID=1032276550&EventCategory=4&culture=en-US&CountryCode=US>

I hope you'll drop by.

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

~Jeff

Picasa 2.0

I few years ago I switched over to a digital camera. Since then, I've taken literally thousands of pictures. That's one of the benefits and drawbacks of digital cameras. It is very easy to take 100 pictures without even thinking about it. But once the pictures are downloaded, I have two issues. First, many pictures could benefit from a little clean up and second, how do I keep track of all of them?

Being on a budget, I'm always on the look out for inexpensive or free solutions. I had heard about Google's free software and thought I'd give it a try. I have to say that I'm quite satisfied.

Once installed, Picasa will inventory your computer seeking all graphic files, including animations. The program then organizes files by date and presents them in thumbnail format. It is very easy to move from folder to folder and quickly scan photos. I can even select multiple photos and create a collection. A collection is like a virtual folder in Picasa that holds photos from any number of different "real" directo-

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Special points of interest:

- Picasa
- SCIGen
- DIRUSE.EXE
- Create Contact

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“Freedom is not an ideal, it is not even a protection, if it means nothing more than freedom to stagnate, to live without dreams, to have no greater aim than a second car and another television set.”

—Adlai Stevenson



Picasa 2.0 - cont'd.

ries. I can import directories for Picasa to inventory and I can configure the application to monitor a drive or folder for changes. Thus, when new files are added, Picasa will automatically inventory them.

I especially like the photo editing features. When I select a photo, I have the standard options to crop, straighten, adjust color, redeye, contrast or fill light. And because this is Google we're talking about, there is an "I'm Feeling Lucky" button which will automatically adjust the photo. 9 out 10

times I am completely satisfied with this option and the results can be striking. I can always undo any changes as well. Picasa never modifies the original file.

There are also more manual fine tuning options and effects such as sepia, soft glow, sharpen, soft focus and saturation. I've added some of these features to photos to create something a little more artistic. I've also found that an effect can help save an interesting picture that perhaps didn't turn out as well as

I had hoped.

There are a few other features that I've only dabbled with such as creating a collage of multiple photos and the slideshow. Picasa makes it easy to share photos online through the Hello service as well as email or order prints online.

I've been very happy and wonder how Google can improve on this if they ever come out with a version 3.0. You can download Picasa 2.0 learn more and take a tour at <http://www.picasa.com>.

Web Crawling—SCIGen

Perhaps you saw a brief article about this a few months ago. Some MIT grad students developed software to generate bogus computer science research papers. These papers had titles like *Read-Write*, *Collaborative Theory* and *Virtual Linear Time Symmetries for Model Checking* complete with graphs, charts, foot notes and references.. At first glance, the papers appear to be legitimate academic research papers, but on closer reading turn out to be nonsensical, which I believe was the point they were trying to make. They submitted a few papers to conferences and got one accepted. It was obviously not a peer reviewed process. The conference found out and rescinded the invitation. The students are raising money to still attend and are hoping someone who is presenting will give them their slot so they can present one of their "papers".

The best part of this story is that you can generate your own computer science papers. Head to <http://pdos.csail.mit.edu/scigen>. Enter in some author names and click the Generate button. If you don't like the result you can keep generating papers until something comes out that you like. The site will even let you save it as a PDF. Now you can author some computer science papers of your own and really impress the boss!

DiskReporter v2.0

Last fall I brought out an HTA utility that would report on logical disk utilization. I still have the original free "lite" version. But I've added some enhancements to the standard version. You can still specify the computer source, but I've added the option to specify a single computer. Results are still color coded and you can print the table, but I've added an export feature. Now you can export the results to a text, CSV, html, Excel or Word. Finally, I cleaned up a few minor annoyances that probably bothered me than anyone else.

I'm very pleased with the result and know it could be a great tool in your tool belt. You can read more, see some screen shots or download the free version at <http://www.jdhitsolutions.com/diskreporter/index.html>.

Tech Tutor — DIRUSE

Have you every tried to get a handle on folder sizes, wondering which folders are consuming the most space? Ever try to find folders that are greater than specific size? If so, then you need to try out DIRUSE from the Support Tools. If you open a command prompt and type DIRUSE with no parameters, you will get an extensive help screen. I'm going to highlight a few command line combinations that you are most likely to use. Command switches are case-insensitive.

First, DIRUSE can display folder size in bytes (default), kilobytes (/K) or megabytes (/M). I personally prefer the latter. Unfortunately, there is no switch for gigabytes which given the size of today's drives could probably be used. If you want a quick report for a given folder simply run a command like `diruse /m e:\users`. The directory path can be local as in the example, or a UNC path like `\\file01\users$`. Run the command with administrator credentials. If the path has spaces, be sure to enclose it in quotes. This is because you can specify multiple directory paths: `diruse /m e:\downloads e:\temp` which will give you a result like this:

```
Size (mb)  Files  Directory
    108.25   107  SUB-TOTAL: E:\DOWNLOADS
     0.75    1    SUB-TOTAL: E:\TEMP
    108.99   108  TOTAL
```

If you want a little more detail, I like the `/*` switch which will only list to top level directories. This is handy for getting a report on user directories. I can run `diruse /m /* "e:\documents and settings"` on my laptop and get a report on user profile sizes:

```
Size (mb)  Files  Directory
    69.19   747  SUB-TOTAL: E:\DOCUMENTS AND SETTINGS\All Users
     0.34    51  SUB-TOTAL: E:\DOCUMENTS AND SETTINGS\Default User
  2784.65  12216 SUB-TOTAL: E:\DOCUMENTS AND SETTINGS\jhicks
     0.55    21  SUB-TOTAL: E:\DOCUMENTS AND SETTINGS\LocalService
     0.47    14  SUB-TOTAL: E:\DOCUMENTS AND SETTINGS\NetworkService
  2855.20  13049 TOTAL
```

Try the command for yourself but substitute the directory root for your users' home folders. If you want even more detail, use `/S` instead of `/*` to recurse through all subdirectories. If you try this, you'll want to redirect output to a text file for review:

```
diruse /m /s \\file01\users$ >c:\usersize.txt
```

Finally, if you just want to identify folders that exceed a given threshold, you can use a quota switch. This has nothing to do with volume quotas that you may or may not have enabled. But if you want to see which folders are greater than say 100MB try a command like this:

```
diruse /m /* /q:100 /d \\file02\Data
```

The `/d` switch configures the utility to only display directories that exceed the threshold. Since I specified `/m`, the number 100 that is part of the quota switch indicates 100MB. Again, you may want to redirect the output to a text file which will look something like this:

```
Searching for directories that have exceeded 100 megabytes
  Size (mb)  Files  Directory
!      634.23   142  SUB-TOTAL: \\file02\data\infrastructure
!      194.22  1005  SUB-TOTAL: \\file02\data\JDH IT Solutions
!      157.07   661  SUB-TOTAL: \\file02\data\My Pictures
!      163.74  1414  SUB-TOTAL: \\file02\data\My Web Sites
!      350.52   179  SUB-TOTAL: \\file02\data\ScriptingAnswers
!      213.76  5437  SUB-TOTAL: \\file02\data\scripts
!      185.92  1335  SUB-TOTAL: \\file02\data\Visory Group
  1934.45  10278 TOTAL
```

That's all the space I have for this month. Take a look at the Support Tools help information for DIRUSE. It has many other useful examples. Next month we'll look at a related tool in the resource kit.



“Summertime,
an’ the livin’ is
easy”

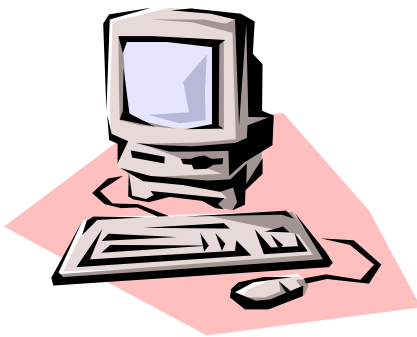
— Du Bose
Heyward (*Porgy
and Bess*)

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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 quick script creates a simple contact in Active Directory. If you have Exchange 2000 or Exchange 2003, you must mail-enable the contact in order to use it through Exchange. If you want to hide the contact from the global address list, add a line of code to set the *msExchHideFromAddressLists* property to TRUE.

As written, I've hard-coded contact information. You may prefer to modify the script to pass this information as parameters.. You can set other attributes for contacts like you can for users such as title and telephone number.

```
'MakeContact.vbs
On Error Resume Next
dim objOU,objContact

strFirst="Thomas"
strLast="Jefferson"
strMail="tjefferson@presidents.org"

'get a connection to the container you want to create the
'contact in. You can hard code or use a RootDSE reference to
'the default naming context

set objOU=GetObject("LDAP://OU=contacts,dc=jdhit,dc=local")Set
objContact=objOU.Create("contact","CN=" & strFirst & " " &_
strLast)

objContact.FirstName=strFirst
objContact.lastName=strLast
objContact.DisplayName=strFirst & " " & strLast
objContact.Mail=strMail
objContact.SetInfo

'contacts need to be email enabled. SMTP must be capitalized
'so that it is the primary STMP address.
objContact.MailEnable "SMTP:"+strMail
objContact.SetInfo

Wscript.quit

'EOF
```