



F1 Solutions June 2005



::REM

Hello All,

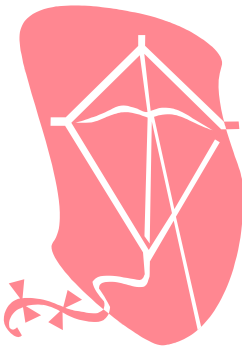
Summer is here but I'm sure for many of you that just means cooler clothes to wear to work. Hopefully we can all get a little time off to recharge and relax but summer can be a very busy time, especially for my readers who work in the education field. I've got some of that type of work plus a number of new tasks.

The scripting training videos I worked on this spring were just the beginning of a number of projects I have lined up for the year. First, I will be co-authoring a book with Don Jones on advanced scripting techniques and topics such as HTAs and Exchange 2003. A new scripting journal is being developed and I am contributing articles for it. Details are still being worked out but it should be pretty exciting. Finally, I will be presenting at the TechMentor conference (<http://techmentorevents.com/>) in San Jose this October. I'll be doing a number of scripting and automation sessions. I hope you'll consider adding this conference to your travel plans for the year.

Plus, I have all my "regular" work, as well as developing new utilities and tools and producing this newsletter. As you can tell, I've got a lot on my plate between now and the end of the year but I hope I still can find some time for a little kite flying.

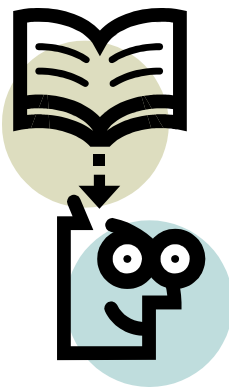
As always, I appreciate your continued support and welcome all comments, suggestions and feedback at jhicks@jdhitsolutions.com.

~Jeff



Internet Axioms

1. Home is where you hang your @
2. The E-mail of the species is more deadly than the mail.
3. A journey of a thousand sites begins with a single click.
4. You can't teach a new mouse old clicks.
5. Great groups from little icons grow.
6. Speak softly and carry a cellular phone.
7. C:\js is the root of all directories.
8. Don't put all your hypes in one home page.
9. Pentium wise; pen and paper foolish.



Volume 2, Issue 6

June 2005

Special points of interest:

- Internet Axioms
- Scripting Videos
- Shell Scripting Sweets
- PWD

Inside this issue:

Web Crawling	2
Bonus Web Crawling	2
Tech Tutor	3
10 Minute Scripts	4

Internet Axioms - cont'd.

- | | | |
|--|--|---|
| 10. The modem is the message. | 17. Windows will never cease. | site we weave when first we practice. |
| 11. Too many clicks spoil the browse. | 18. In Gates we trust. | 25. Speed thrills. |
| 12. The geek shall inherit the earth. | 19. Virtual reality is its own reward. | 26. Give a man a fish and you feed him for a day; teach him to use the Net and he won't bother you for weeks. |
| 13. A chat has nine lives. | 20. Modulation in all things. | |
| 14. Don't byte off more than you can view. | 21. A user and his leisure time are soon parted. | |
| 15. Fax is stranger than fiction. | 22. There's no place like home.com | Source:
http://www.jdbshow.com/geek2.html |
| 16. What boots up must come down. | 23. Know what to expect before you connect. | |
| | 24. Oh, what a tangled web- | |

“Whatever creativity is, it is in part a solution to a problem.”

—Brian Aldiss

Web Crawling—Scripting Videos

The scripting videos I mentioned last month (Enterprise Scripting Best Practices, Windows Script Files Unmasked and Scripting Exchange 2003) are now for sale online at ScriptingAnswers.com resellers. You can find the training videos, as well as a lot of other scripting related material at <http://www.scriptingoutpost.com>, which is run by the folks who brought you Primal Script. If you are overseas, you may want to visit <http://www.vbscript-training-videos.com>, which is run by the folks who brought you OnScript. (Right now, they are also offering free shipping worldwide) Funny how scripting editor vendors would want to sell training videos.

I think prices are pretty much the same on both sites. ScriptingOutpost has more to goodies to fill up your shopping cart with depending on your budget. You should be able to download video samples as well.

If you purchase one or more of these titles, I hope you'll let me know what you think. I'd also like to know what sort of topics you would be interested in learning more about.

The OPTE Project

I found this site in a round-about-fashion but I am intrigued. This project started out as a dare to map the Internet in a day. Fortunately, the guy who made the claim is very, very smart and for all intent and purposes accomplished the goal or at least proved his concept. I'll let you visit the project site at <http://www.opte.org> (or <http://opte.prolexic.com/>) to learn more about his technique. The project has generated a number of maps that are functional and at the same time aesthetically pleasing to look at.

The project is still running and is using some interesting technology to generate maps of the Internet. On a side note, take a look at <http://www.prolexic.com/zr/> to see a representation of a distributed denial of service attack.

The Internet continues to be a pretty amazing place to work and play.



Tech Tutor — Shell Scripting Sweets

This month, let's return to the Windows Resource Kit and pull out a few goodies to liven up your shell scripts. The first command is SLEEP and as you've surmised, script execution pauses for the specified number of seconds, for example 'sleep 10' to pause execution for 10 seconds. If you need more granular control, you can specify a time in milliseconds (sleep -m 10000). Obviously this is a handy command if you are calling another script and you want to give it time to complete before continuing with the main script.

LOGTIME.EXE can be used to create time stamped logfile with whatever text you want. Let me give you a quick example:

```
@echo off
Logtime "Starting shell script"
Cscript MyProcess.vbs
Logtime "Finished MyProcess.vbs"
Logtime "Sleeping for 45 seconds"
Sleep 45
Logtime "Finished Script"
REN LOGTIME.LOG MyLog.txt
```

A file called logtime.log will be created in the same directory as the script. That's one drawback to this tool. You can't name the logfile at run time or in your script. You'll notice the last line in my sample batch file renames logtime.log to MyLog.txt. In any event, you get a log file like this:

```
06\04\2005 22:13:32.0594 Starting shell script
06\04\2005 22:13:42.0628 Finished MyProcess.vbs
06\04\2005 22:13:42.0630 Sleeping for 45 seconds
06\04\2005 22:14:37.0412 Finished Script
```

The logfile (logtime.log) will be appended if it already exists. So if you need a clean slate, you will need to add code to delete the file if it exists. The other drawback (or not depending on your preference) is that the log time is in GMT like most Windows logs so you need to mentally adjust the time stamp accordingly to your local time when viewing the log output.

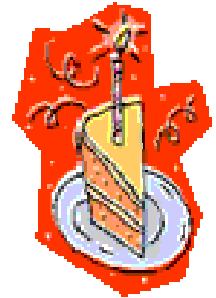
I know many of my readers are vbscript developers. It's not too difficult to create log files with a vbscript exactly the way you want them. But I wanted to point out that there are other ways, especially for my readers who are still using batch files. Which by the way, is not a bad thing. Let me reiterate that sometimes a batch file solution using resource kit or support tools utilities is the best solution. Or you may want to extend the power of your vbscripts by wrapping them in a batch file. Back to the tutorial.

The resource kit also has a command line version of NOW that will return the current time and date in a long format: Sat Jun 04 18:39:44 2005. You get local time but you can't modify the format. I have never been able to get the output of the NOW command and a text description to echo on the same line which would make a nice audit log without some clever hacking. Try this out at a command prompt and you'll see what I mean:

```
For /f "tokens=*" %i in ('NOW') do @set zTime=%i
Echo %zTime% This is a sample log entry
```

It can be done, you merely need to run the FOR command each time to keep the time stamp up to date. Still, if you are building a log file report, using this command "as is" can add a sweet touch to the output.

Hopefully the next batch file you whip up that needs a little extra flavoring, you'll go to the resource kit cupboard and add these goodies.



“Creativity is not a substitute for competence.”

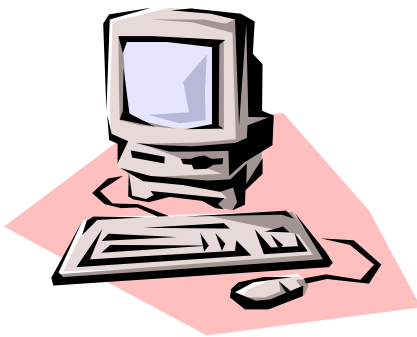
— Mason Cooley

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

I don't do as much command line scripting as I used to, but here is a little useful utility to print the current directory. Yes, I know you can see the directory but a running script can't always see it and you may want to reference a file or directory and knowing the current working directory would help. This script uses the FOR command to take apart the a string so you can get the current drive, just the path or the complete drive and path. In your batch file, create a temporary environmental variable with the results you wish to use instead of echoing the result and take it from there.

It's difficult to who line wraps in a batch file, but each for /f statement is a single line.

```
@echo off
::PWD.BAT
::jhicks@jdhitsolutions.com
::Print Current Working Directory
::Script requires NT/2000/XP

if not "%OS%"=="Windows_NT" GOTO NOTNT
for /f "tokens=3" %%k in ('dir . ^|find /i "directory"') do
@echo %%k >$_tmp_.tmp
for /f "tokens=1 delims=:" %%l in ($_tmp_.tmp) do @echo Current
Drive is %%l:
for /f "tokens=3,*" %%k in ('dir . ^|find /i "directory"') do
@echo %%k %%l>$_tmp_.tmp
for /f "tokens=2,* delims=: " %%m in ($_tmp_.tmp) do @echo
Current Directory is %%m %%n
for /f "tokens=3,*" %%i in ('dir .^|find /i "directory"') do
@echo Current Path is %%i %%j
del $_tmp_.tmp >NUL
GOTO :EOF
:NOTNT
ECHO.
ECHO %0
ECHO This program requires Windows NT/2000/XP
GOTO :EOF
:EOF
```