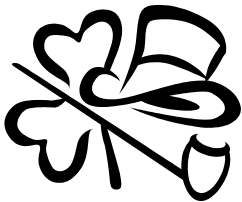


# F1 Solutions March 2005



## ::REM

Hello All,



Thanks for sticking with me and welcome to all the new subscribers that I get on almost a daily basis. I want this newsletter to give you content that is pertinent, relevant and easy to use. So if there is a particular topic you'd like covered, question answered, or my opinion on some book or product, please let me know. I also encourage you to pass the newsletter and site information on to your friends and colleagues who might be interested. As you have seen, I don't spam (intentionally anyway) nor give your email addresses to anyone.

This month I highlight a service you might find worthy of investigating further, especially if you are a small shop looking to save on messaging costs. Blue Tie is a nationally recognized service that has much to offer.

Our Tech Tutorials are going to focus on some Resource Kit utilities that you probably could be using today. This month we'll look at DELPROF and see how it can be used to keep obsolete user profiles from clogging up your desktop hard drives.

Finally, our quick and dirty script uses WMI to get you physical memory configuration for a specified workstation or server. Handy when you are planning memory upgrades but aren't sure what server has what type of configuration and you don't feel like cracking a case.

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

*~Jeff*



I'm a firm believer in the right tool for the job. I know that many of my readers run Microsoft Exchange shops. For these organizations Exchange is the right fit and an excellent choice. But running your own messaging infrastructure is not always the right solution. Especially for SMB companies, or those with a mobile or geographically dispersed work force, Microsoft Exchange may be an expensive solution.

One alternative is an Internet based, hosted mail service like Blue Tie. Most users don't care what server hosts their mail as long as they can get it with their POP3 or IMAP client of choice, including Outlook. But you don't even need a mail client. BlueTie only requires a web browser (Microsoft Internet Explorer 5.0+, Netscape 6.0+, and Mozilla 1.6+) and an Internet connection.

Blue Tie offers business class messaging services including 100MB mailboxes, shared contacts, shared calendars, shared files, instant messaging, virus protection

Volume 2, Issue 3

March 2005

### Special points of interest:

- Blue Tie
- The Lazy Admin
- Delete Profiles
- Get Physical Memory

### Inside this issue:

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“Trust management is a strategic approach to building improved security. However, it will continue to remain a leading-edge strategy rather than an adoptable best practice until key challenges are addressed and formalized. We believe the following issues must be addressed: 1) differentiating trust management from internal network segmentation; 2) structuring trust domains; 3) defining trust levels; and 4) accounting for trust-level/domain traversals. This will lead to more strategic and comprehensive implementations of isolation techniques by 2007/08. ”

—Meta Group



## Blue Tie- cont'd.

and spam filtering. Pricing is ala carte per user so you only pay for the features each user requires. I've done some cost comparison between Exchange and Blue Tie. Depending on the size of your company, you might save anywhere from 50%-90%. Certainly, cost savings aren't everything and there are plenty of reasons why you should consider Exchange.

### *Why should I choose Microsoft Exchange over Blue Tie?*

- You need absolute in-house control of company email.
- You require support for Exchange Public Folders or customized workflow.
- You require query-based distribution lists (requires Exchange 2003 and Windows 2003 Active Directory)
- You require very granular security for distribution and address lists.
- You require multiple storage groups to support different mailbox policies. (Requires Exchange 2003 Enterprise Edition)
- You have extensive Exchange expertise and experience.

And of course, there are several reasons why you might select Blue Tie over Exchange:

### *Why should I choose Blue Tie over Microsoft Exchange?*

- You want to reduce IT costs by eliminating an expensive server and all that goes with it including, hardware, licenses, anti-virus & antispam solutions, backup systems and daily server management.
- You have a distributed or mobile work force who require email and collaboration tools, yet you don't want to deal with remote access, firewalls and VPNs.
- You have 5-1000 employees (although there really isn't any limit) with email and collaboration needs but you don't have or can't afford Exchange 2003 expertise.
- You need to securely share files among a distributed work force or with outside parties like partners, customers or clients.
- Email is mission critical and you don't have or can't afford an adequate business continuity plan.

We are a registered agent for Blue Tie, voted by Forbes.com as one of the [Best of the Web](#). It doesn't cost anything extra to use our services to sign up for Blue Tie and we can help you select the right set of features that meet *your* needs. If you would like to know more about Blue Tie, including a live online demonstration, quote or free analysis of your current messaging costs, please contact us at [sales@jdhitsolutions.com](mailto:sales@jdhitsolutions.com).

Much more information about Blue Tie, including an extensive FAQ, service documentation and a video demonstration can be found online at:

<http://www.jdhitsolutions.com/bluetie/index.html>

## Web Crawling—The Lazy Admin

This month I stop by a web site whose name I'm sure will get your attention. This is a daily blog maintained by Rodney Buike, a Windows 2000/2003 MCSE from Winnipeg. Of course, he doesn't mean to revel in the glories of laziness, but rather how Windows administrators can work smarter and more efficiently. Those of you who I have had the pleasure of training, know this is something I talk about all the time.

This site has many relevant articles and tips on how to best configure a Windows environment, from implementing RPC over HTTP to Scripting ISA 2004 protocol definitions. Because it is basically a blog, the site supports an RSS feed so you can always see what's new in Windows "laziness" at a glance without even having to visit the site directly. How's that for "laziness"!!

Take a look for yourself at <http://www.thelazyadmin.com>

## Tech Tutor — DELPROF

If you are like most places, users periodically logon to other machines to get work done while their primary computer is upgraded or otherwise being worked on. Of course this typically generates a local user profile. Over time, your client desktops may have local profiles that haven't been re-used in months or profiles for users who are long gone from your organization. The DELPROF utility deletes Windows NT, Windows 2000, Windows XP and Windows Server 2003 family user profiles. Typically, you specify that all profiles that haven't been accessed in X number of days be deleted. Here is the usage syntax:

```
usage: DELPROF [/Q] [/I] [/P] [/R] [/C:\\<computername>] [/D:<days>]

/Q      Quiet, no confirmation.
/I      Ignore errors and continue deleting.
/P      Prompts for confirmation before deleting each profile.
/R      Delete roaming profile cache only
/C      Remote computer name.
```

To give you an idea, let's look at user profiles on a remote computer that haven't been accessed in 10 days. If you are only concerned about a few servers, and wanted absolute control this is the type of session you would run:

```
C:\Documents and Settings\Administrator>delprof /p /c:\\keymaker /d:10
Delete \\keymaker\C$\Documents and Settings\jhicks? (Yes/No/All) n
Delete \\keymaker\C$\Documents and Settings\alincoln? (Yes/No/All) y
Delete \\keymaker\C$\Documents and Settings\Administrator? (Yes/No/All) n
```

As you can see, I am going to delete the alincoln profile but leaving the others. 10 days is probably to short a time frame unless you have high security needs. Normally I would use a minimum of 30 days. Remember, this is just the local profile. Ideally you are using Group Policy to redirect My Documents. DELPROF won't delete any user files that are stored outside of the user profile, usually something like C:\Documents and settings\username. DELPROF will clean up the corresponding folder as well as the registry settings under HKEY\USERS.

Of course if you have a number of desktops to keep clean write a batch file if you want something you can schedule. If you have a text list of computers to process, you can run a simple command from time to time. This example deletes all profiles that are 60 days old:

```
For /f %d in ('computers.txt') do @delprof /q /i /c:\\%d /d:60
```

This command is obviously simple and doesn't help catch errors or computers offline. A better way would be to use a batch file as computer startup script to clean up the local system. This script assumes DELPROF is installed locally otherwise specify the full path to the utility.

```
@echo off
::ProfCleanup
Delprof /Q /I /D:60
```

How easy is that!!

This utility isn't designed to report user profiles. You can get an idea by using the /P and answering No to every prompt. Not every practically for a large number of systems. I would use a WMI script to get that information if necessary for planning. But as I mentioned earlier, if all critical user data is stored in network shares the accidental loss of a local user profile that hasn't been used in 60 days but on day 61 they decide to go back and use that system again....well...a new user profile should work just as well and if not, I would deal with the oddball exceptions as they come. I would rather place my priorities on keeping desktops clean and profiles current and using DELPROF makes that a snap.



“Ill-luck, you know, seldom comes alone”

— Cervantes

**JDH Information Technology Solutions**

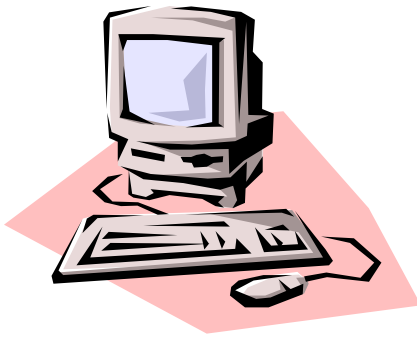
4233 Lafayette Road  
Jamesville, NY 13078

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

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**10 Minute Scripts**

As you are probably painfully aware, Microsoft operating systems and applications like to use as much memory as possible. If you are considering some memory upgrades, it would be helpful to know what the current physical memory configuration of a particular server might be. This script uses WMI to query a specified computer and return physical memory information. If you don't specify a server name you will be prompted to enter a computer name. The default is the local computer. You could easily rewrite it to read in a list of servers and log results to a file.

As written, this script has no error handling but it will continue should an error occur. As with all these scripts, please test in a non-production environment first.

```
'WMIPhysicalMemQuery.vbs
'USAGE: cscript|wscript wmiphysicalmemquery.vbs [computer]
'DESCRIPTION: Display details of installed physical memory
'NOTES: Script captures Computername, Bank and Capacity in bytes
'You must have admin rights on the remote system.

On Error Resume Next

Dim oWmi,oRef,wnet
strQuery="Select Tag,DeviceLocator,Capacity From Win32_PhysicalMemory"
Set wnet=CreateObject("wscript.network")
strSrv=InputBox("Enter a computer name to query:","Memory
Query",wnet.ComputerName)

Set oWmi=GetObject("winmgmts://" & strSrv)
Set oRef=oWmi.ExecQuery(strQuery)
strMsg="Physical Memory configuration for " & UCASE(strSrv) & VbCrLf

iTotMem=0
For Each detail In oRef
    iTotMem=iTotMem+FormatNumber(detail.Capacity/1024000,0)
    strMsg=strMsg & detail.DeviceLocator & " = " &_
    FormatNumber(detail.Capacity/1024000,0) & "MB" & VbCrLf
Next

strMst=strMsg & "Total Installed = " & iTotMem & "MB"
wscript.echo strMsg
wscript.quit
'EOF
```