



F1 Solutions October 2005



::REM

Hello All,



I'm busy working on the final chapters of the new book and getting my stuff together for Techmentor. If you'll be in San Jose I hope you'll seek me out and introduce yourself.

ScriptingAnswers.com has launched a podcast program. Don Jones interviewed me for the premier episode. The podcast also includes scripting tips and instruction. It's about a 20 minute session. Point your iPod to <http://www.scriptinganswers.com/podcasts/podcast.xml> or visit <http://www.scriptinganswers.com/Community/Podcasts/tabid/296/Default.aspx> to learn more.

I've been thinking about adding podcasts or more multimedia content myself. What do you think? What sort of topics would you like to see covered?

I've also been jotting down notes for the next version of the ScriptingAssistant. I'd love to hear any feedback or suggestions, especially web links you'd like to share.

After that I'll work on updates to ExchangeMonPlus. Again, I'd appreciate any feedback or suggestions. I've got some notes for improvements but always looking to make it the best tool I can. There is a nice write up on the tool by the way at <http://www.msexchange.org/tutorials/Look-Exchange-Monitor-2003-Tool.html>.

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

~Jeff

Skype

The ScriptingAnswers podcast interview I did was conducted via Skype. I'd of course heard about Skype and it's free VoIP service but had never tried it. I have to admit it was quite a trip and didn't cost me a thing.



I downloaded the free client from <http://www.skype.com> and installed it on my laptop. After a quick registration and configuring my profile I was ready get connected. Don had given me his Skype ID. Even though there are over 3 million Skype users on line at any given time, you don't have to worry about junk calls. I configured my account, as Don and most people do, so that any contacts have to be authorized before they can call you.

Once authorized, I plugged in my headset and clicked the dial button. I could tell from the client, which is a lot like an IM client, that Don was online. He answered and the quality was extremely clear, despite the fact that we're several time zones and about 2500 miles apart. And best of all, our twenty minute long distance call

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Special points of interest:

- Skype
- HowStuffWorks
- WMI Events Part 2
- Script Inventory

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Skype - cont'd.

was free. Skype offers a paid service if you want to call land line phones or internationally. But any Skype to Skype call is free. They also offer a voice mail service. The Skype client has a menu choice for creating a conference, but I haven't had a chance to try that out yet.

Despite the free telephony, Skype is not a substitute for regular phone service, primarily because it cannot be used to call emergency (911) services.

The Skype client includes chat as well. I've used this a few times with Canadian correspon-

dent. A nice benefit is the option to archive your chat sessions for as little or as long as you'd like.

Granted, I've not used it extensively, but I like what I've seen so far. Of course, I have to be connected to a network and have my headset with me. Given that I'm at client sites a lot during the day, it's hard to make it a part of my day. However, should I start working from a more permanent setting, I can easily see making Skype a part of my day.

Finally, Skype has a PocketPC client which I've downloaded but not installed. Given the growing number of free 802.11 hotspots in my area this might be a handy tool.

So if you're looking for some free long distance, get yourself, your friends and family hooked up with Skype.

If you'd like to add me as a contact, I'm on Skype as **jdhitsolutions**. When you send the authorization request, let me know you're a newsletter subscriber.

“One falling leaf may herald the coming of Autumn.”

—Chinese proverb

Web Crawling– How Stuff Works

I'm an inquisitive kind of guy who likes to get under the hood and figure out what makes things tick. If you're like me, then you need to pay a visit to <http://www.howstuffworks.com>. This site is nicely laid out by category such as computers, electronics, science, health. Within each category are short tutorials on how things work. Often these tutorials have great illustrations or animations. I looked at one today about how skyscrapers work and saw a nice little animation that explained skyscraper construction.

Most of the information I've seen is in plain English without a lot of jargon. It's like a friend explaining how something works. Don't get me wrong, the content has not been "dumbed" down. There's just enough information to explain how something works.

One thing I don't like about the site is all the advertising. Depending on what you are learning about, there will be all sorts of ads related to the topic. Still, each topic has a table of contents and you can jump to a printable view that puts everything on one page with very minimal advertising. As long as I can remember to view the printed version, I think I'll continue to use the site.

Tech Tutor — WMI Events Part 2

Let's continue our exploration of WMI events. Last time I showed you how to use WBEMTest to execute a notification query. Now we need to put this in a script. For best results run this from a command prompt using Cscript.

```
strSrv=". "
strQuery="Select * from __InstanceCreationEvent WHERE TargetInstance ISA
'Win32_NTLogEvent' "

Set oWMI=GetObject("winmgmts:{(security)}!\\" & strSrv & ":")
Set oEventSrc=oWMI.ExecNotificationQuery(strQuery)

'start blocking
Set NTEvent=oEventSrc.NextEvent()
logtime=NTEvent.TargetInstance.TimeGenerated
logyr = left(logtime,4)
logmo = mid(logtime,5,2)
```

Tech Tutor — WMI Events Part 2 cont'd

```
logdy = mid(logtime,7,2)
logtm = mid(logtime,9,6)

strMsg=NTEvent.TargetInstance.ComputerName & vbCrLf

strMsg=strMsg & "Event ID: " & NTEvent.TargetInstance.EventCode & _
" Source: " & NTEvent.TargetInstance.SourceName & vbTab & _
logmo&"/"&logdy&"/"&logyr & " [" & FormatDateTime(left(logtm,2) & ":"&_
Mid(logtm,3,2) & ":%&Right(logtm,2),3) & "]" & vbCrLf & _
NTEvent.TargetInstance.Message

wscript.echo strMsg
```

We first define the computer we want to connect to, which by default is the local system. The query string should look familiar. It's what we used last month with WBEMTest. When we instantiate the WMI object, notice we add the security privilege. One thing this script can't do as written is use alternate credentials. On line 4 we run the query using the **ExecNotification** method. By default, this will be a semisynchronous query.

Now, when we executed the query in WBEMTest, the utility waited until an event occurred. If we had closed WBEMTest, we would never be notified. The same is true with our script. If we let the script end, we'll never get the notification. One technique to keep the script alive is to use the **NextEvent** method. The script will simply sit and wait until the next event is detected.

Once detected the script continues and parses out the *TimeGenerated* property to something more user friendly. The NTEvent object that gets created is essentially the embedded object we saw in WBEMTest. From WBEMTest, we know this is a Win32_EventLog object so we can get the same properties and build a message to display to the user.

```
GODOT
Event ID: 7035 Source: Service Control Manager 09/28/2005 [5:46:58 PM]
The Print Spooler service was successfully sent a stop control.
```

After the message is displayed the script ends. If we wanted to wait for more than one event, we would need to add some type of loop to the script.

```
For x=1 to 10
Set NTEvent=oEventSrc.NextEvent()
logtime=NTEvent.TargetInstance.TimeGenerated
logyr = left(logtime,4)
logmo = mid(logtime,5,2)
logdy = mid(logtime,7,2)
logtm = mid(logtime,9,6)

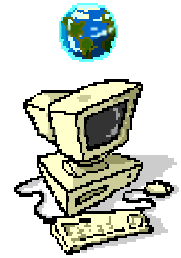
strMsg=NTEvent.TargetInstance.ComputerName & vbCrLf

strMsg=strMsg & "Event ID: " & NTEvent.TargetInstance.EventCode & _
" Source: " & NTEvent.TargetInstance.SourceName & vbTab & _
logmo&"/"&logdy&"/"&logyr & " [" & FormatDateTime(left(logtm,2) & ":"&_
Mid(logtm,3,2) & ":%&Right(logtm,2),3) & "]" & vbCrLf & _
NTEvent.TargetInstance.Message

Wscript.echo strMsg
Loop
```

This will report on the next 10 events, but may not be the best use of your system resources since the script is actively waiting for the next event.

Next time we'll take a look at running our notification query asynchronously and I show you how to flush the information down the sink.



“Tricks and treachery are the practice of fools that have not wit enough to be honest.”

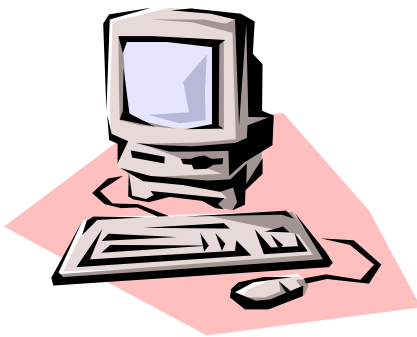
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10 Minute Scripts

I've been scripting for so long that my script directory is almost unmanageable given the sheer number of scripts. It's difficult sometimes to find a specific script. Google Desktop search helps some and I keep thinking someday I'll reorganize and cleanup the directory. In the meantime, I put together this quick inventory script that gets every script that ends in .vbs, reads the first 5 lines of the script and writes that information to a log file. I now have a single file I can browse or search that (hopefully) will help me find the script I'm looking for. As written the script searches for VBS files but you can change that. Also the script only searches the directory that the ScriptInventory.vbs is in. Use Cscript when you run this.

```
'ScriptInventory.vbs
Dim objFSO,objFile,objLog,objFldr,objFiles,file
On Error Resume Next
strFile="VBScripts.txt"
Const ForReading=1
Set objFSO=CreateObject("Scripting.FileSystemObject")
Set objLog=objFSO.CreateTextFile(strFile,True)
Set objFldr=objFSO.GetFolder(".")
WScript.Echo "Inventorying " & objFldr.Path
Set objFiles=objFldr.Files
For Each file In objFiles
  If UCase(Right(file,3)) = "VBS" Then
    WScript.Echo vtab & file.name
    objLog.Writeline file.name & " [Last Modified " & _
      file.datelastmodified & "]"
    Set objFile=objFSO.OpenTextFile(file.name,ForReading)
    For z=1 To 5
      objLog.WriteLine Trim(objFile.ReadLine)
    Next
    objFile.Close
    objLog.WriteBlankLines(1)
    objLog.WriteLine String(75,"*")
    objLog.WriteBlankLines(1)
  End If
Next
objLog.WriteLine "Inventoried " & Now
objLog.Close
wscript.echo "Inventory complete."
```