

Re: convert VB script code to vb (cheap & dirty)

Source:

<http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/Scripting/microsoft.public.scripting.vbscript/2005-02/1211.html>

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While converting a vbScript to VB is the "right way" to get an exe, there are other "cheap-and-dirty" ways to do it. Most likely you have not seen these c&d methods mentioned here, because most newsgroupies are mature-and-responsible professionals who wouldn't even consider something that was cheap-and-dirty.

However, just in case any immature non-professionals are lurking about, here is a brief discussion.

C&D #1. Another scripting language (which shall remain nameless so as not to embarrass Microsoft), makes up a bundle of the compiler, the runtime, your script and a little "start-up code", and writes it all into a file with an exe extension. When you run the exe, the "start-up code" copies the compiler, the runtime and your source code into temporary files (in win/tmp), and then starts up the compiler, giving it the locations of the runtime and the source code. In effect, this is just recreating the situation that you start with (i.e., running your vbs with wscript). The exe is just a means of transporting the bundle to another machine. With respect to wsh/vbs, one could implement this approach more-or-less directly. There is even some sample code for this, to be found on the vb source code sites on the web -- look for: do-it-yourself installer code...

C&D #2. Another scripting language (which shall remain nameless to avoid embarrassing Microsoft), also makes up a bundle -- but this time it contains "byte-code" (a.k.a. p-code), a runtime, and "start-up code". When you run it on the destination machine, you get something more efficient than C&D#1. The "start-up code" runs the embedded "byte-code" directly, using the runtime to interpret the b-c instructions into machine language. There is no preliminary task of copying files, and no compilation process. The exe may be a little bloated (as compared with having the runtime as a separate dll), but as we said -- it is more efficient.

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This could also be done with wsh/vbs, but would take a little bit more trouble to set it up. As I understand it, wsh compiles the vbs to p-code, and then runs it. My best guess is that the p-code is retained in memory while your script executes. Joe Hacker would have to copy that p-code out of memory and into a file, along wi