

Re: scripting vs. batch files?

Source:

<http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/Windows/microsoft.public.windows.server.scripting/2005-08/msg00405.html>

- *From:* Corné Bogaarts <does.not.exist@xxxxxxxxxxxxxx>
 - *Date:* Mon, 22 Aug 2005 22:49:54 +0200
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On Mon, 22 Aug 2005 12:53:16 -0400, "David H. Lipman" <DLipman~nospam~@Verizon.Net> wrote:

>From: "Linn Kubler" <lkubler@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>
>

>| Hi,
>|

>| I've been using batch files for ages, nothing too complex but useful. I was
>| just trying to figure out how, in my logon batch file, I could detect if a
>| client was Windows 2000 or Windows XP. One of the solutions suggested is in
>| the form of a VB script. So that made me wonder...

Using reg.exe from the resource kit (and commands like 'find' and 'if exist'
you can do a similar thing in a batch-file.

By using the proper commandline tools you can do an awfull lot with
relatively simple bat/cmd files. Especially in WinXP and Win2003 since they
contain ever more command line tools of their own.

>|
>| Can you incorporate scripting syntax in a batch file or should I stop using
>| batch files for logon scripts or what?

You can start a script from a batchfile with a command like 'cscript
<scriptfilename>'. Although that doesn't look like the best way to go.

>Just how do you decide when to use
>| scripting and when to use batch files?

It all depends on what you want to do and what's most easy for a particular
task.

>|
>| I'm browsing through the scripting center right now and am also wondering
>| the best way to learn scripting... are there any good books on the subject,
>| or which are the best books? Or, is it just as easy to work through the
>| examples in the scripting center?

I don't know about 'the best', I only have my own experience. I found the
'Windows 2000 Scripting Guide'

<http://www.microsoft.com/technet/scriptcenter/guide/default.mspx>

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extremely instructive and a good place to start. If you really wanna study the text, you might wanna buy it though, as the website doesn't quite read as easy as a real book.

Another one is the 'MS Windows Scripting Self-paced learning guide' from MS Press.

The way I started learning it, is by starting with simple scripts (usually copy/paste from the Scripting Center website or one of the scriptomatics) and just modifying things. Gradually I started adding various example-scripts together to make them do what I want, for instance reading a list of computernames from a file and then performing a particular command on each computer.

Some time ago I found myself 'writing' a script that contained some 15 or 20 pieces from various sample-scripts: reading from a textfile, database-like searching in the file, finding data on users and their manager in AD, writing it to an Excel-file. Things I hadn't imagined myself doing just half a year before.

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>|
>| Any thoughts?
>|
>| Thanks in advance,
>| Linn
>|
>| P.S. Remove the "2" from my domain name for email responses.
>|
>
>The following Kixtart { http://kixtart.org Kixtart is CareWare } script snippet can
>determine the OS by querying the Registry...
>
>if (readvalue("HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE\SOFTWARE\Microsoft\Windows
>NT\CurrentVersion","CurrentVersion")="4.0")=1
> $OS="WINNT4"
>endif
>if (readvalue("HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE\SOFTWARE\Microsoft\Windows
>NT\CurrentVersion","CurrentVersion")="5.0")=1
> $OS="Windows 2000"
>endif
>if (readvalue("HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE\SOFTWARE\Microsoft\Windows
>NT\CurrentVersion","CurrentVersion")="5.1")=1
> $OS="Windows XP"
>endif
>if (readvalue("HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE\SOFTWARE\Microsoft\Windows
>NT\CurrentVersion","CurrentVersion")="5.2")=1
> $OS="Windows 2003 Server"
>endif
>
>Using a scripting language far outweighs BAT and CMD scripts as you can do much more. There
>are even macros in Kixtart to directly determine the OS without querying the Registry. For
>one you can peek and poke the Registry. Another is you can use Windows Management
>Instrumentation constructs.
```

- **References:**

- ◆ **[scripting vs. batch files?](#)**

- ◇ *From:* Linn Kubler

- ◆ **[Re: scripting vs. batch files?](#)**

- ◇ *From:* David H. Lipman

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