

# CNT 4603: System Administration Fall 2012

## Scripting – Windows PowerShell – Part 2

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# Writing And Executing Scripts In PowerShell

- Create the following PowerShell script in a text editor like Notepad or NotePad++.
- Save this script in the Administrator/MyScripts folder we created in the last set of notes. Save the script with the name `ArrayScript.ps1`. (In Notepad++, the PowerShell extension `.ps1` is a predefined extension.) Don't worry about understanding the syntax yet, we'll get to that later.
- Once you've created the script, start PowerShell and at the prompt enter the name of the script.
- You should see screen as it appears on the next page:

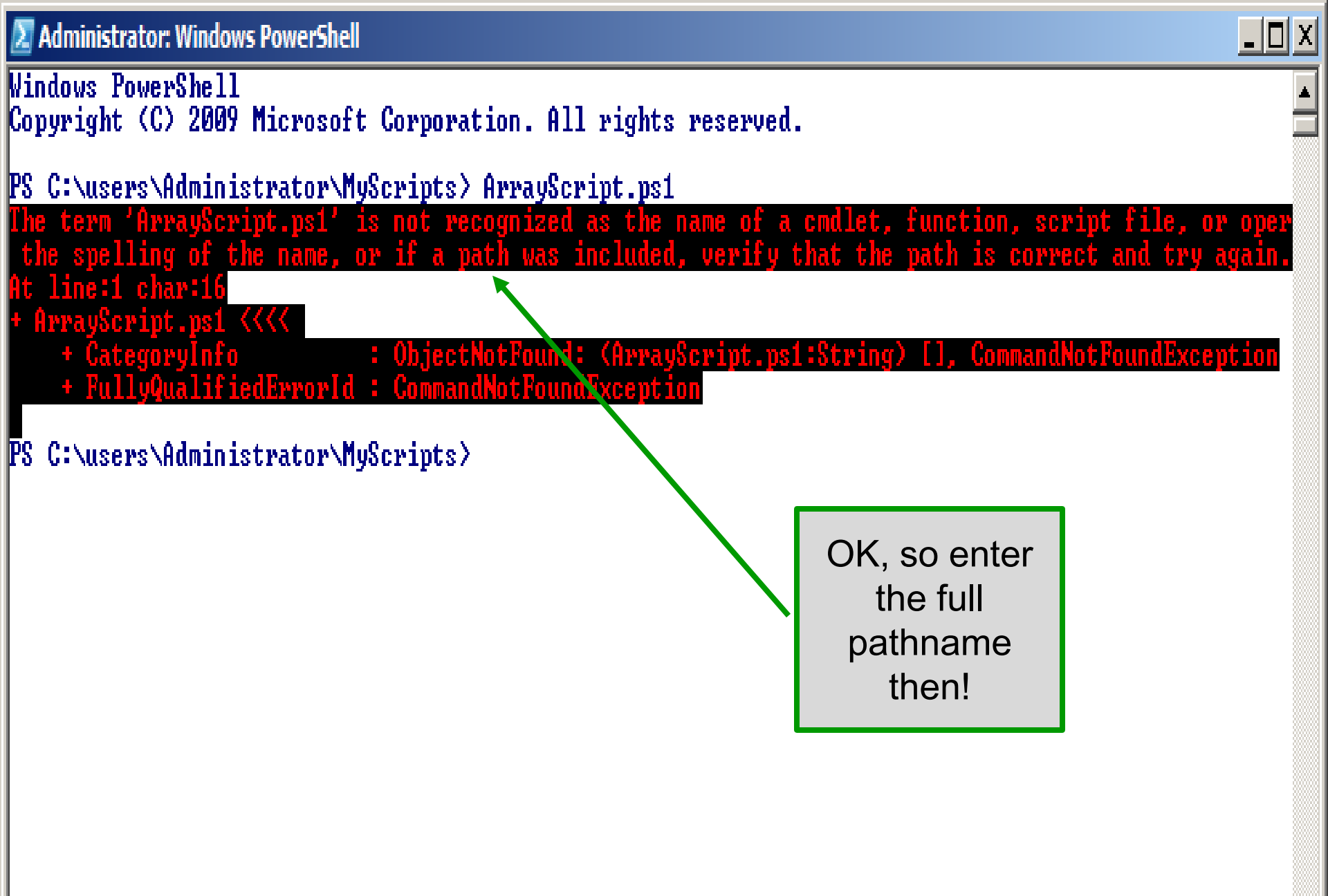


```

C:\Users\Administrator\MyScripts\ArrayScript.ps1 - Notepad++
File Edit Search View Encoding Language Settings Macro Run Plugins Window ?
ArrayScript.ps1
1 $Msg = "Writing The Array - Please Wait. . ."
2 $Msg
3 $numArray = (1..20)
4 $x = @()
5 foreach ($num in $NumArray)
6     {$x += $num * 5}
7 $x
Windows PowerShell length : 138 lines : 7 Ln : 7 Col : 3 Sel : 0 Dos\Windows ANSI INS

```





```
Windows PowerShell
Copyright (C) 2009 Microsoft Corporation. All rights reserved.

PS C:\users\Administrator\MyScripts> ArrayScript.ps1
The term 'ArrayScript.ps1' is not recognized as the name of a cmdlet, function, script file, or oper
the spelling of the name, or if a path was included, verify that the path is correct and try again.
At line:1 char:16
+ ArrayScript.ps1 <<<<
+ CategoryInfo          : ObjectNotFound: (ArrayScript.ps1:String) [], CommandNotFoundException
+ FullyQualifiedErrorId : CommandNotFoundException

PS C:\users\Administrator\MyScripts>
```

OK, so enter  
the full  
pathname  
then!



# Writing And Executing Scripts In PowerShell

- PowerShell does not load scripts from the default directory automatically, so as the previous screen shot illustrates, you need to specify the full pathname to the script.
- Do this and you should see the screen as it appears on the next page.



```
Administrator: Windows PowerShell
Windows PowerShell
Copyright (C) 2009 Microsoft Corporation. All rights reserved.

PS C:\users\Administrator\MyScripts> ArrayScript.ps1
The term 'ArrayScript.ps1' is not recognized as the name of a cmdlet, function, script file, or oper
the spelling of the name, or if a path was included, verify that the path is correct and try again.
At line:1 char:16
+ ArrayScript.ps1 <<<<
+ CategoryInfo          : ObjectNotFound: (ArrayScript.ps1:String) [], CommandNotFoundException
+ FullyQualifiedErrorId : CommandNotFoundException

PS C:\users\Administrator\MyScripts>
```

Now what the &\*%\$ is going on? A shell that won't run scripts?



# Writing And Executing Scripts In PowerShell

- The security settings built into PowerShell include something called the “execution-policy”.
- The `execution-policy` determines how (or if) PowerShell runs scripts.
- By default, PowerShell’s execution policy is set to **Restricted**; that means that scripts – including those you write yourself – won’t run!
- To verify the execution policy settings run the cmdlet `get-executionpolicy`. This is shown on the next page.



```
Administrator: Windows PowerShell
Windows PowerShell
Copyright (C) 2009 Microsoft Corporation. All rights reserved.

PS C:\users\Administrator\MyScripts> c:/users/administrator/myscripts/ArrayScript.ps1
File C:\users\administrator\myscripts\ArrayScript.ps1 cannot be loaded because the execution of scri
this system. Please see "get-help about_signing" for more details.
At line:1 char:49
+ c:/users/administrator/myscripts/ArrayScript.ps1 <<<<
+ CategoryInfo          : NotSpecified: (:) [], PSSecurityException
+ FullyQualifiedErrorId : RuntimeException

PS C:\users\Administrator\MyScripts> get-executionpolicy
Restricted
PS C:\users\Administrator\MyScripts>
```





# Writing And Executing Scripts In PowerShell

- While this security setting might seem a bit severe, s nevertheless that's what it is. So, we need to reset the execution policy.
- To do this, run the cmdlet `set-executionpolicy`.
- To configure PowerShell to run any script you write yourself – without question – but to run scripts downloaded from the Internet only if those scripts have been signed by a trusted publisher, set the execution policy to **RemoteSigned**.
- **AllSigned** requires all scripts to be signed by a trusted publisher and **Unrestricted** allows all scripts to be executed .
- Use the cmdlet to set the policy to **RemoteSigned**.





Windows PowerShell  
Copyright (C) 2009 Microsoft Corporation. All rights reserved.

PS C:\users\Administrator\MyScripts> c:/users/administrator/myscripts/ArrayScript.ps1

File C:\users\administrator\myscripts\ArrayScript.ps1 cannot be loaded because the execution of scri  
this system. Please see "get-help about\_signing" for more details.

At line:1 char:49

+ c:/users/administrator/myscripts/ArrayScript.ps1 <<<<  
+ CategoryInfo : NotSpecified: (:) [], PSSecurityException  
+ FullyQualifiedErrorId : RuntimeException

PS C:\users\Administrator\MyScripts> get-executionpolicy

Restricted

PS C:\users\Administrator\MyScripts> set-executionpolicy remotesigned

Execution Policy Change

The execution policy helps protect you from scripts that you do not trust. Changing the execution  
policy might expose you to the security risks described in the about\_Execution\_Policies help topic.

Do you want to change the execution policy?

[Y] Yes [N] No [S] Suspend [?] Help (default is "Y"): y

PS C:\users\Administrator\MyScripts>



# Writing And Executing Scripts In PowerShell

- Now that you've gotten the execution policy set, you can finally execute the ArrayScript script as we tried to do earlier.
- The next page illustrates the execution, finally!, of our script.



```
Administrator: Windows PowerShell
Windows PowerShell
Copyright (C) 2009 Microsoft Corporation. All rights reserved.

PS C:\users\Administrator\MyScripts> ArrayScript.ps1
The term 'ArrayScript.ps1' is not recognized as the name of a cmdlet, function, script file, or oper
the spelling of the name, or if a path was included, verify that the path is correct and try again.
At line:1 char:16
+ ArrayScript.ps1 <<<<
+ CategoryInfo          : ObjectNotFound: (ArrayScript.ps1:String) [], CommandNotFoundException
+ FullyQualifiedErrorId : CommandNotFoundException

PS C:\users\Administrator\MyScripts> c:/users/administrator/myscripts/ArrayScript.ps1
Writing The Array - Please Wait. . .
5
10
15
20
25
30
35
40
45
50
55
60
65
70
75
80
85
90
95
100
PS C:\users\Administrator\MyScripts>
```

Now what the &\*%\$ is going on! It still didn't work!



# Writing And Executing Scripts In PowerShell

- As you can see from the previous slide, PowerShell does not run scripts without a fully specified pathname!
- If you want to be able to execute scripts without providing the full pathname to the script, you'll need to modify your path.
- The following command will retrieve your Windows PATH environment variable and display it in a readable fashion.

```
$a = $env:path; $a.split(";");
```

- Note that you can also use the .\ notation to execute a script from within the current directory if you don't want to mess around with your path environment variable.
- See the next two pages for illustrations of this.



```
Administrator: Windows PowerShell
Windows PowerShell
Copyright (C) 2009 Microsoft Corporation. All rights reserved.

PS C:\users\Administrator\MyScripts> $a = $env:path; $a.split(";");
%SystemRoot%\system32\WindowsPowerShell\v1.0\
C:\Windows\system32
C:\Windows
C:\Windows\System32\Wbem
C:\Windows\System32\WindowsPowerShell\v1.0\
C:\Program Files\MySQL\MySQL Server 5.5\bin
PS C:\users\Administrator\MyScripts>
```

See the Windows path environment variable



```
Windows PowerShell
Copyright (C) 2009 Microsoft Corporation. All rights reserved.

PS C:\users\Administrator\MyScripts> .\ArrayScript.ps1
Writing The Array - Please Wait. . .
5
10
15
20
25
30
35
40
45
50
55
60
65
70
75
80
85
90
95
100
PS C:\users\Administrator\MyScripts>
```

Using the .\ notation to execute a script from the current directory.

# Writing And Executing Scripts In PowerShell

- As your first real system administrator project with PowerShell. We'll modify your path environment variable.
- Let's add the MyScripts folder that we created earlier to the path environment.
- The command for this is:

```
$env:path = $env:path + ";c:\users\administrator\MyScripts"
```





```
Administrator: Windows PowerShell
Windows PowerShell
Copyright (C) 2009 Microsoft Corporation. All rights reserved.

PS C:\users\Administrator\MyScripts> $env:path = $env:path + ";c:\users\administrator\MyScripts"
PS C:\users\Administrator\MyScripts> $a = $env:path; $a.split(";");
%SystemRoot%\system32\WindowsPowerShell\v1.0\
C:\Windows\system32
C:\Windows
C:\Windows\System32\Wbem
C:\Windows\System32\WindowsPowerShell\v1.0\
C:\Program Files\MySQL\MySQL Server 5.5\bin
c:\users\administrator\MyScripts
PS C:\users\Administrator\MyScripts> ArrayScript.ps1
Writing The Array - Please Wait. . .
5
10
15
20
25
30
35
40
45
50
55
60
65
70
75
80
85
90
95
100
PS C:\users\Administrator\MyScripts>
```

The MyScripts folder has now been appended to the path variable.

Now you can run the ArrayScript script without needing to specify the full path.



# Pipelining In PowerShell

- When you start writing more elaborate scripts in PowerShell (as well as many other scripting languages), you'll eventually realize the benefits of pipelining.
- Its certainly true that not all scripts will need to use a pipeline, however, many will and knowing how to setup and work a pipeline will allow you to create very efficient scripts.
- Unlike like an oil or water pipeline, that is designed to move a liquid from one place to another; a PowerShell pipeline would more closely resemble an assembly line. We're not moving something from one point to another, but rather start with one thing and transform it into something else as it moves along the pipeline. Look at the example on the next page.



```
PS C:\users\Administrator\MyScripts> dir
```

```
Directory: C:\users\Administrator\MyScripts
```

Mode	LastWriteTime	Length	Name
-a---	3/20/2012 2:42 PM	140	ArrayScript.ps1

```
PS C:\users\Administrator\MyScripts> dir | format-list
```

```
Directory: C:\users\Administrator\MyScripts
```

```
Name           : ArrayScript.ps1
Length         : 140
CreationTime   : 3/20/2012 2:41:55 PM
LastWriteTime  : 3/20/2012 2:42:43 PM
LastAccessTime: 3/20/2012 2:41:55 PM
VersionInfo    : File:           C:\users\Administrator\MyScripts\ArrayScript.ps1
                 InternalName:
                 OriginalFilename:
                 FileVersion:
                 FileDescription:
                 Product:
                 ProductVersion:
                 Debug:           False
                 Patched:         False
                 PreRelease:      False
                 PrivateBuild:    False
                 SpecialBuild:    False
                 Language:
```

The directory listing is piped to the format-list which formats the output of the directory command into a list.

Notice how different the non-piped and the piped outputs look.



# Pipelining In PowerShell

- Now let's look at a couple of somewhat more practical/useful examples.
- The first uses the cmdlet `get-childitem` to retrieve a list of all the items in the `myScripts` folder. We'll pipe this output to the `where-object` cmdlet that will filter out any item greater than 200KB in size, and then pipe this result set to the `sort-object` cmdlet. This is shown on page 22.
- The second example gets the services on the server, pipe this set to the `sort-object` cmdlet to sort based on the service's status and finally pipes this result to the `format-table` cmdlet to see the results in a table based format. This examples is shown on page 23.



```
PS C:\users\Administrator\MyScripts> get-childitem c:\users\administrator\myscripts | where-object{$_length -lt 200*1024} | sort-object length
```

Directory: C:\users\administrator\myscripts

Mode	LastWriteTime	Length	Name
-a---	10/26/2011 11:23 AM	138	ArrayScript4.ps1
-a---	10/26/2011 11:23 AM	138	ArrayScript2.ps1
-a---	3/20/2012 2:42 PM	140	ArrayScript.ps1
-a---	10/26/2011 11:42 AM	150	ArrayScript3.ps1

```
PS C:\users\Administrator\MyScripts>
```

The full command shown above is:  
get-childitem c:\users\administrator\myscripts | where-object {\$\_length -lt 200\*1024} | sort-object length

```
PS C:\users\Administrator\MyScripts> get-service | sort-object status | format-table
```

Status	Name	DisplayName
Stopped	SCPolicySvc	Smart Card Removal Policy
Stopped	SessionEnv	Terminal Services Configuration
Stopped	SCardSvr	Smart Card
Stopped	RSOPPProv	Resultant Set of Policy Provider
Stopped	sacsrv	Special Administration Console Helper
Stopped	SSDPSRU	SSDP Discovery
Stopped	swprv	Microsoft Software Shadow Copy Prov...
Stopped	SNMPTRAP	SNMP Trap
Stopped	SharedAccess	Internet Connection Sharing (ICS)
Stopped	SLUINotify	SL UI Notification Service
Stopped	Netlogon	Netlogon
Stopped	NetTcpPortSharing	Net.Tcp Port Sharing Service
Stopped	napagent	Network Access Protection Agent
Stopped	MSiSCSI	Microsoft iSCSI Initiator Service
Stopped	msiserver	Windows Installer
Stopped	RemoteAccess	Routing and Remote Access
Stopped	RpcLocator	Remote Procedure Call (RPC) Locator
Stopped	wudfsvc	Windows Driver Foundation - User-mo...
Stopped	pla	Performance Logs & Alerts
Stopped	ProtectedStorage	Protected Storage
Stopped	SysMain	Superfetch
Stopped	WdiServiceHost	Diagnostic Service Host
Stopped	Websvc	Windows Event Collector
Stopped	WcsPlugInService	Windows Color System
Stopped	vmvss	VMware Snapshot Provider
Stopped	USS	Volume Shadow Copy
Stopped	WPDBusEnum	Portable Device Enumerator Service
Stopped	WPFFontCache_v0400	Windows Presentation Foundation Fon...
Stopped	wmiApSrv	WMI Performance Adapter
Stopped	wercplsupport	Problem Reports and Solutions Contr...
Stopped	WinHttpAutoProx...	WinHTTP Web Proxy Auto-Discovery Se...
Stopped	Tomcat7.0.22	Apache Tomcat 7.0 Tomcat7.0.22
Stopped	TPUCGateway	TP UC Gateway Service
Stopped	THREADORDER	Thread Ordering Server



# Pipelining In PowerShell

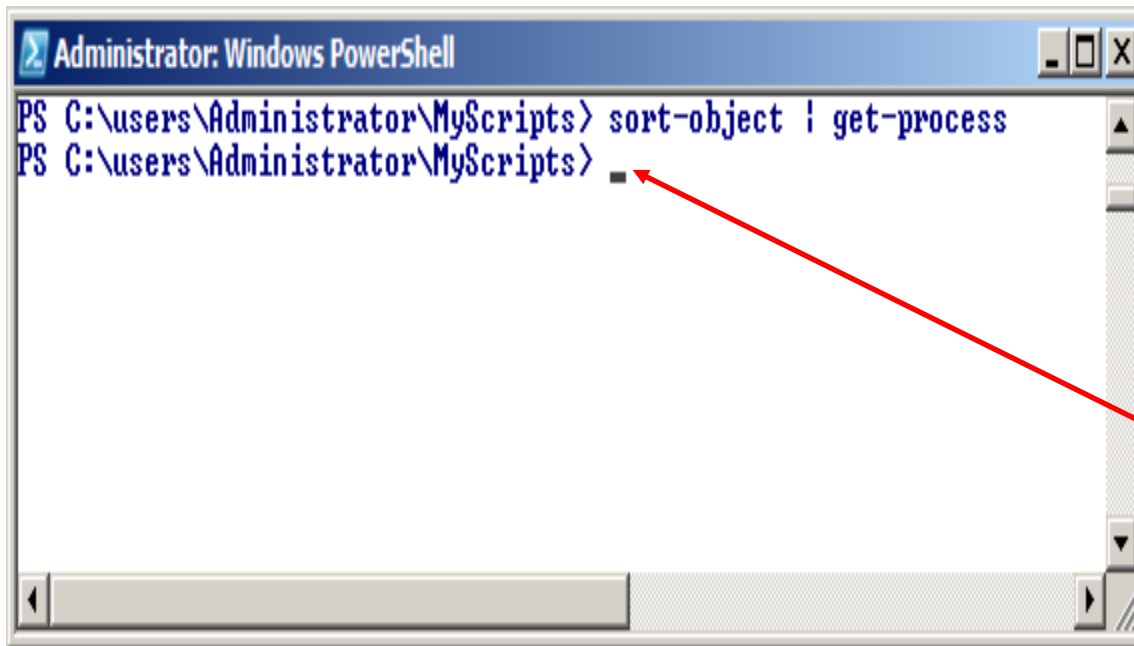
- As you can see, its fairly easy to take advantage of pipelining in PowerShell.
- However, you do need to use caution. Not everything can be pipelined. You can't pipeline something unless it makes sense to use a pipeline.
- In the previous example, it makes sense to pipeline the service information to the `sort-object` cmdlet, since `sort-object` can pretty much sort anything. It also makes sense to pipe the sorted information to `format-table` because it can format just about any information and display it as a table.
- What would this command do?

```
Sort-object | get-process
```



# Pipelining In PowerShell

- Answer: Absolutely nothing! Since `sort-object` is designed to sort things and here it has nothing to sort, so it will pass an empty result set to the `get-process` cmdlet which will do nothing.



```
Administrator: Windows PowerShell
PS C:\users\Administrator\MyScripts> sort-object | get-process
PS C:\users\Administrator\MyScripts> █
```

See... I told you so!





# Pipelining In PowerShell

- For the most part, and there are some exceptions to the rule, for pipelines to work correctly, you first acquire something (a collection, an object, whatever) and then hand that data over the pipeline.
  - One exception to the rule would be the following situation where `$a` represents a variable that contains a collection of data. You could sort the data in `$a` and sidestep the pipeline altogether with a command like:  
`sort-object -inputobject $a`
- When you do hand data over the pipeline, make sure that there is a cmdlet waiting for it on the other side.
- The example on the next page illustrates a common pipelining mistake.

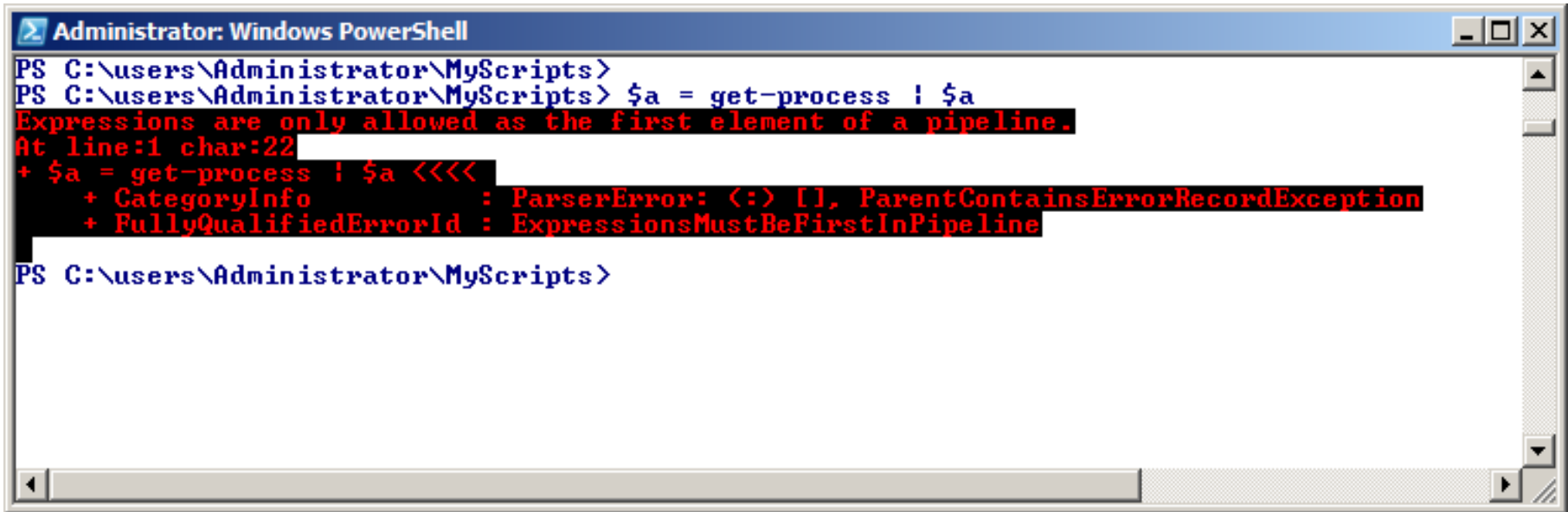


# Pipelining In PowerShell

- Suppose you entered a command like this:

```
$a = get-process | $a
```

- While it might look ok; you're thinking that will assign the output of the `get-process` cmdlet to the variable `$a` and then display `$a`. Instead you're going to get an error.



```
Administrator: Windows PowerShell
PS C:\users\Administrator\MyScripts>
PS C:\users\Administrator\MyScripts> $a = get-process | $a
Expressions are only allowed as the first element of a pipeline.
At line:1 char:22
+ $a = get-process | $a <<<<
+ CategoryInfo          : ParserError: (:) [], ParentContainsErrorRecordException
+ FullyQualifiedErrorId : ExpressionsMustBeFirstInPipeline
PS C:\users\Administrator\MyScripts>
```



# Pipelining In PowerShell

- Pipelines are used to string multiple commands into a single command, with data being passed from one portion of the pipeline to the next.
- Furthermore, as that data gets passed from one section of the pipe to another it gets transformed in some way: filtered, sorted, grouped, formatted, whatever.
- In the invalid command on the previous page, we didn't pass any data. We've really got two separate commands here: we want to use the `get-process` cmdlet to return information about the processes running on the server and then without transforming that data in any way, we want to display the information. Since they are two separate command, they should be on two separate lines as shown on the next page.



PS C:\users\Administrator\MyScripts>  
PS C:\users\Administrator\MyScripts>  
PS C:\users\Administrator\MyScripts>

```
> $a = get-process  
> $a
```

Handles	NPM(K)	PM(K)	WS(K)	UM(M)	CPU(s)	Id	ProcessName
445	5	1668	5072	105	0.84	496	csrss
255	6	7244	7452	111	8.20	540	csrss
232	7	5848	12404	68	0.41	2192	dllhost
75	3	1284	4172	49	0.20	696	dwm
472	13	17020	26860	153	8.75	1468	explorer
0	0	0	24	0		0	Idle
199	6	3160	7376	77	0.14	2648	jucheck
204	6	2184	7884	77	0.28	2464	jusched
572	9	3100	8324	45	1.19	640	lsass
159	3	1572	3784	29	0.06	648	lsn
167	7	2800	7108	60	0.14	2344	msdtc
504	6	48412	23028	105	0.52	1588	mysqld
489	7	38764	40428	168	1.25	224	powershell
237	6	2300	6332	36	2.34	628	services
95	3	5396	9596	39	1.36	1020	SLsvc
28	1	252	716	4	0.30	428	smss
308	10	6948	12416	100	1.92	1520	spoolsv
296	4	2584	6136	38	2.92	808	svchost
253	7	2736	6160	34	0.22	868	svchost
290	9	5276	8092	45	1.47	944	svchost
148	4	2844	5748	35	0.11	988	svchost
1023	36	36004	45196	180	5.14	1004	svchost
573	16	5892	10780	58	0.73	1080	svchost
248	8	7032	8544	66	0.53	1132	svchost
413	13	14316	15448	87	1.66	1184	svchost
268	22	5996	9908	47	0.53	1332	svchost
125	5	1844	5228	36	0.22	1708	svchost
73	2	828	2852	23	0.02	1720	svchost
44	1	540	2260	15	0.02	1900	svchost
226	7	3176	4900	50	0.08	2512	svchost

PS C:\users\Administrator\MyScripts> \$a = get-process ; \$a

Handles	NPM(K)	PM(K)	WS(K)	UM(M)	CPU(s)	Id	ProcessName
445	5	1668	5072	105	0.84	496	csrss
252	6	7244	7452	111	8.61	540	csrss
232	7	5848	12404	68	0.41	2192	dllhost
75	3	1284	4172	49	0.20	696	dwm
467	12	16884	26836	152	8.75	1468	explorer
0	0	0	24	0		0	Idle
199	6	3160	7376	77	0.14	2648	jucheck
204	6	2184	7884	77	0.28	2464	jusched
572	9	3100	8324	45	1.19	640	lsass
159	3	1572	3784	29	0.06	648	ism
167	7	2800	7108	60	0.14	2344	msdtp
504	6	48412	23028	105	0.53	1588	mysql
278	7	39524	41440	168	1.33	224	power
237	6	2300	6332	36	2.34	628	servi
95	3	5396	9596	39	1.36	1020	SLsvc
28	1	252	716	4	0.30	428	smss
308	10	6948	12420	100	1.92	1520	spool
296	4	2584	6136	38	2.92	808	svch
253	7	2736	6160	34	0.22	868	svch
288	9	5276	8092	45	1.48	944	svch
148	4	2844	5748	35	0.11	988	svch
1023	36	36004	45192	180	5.14	1004	svch
572	16	5892	10780	58	0.73	1080	svch
248	8	7032	8544	66	0.53	1132	svch
410	14	14356	15456	87	1.66	1184	svch
266	22	5968	9896	46	0.53	1332	svch
125	5	1844	5228	36	0.22	1708	svch
73	2	828	2852	23	0.02	1720	svch
44	1	540	2260	15	0.02	1900	svch
226	7	3176	4900	50	0.08	2512	svch

If you really want to do it this way, then separate the two distinct commands on the same line with semi-colons. Note however, that this is not pipelining.



# Pipelining In PowerShell

- Often, as some of the previous examples have illustrated, the system administrator may wish to execute some command and save the results in a variable.
- The results of a pipeline can be stored in a variable in the same manner in which the results of a single command can be stored in a variable. The previous example illustrated saving the output of the `get-process` cmdlet into a variable `$a`. (All variables in PowerShell begin with a `$`.)
- The example on the next page illustrates saving the results of a pipeline.



```
PS C:\users\Administrator\MyScripts> $a = (get-process | sort-object id)
PS C:\users\Administrator\MyScripts> $a
```

Handles	NPM(K)	PM(K)	WS(K)	UM(M)	CPU(s)	Id	ProcessName
0	0	0	24	0		0	Idle
490	0	0	1852	4		4	System
298	7	37508	39460	168	1.45	224	powershell
28	1	252	716	4	0.30	428	smss
445	5	1668	5072	105	0.84	496	csrss
254	6	7244	7452	111	8.67	540	csrss
100	4	1148	3932	41	0.20	548	wininit
118	3	1228	4356	32	0.39	580	winlogon
237	6	2300	6332	36	2.34	628	services
570	9	3100	8324	45	1.19	640	lsass
159	3	1572	3784	29	0.06	648	lsm
75	3	1284	4172	49	0.20	696	dwm
296	4	2584	6136	38	2.92	808	svchost
247	7	2832	7596	73	0.27	816	taskeng
255	7	2764	6172	35	0.22	868	svchost
288	9	5276	8092	45	1.48	944	svchost
148	4	2844	5748	35	0.11	988	svchost
1025	36	36004	45196	180	5.14	1004	svchost
95	3	5396	9596	39	1.36	1020	SLsvc
571	16	5920	10792	58	0.73	1080	svchost
248	8	7032	8544	66	0.53	1132	svchost
408	13	14316	15448	87	1.66	1184	svchost
268	22	5996	9908	47	0.53	1332	svchost
137	5	1860	5876	53	0.13	1428	taskeng
470	13	16952	26848	152	8.75	1468	explorer
308	10	6860	12396	100	1.92	1520	spoolsv
504	6	48412	23028	105	0.53	1588	mysqld
125	5	1844	5228	36	0.22	1708	svchost
73	2	828	2852	23	0.02	1720	svchost

