

The ABC's of NSM - P is for Pyrlshell



Jason Rahm, 2009-27-03

Welcome back for another episode of the ABC's of NSM. What's NSM you say? We'll go with Network and System Management, but you could throw Security in there as well. We'll work our way through the alphabet over the next several weeks looking at tools and concepts along the way for all the administrators out there. By the way, you can thank [Joe](#) for the format & [Don](#) for the title (I couldn't for the life of me come up with one.)



Today's letter **P** is for **Pyrlshell**, my made up word for [Perl](#), [Python](#), & [Powershell](#). All three languages have their place in an admin's toolbox, particularly if you manage diverse systems. Perl has been around for a couple decades now and has a massive arsenal of modules, tutorials, examples, etc. I'd be surprised if you really needed to write too many of your admin tasks, the code is already out there and just needs some tuning. The universe hasn't showered quite as much love on Python (yet), but it, like Perl, can be used for purposes from the simple throw away script to an application platform (check out [Zope](#)). And last but certainly not least: Powershell. I'm not sure I can say anything that [Joe hasn't already covered](#) (with far more expertise I might add), but let me just say that whereas I'm not much of a windows guy, I really like Powershell. The following is growing. Rapidly. I do some volunteer IT work at my kids school and we made the shift from shared to individual accounts in Active Directory. I'm not skilled in all things Active Directory, but I have created user accounts manually before, and if I were paying someone per click to get everything right, well, let's just say I'm not buying. Enter [Quest Software's PowerShell Snap-in](#). Instead of countless hours of work, I was able to create one hundred plus user accounts with groups and permissions set as desired with just a few cmdlets. Hundreds of snap-ins are out there for the taking, including an [iControl snap-in](#) right here on [DevCentral](#).



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