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RunAs Radio is a weekly Internet Audio Talk Show for IT Professionals working with Microsoft products. The full range of IT topics is covered from a Microsoft-centric viewpoint.



Greg  
Hughes

*Text Transcript of Show #094*  
(Transcription services provided by [PWOP Productions](#))



**Ed Wilson is a Scripting Guy!**  
**January 28, 2009**



[Music]

**Brandon Wenn:** From [runasradio.com](http://runasradio.com), you're listening to RunAs Radio, the Internet audio talk show for IT professionals with Richard Campbell and Greg Hughes. This is Brandon Wenn, announcing show #94, with guest Ed Wilson, recorded Monday, January 5, 2009. RunAs Radio is produced each week by PWOP Productions, providing professional media and podcasting services online at [pwop.com](http://pwop.com). You can follow the guys on Twitter at [twitter.com/runasradio](http://twitter.com/runasradio).

**Richard Campbell:** You're listening to RunAs Radio. I am your host, Richard Campbell, with me as always my co-host Greg Hughes.

**Greg Hughes:** Hey Richard, how are you?

**Richard Campbell:** I'm well, sir, and all booked into TechEd for 2009. All sessions have to be submitted awhile ago and now they've dragged me into the planning team as well. I think my life is over.

**Greg Hughes:** Good for you. And TechEd is earlier this year than it has been in the past.

**Richard Campbell:** Yeah, it's up in May now and it's at Los Angeles too. I'm happy to be out of Orlando. We've done it in Orlando for so long.

**Greg Hughes:** Yeah. I mean, Orlando is a great town if you want to go to Disney or some of those other places, but it's really changed over the past 10 or 15 years a lot.

**Richard Campbell:** Well, the convention center there is awesome, it's huge, that's for sure.

**Greg Hughes:** Oh yes, massive.

**Richard Campbell:** But we, I don't know, I think last year I was in Orlando six times so...

**Greg Hughes:** Wow.

**Richard Campbell:** Sort of over the threshold of tolerance.

**Greg Hughes:** I was there twice.

**Richard Campbell:** This year there's only one week of TechEd, it's May 11 to 15 in Los Angeles.

**Greg Hughes:** Right. Another big change.

**Richard Campbell:** Yeah, and it's going to be a tight squeeze. I think we're going to be packed to the walls there. Obviously some huge topics to discuss. I'm really looking forward to going and I hope we'll do

all our usual things, Speaker Idol and doing lots of panel discussions. It's going to be crazy.

**Greg Hughes:** Yeah. For those over in Europe or Middle East, Asia and Africa that are going to do those types of conferences, it sounds like Berlin this year and also a one week show.

**Richard Campbell:** Right, and TechEd EMEA, the European show, now finally get to move from Barcelona. Not that I was as tired of Barcelona as I was of Orlando, funny that really. Something about Barcelona.

**Greg Hughes:** You have to say if you're going to move it from Barcelona to somewhere else, Berlin is an awfully interesting and enticing place to put it.

**Richard Campbell:** Oh, it's going to be fun for sure. All right, let's jump right into our show here. We're talking to Ed Wilson. Ed Wilson is one of the Microsoft Scripting Guys and a well-known scripting expert. He is a Microsoft-certified trainer who has delivered a popular Windows PowerShell workshop to Microsoft Premier Customers worldwide. He has written 8 books including 5 on Windows scripting, including: Windows PowerShell Scripting Guide, and Microsoft Windows PowerShell Step by Step -- both published by Microsoft Press. He has also contributed to nearly a dozen other books, and is currently working on a PowerShell Best Practices book. Ed holds more than 20 industry certifications, including Microsoft Certified Systems Engineer and Certified Information Systems Security Professional. Prior to coming to work for Microsoft he was a senior consultant for a Microsoft Gold Certified Partner where he specialized in Active Directory design and Exchange implementation. In his spare time he enjoys woodworking, underwater photography, and scuba diving. Welcome, Ed.

**Greg Hughes:** Hey.

**Ed Wilson:** Hello, how are you doing?

**Richard Campbell:** Good to talk to you. I've been following the Scripting Guys for a long time. You guys predate PowerShell, it's an old group the Scripting Guys.

**Greg Hughes:** Oh yeah.

**Ed Wilson:** Yeah, they predate just about everything. They first got together back in around, I believe, 1999 in that timeframe, 2000...

**Greg Hughes:** It was back in the Windows 2000 days, early Windows 2000 days.



**Ed Wilson:** Yeah, I think before because they got together originally to write a book on Scripting which was the Scripting Windows 2000, Scripting Guide which is an absolute awesome book. My copy is actually signed by a couple of the Scripting Guys and they dispose -- I still use it actually.

**Richard Campbell:** Wow.

**Ed Wilson:** I mean, it's falling apart. I have a rubber band around it to hold it in place.

**Richard Campbell:** You've always written lots of books on Scripting and worked on it for a long time, but you're not one of the original Scripting Guys? It has turned over a few times, right?

**Ed Wilson:** Actually it turned over. I'm not sure, they've lost people over the years.

**Richard Campbell:** Really?

**Ed Wilson:** Bob Wells was one of the original Scripting Guys and then he left and moved to Miami and became a TAM and actually I heard recently that he left there. He went to Africa and never came back.

**Richard Campbell:** Wow.

**Ed Wilson:** Then there was Peter Costantini. He was one of the original Scripting Guys. He left and went to the high performance computing thing. Dean Tsaltas left and went to the WMI group. The last two were Greg and Jean and they left and went, I believe, to the Exchange team. So now we've got Craig and myself...

**Richard Campbell:** Awesome.

**Ed Wilson:** And it's just really, really cool. One of the things which was funny is that I've been, of course, a fan of the Scripting Guys for years and years and this is like one of my major career goal. I always wanted to work for Microsoft and then after I got here, then I thought, wow, you may now become a Scripting Guy? That's like, so cool.

**Greg Hughes:** What do you want to be when you grow up? I want to be the Scripting Guy.

**Ed Wilson:** I want to be a Scripting Guy, absolutely.

**Richard Campbell:** That's awesome, and if you've never been to the Script Center, [microsoft.com/technet/scriptcenter](http://microsoft.com/technet/scriptcenter), that is the central resource for everything Scripting related.

**Greg Hughes:** And that's been a great resource for quite a bit of time.

**Richard Campbell:** Scripting has gone through so many convulsions since 2000. I guess PowerShell is the current dominant force, that that is the thing we're all focused on. Outside of that, when we talk about Scripting, are we just talking about the good old .bat file?

**Ed Wilson:** No. Actually, outside of PowerShell, when people talk about Scripting, most of the time they're talking about VBScript.

**Richard Campbell:** Right.

**Ed Wilson:** I've actually seen the statistics a while back and I still think that the VBScript is like the most popular Scripting language known to mankind and, you know, far, far greater adaption than JavaScript or anything else. Most of the time when people talk about Scripting, that's what they think about or talk about is VBScript. Batch files, of course, have been around forever. I mean, that's the way that Fred Flintstone used to automate his server.

**Richard Campbell:** Nice.

**Greg Hughes:** Yeah.

**Ed Wilson:** He used to add in concrete, give it to the dinosaur, you know, chomps on it, and those are batch files and they were absolutely great. As a matter of fact, as far as I know we retired our last batch file last year at Microsoft and corroded PowerShell.

**Richard Campbell:** Wow.

**Ed Wilson:** It was this huge monster thing, I think it was actually originally written by Bill Gates and it had been modified over the last 30 years. So we just finally converted it to PowerShell and it got a whole lot smaller. Of course we had to do that since Bill retired.

**Richard Campbell:** Yeah, because nobody was left to maintain it.

**Ed Wilson:** Absolutely.

**Greg Hughes:** Nobody knows how to support batch files anymore, yeah.

**Richard Campbell:** VBScript has its issues as well, but I'm just stunned at how many things you guys can do with VBScript looking at the website monitoring with Scripting, like it just goes on and on and on. In your experience, what are people mostly focused on when it comes to Scripting?



**Ed Wilson:** That's a tough question. I've got a lot of answers. Let me give you this smart eloquent one first. I think that people are mostly focused on Scripting on what's annoying them.

**Richard Campbell:** Right.

**Ed Wilson:** It's just like, you know, I still write VBScript from time to time. In fact, I wrote one recently and it solved the problem for me. What I've noticed is when I get the emails into the [scriptor AT microsoft.com](http://scriptor.at.microsoft.com) -- oops, I shouldn't have given that. I've got like 700 emails in my inbox, but what I noticed is that a lot of times the people are asking for stuff that is already published.

**Richard Campbell:** Right.

**Ed Wilson:** And so when I'm trying to go through 700 emails, if I can find the Script that answers the question, I'll just copy the link to it and say here you go. I don't get real verbose, not when I get 700 emails in my inbox. So, what I did with IE7, and I'm running the beta of IE8 now which is awesome, we got a tab and so I wrote a VBScript and it opens up the homepage, the Hey Scripting Guy archive, the Script repositories, Sesame Script, like five or six different websites that are going to commonly have the answers that I need to my email.

**Richard Campbell:** Right.

**Ed Wilson:** These things are mission critical. I use it every day now.

**Richard Campbell:** So you just use a little chunk of VBScript that just opens all that stuff at once so you don't have to...

**Ed Wilson:** Absolutely. I double click it, I've got the shortcut on my desktop, and boom, it opens all these stuff up. I mean, that is supposed to save me so much time. What I find people doing with Scripts on a regular basis is they want to stop processes, they want to change passwords on services, they're a big deal.

**Richard Campbell:** Right.

**Ed Wilson:** People configure these user accounts to run services, you need to change passwords on them every so often and they do that. Changing the local administrator password is a common question that I get. One that we don't have a good answer for is setting security permissions. Unfortunately, that thing is still so horribly complicated and there are not any real good tools yet to do that. PowerShell will get icacl and set icacl which I had

high hopes for. It actually solves some issues, that's with PowerShell, but that is not the be all to end all.

**Richard Campbell:** Right.

**Ed Wilson:** Most of the time I recommend people to just automate subinacl, it's about the best thing I've got. In Vista, we have icacl which was recently back ported to 2003 Server R2 I believe, or maybe just 2003 Server. But other than that, Security Permission Scripting is a common question and something that there's a huge opportunity for improvement.

**Richard Campbell:** Still a real struggle. It's just, I think, because of the icacl system is basically sitting on top of NTFS. It's just so old.

**Ed Wilson:** Its old and it's complicated and powerful. So whenever you get those three combinations, you have this perfect storm for confusion.

**Richard Campbell:** Yeah.

**Ed Wilson:** I mean, I know myself having messed around with setting security permission. All I want these guys to do is read, okay. Fine, so I give them read permission. Now they call up, they can't access anything. Why? Well, they often need like file scan or some...

**Richard Campbell:** Yeah, i t ' s some other permission they need, but even just the battle of what is the effective permission set and where did the permissions come from for this user on this file is still a struggle.

**Ed Wilson:** That is something that we've improved. I'm thinking 2003, maybe it was 2000, but that showed the effective permission tab.

**Richard Campbell:** Right.

**Ed Wilson:** I was so glad when that came out.

**Richard Campbell:** Yeah.

**Greg Hughes:** Yeah.

**Richard Campbell:** I can't remember the -- it doesn't actually tell you which permission, like what is the source of the permission being applied. It just shows you what the net is.

**Ed Wilson:** Right, yeah. It will be nicer if they did show, have an extra button like where is this coming from because I need to fix it.



**Greg Hughes:** Right.

**Richard Campbell:** Why is this guy got read permission to this, or why does he not have read permission to this. I've given it to him and yet, you know, it's still not working.

**Ed Wilson:** I guess if you were a conspiracy theorist, you would say it's confusing just so we would have some good questions for the MCSC exam. Hey, make it simple.

**Richard Campbell:** That will be too easy. We'd all be out of a job. Actually, should we dig a little into this icacl thing? I'm always fascinated when we get into this scenario where something we've done work so well in the new operating system, we actually push it back to the old operating system because people care so much about it.

**Greg Hughes:** It might be good to explain, you know, for the people that aren't really familiar with the concept, exactly what is it that you're talking about and how they can leverage it.

**Ed Wilson:** Yeah. Icacl is actually a pretty interesting utility. I haven't used it that much but it has simplified things a lot. Subinacl is actually confusing. As a matter of fact, subinacl is confusing in and of itself because there's a subinacl VBS, subinacl.exe, there's one that is included with DOS, there's one you have to download to fix problems with the one in the OS.

**Richard Campbell:** Its running the right one is the problem.

**Ed Wilson:** Yeah. If you can't figure out the right one, I mean you are behind the power curve already.

**Richard Campbell:** Man.

**Ed Wilson:** Icacl is cool because it really does simplify things quite a bit. The syntax is a lot easier to use and all of that that's why we did back forward it to 2003, but the thing that subinacl does, I think, that icacl doesn't do, and I could be completely wrong, I mean, I think subinacl is the only way to edit registry permission and I said I could be wrong because icacl's modex as registry, I'm just not an expert on icacl.

**Richard Campbell:** Yeah, this is not an easy area and the tools -- I guess part of the challenge here, and you've already alluded to this, is really finding all of the things that we need to know about. Like you said, most Script problems have already been solved, you got to find them in the repository but it starts with

knowing the tools that can be invoke from Scripting to get these things done.

**Ed Wilson:** Yeah. That's one of the things that I'm doing. I started a call a while back and I call it Quick-Hit Friday, actually Craig came up with a name.

**Richard Campbell:** Right.

**Ed Wilson:** Originally, I was going to call it Short Answer Friday because I had these answers like hey, can I script this, and they answered no. Next question.

**Greg Hughes:** Next.

**Richard Campbell:** You know, that's the one thing you never find in a FAQ, it's what you can't do.

**Ed Wilson:** Yeah, actually I'm working on my book on PowerShell Best Practices right now and the chapter I'm actually working on right now is called Avoiding Scripting Pitfall. One of the things to know is know what to script and know what not to script.

**Richard Campbell:** Right.

**Ed Wilson:** I got this idea because I see emails coming in to the Scriptor email I list and it's like, you know, they have this like four or five paragraphs of convoluted stuff and at the very bottom is like any help will be appreciated because I don't know anything about Scripting. Of course, by the time I get to that last sentence, I already know they don't know anything about Scripting. It's easy to see where they get this idea because, you know, somebody has this computer, we need to change the address on 15 computers.

**Richard Campbell:** Right.

**Ed Wilson:** So somebody whips that little base script, boom, runs it on this 15 computers, wow, that's amazing. You know, there's only like four or five lines of code, yeah, well, it's scripting, cool, hey can I get a script to wake me up at 6:30 in the morning, turn on the hot water from the shower, turn on coffee for me and get my bacon into the toaster. Well, if you could get the APIs, maybe. But since you don't know anything about Scripting, why don't you try to see if you can figure out a way to automate, you know, IT config/release first.

**Richard Campbell:** Right.

**Greg Hughes:** Right. Start simple and work your way up.



**Ed Wilson:** Start simple and work your way up. Every time I think that, hey, I'm getting pretty good at scripting and I wrote like 20 lines of code before I test it, it never works.

**Richard Campbell:** Yeah.

**Ed Wilson:** So start small, stay small.

**Greg Hughes:** A lot of times you can take the small things that you build and then eventually you can combine them into a larger scripting system that maybe you deploy across the enterprise. I've seen that done before.

**Ed Wilson:** Absolutely.

**Greg Hughes:** A lot of things that you can be, even conditional type of stuff, you know, if this is true, then take this action, otherwise, just skip into that type of thing. It's pretty amazing what you can do.

**Ed Wilson:** Yeah and one of the changes that I'm making in the way that I've been writing scripts on the Script Center and of course I made two changes. Number 1: Most of the new examples are written in PowerShell and that is simply because that after eight years of writing articles on VBScript, Greg and Jean and Bob and Peter, all of those guys, they wrote just so much stuff there is very little left that needs to be done in VBScript. There are more than 3,000 scripts on the Script Center in VBScript examples. After eight years of Hey Scripting Guys articles, there's over a thousand Hey Scripting Guys articles and there was nothing out there hardly on PowerShell.

**Richard Campbell:** Wow.

**Ed Wilson:** Just simply for that fact, I could write for eight years just on PowerShell and we would just be where we are today with VBScript, and I'm continuing Dad More Stuff in VBScript as I see things that come up that need to be there. I'm soliciting some scripts from some of the different product groups to give me some more coverage for IS and ISA server and stuff like that that we don't have.

**Greg Hughes:** Sure.

**Ed Wilson:** By and large, the Hey Scripting Guys articles, Monday through Thursday anyway, are all written on PowerShell, but what I was going to say is the second change I've done is I'm kind of changing the way the scripts are written in that I'm encapsulating pieces of information in the function and so this allows you to start small and stay small. As you said, it makes it easy to incorporate this function. Just pull this function out and throw it onto another script and so you wind up with building block.

What we're going to see in PowerShell 2.0 is this is going to become even more important because functions then are like first class citizens in PowerShell. We even have a thing that's called an advance function which acts exactly like a command line.

**Richard Campbell:** Interesting. Basically, it sounds like we're getting to a point where we're going to be able to build extensions to PowerShell ourselves.

**Ed Wilson:** Absolutely, and by writing functions.

**Richard Campbell:** Right.

**Ed Wilson:** So the functions I'm writing today I'm keeping in mind, you know, that in a short while PowerShell 2.0 will be out and so I'm trying to write with a view towards the future on how I'm writing my code.

**Richard Campbell:** I think the big thing with PowerShell is these are the tools that the teams themselves, the product teams themselves are using to set up their product. I looked at the Exchange team, PowerShell is just core to everything they do, or, I think IIS is an even better example where the whole UI is essentially writing PowerShell scripts under the hood.

**Greg Hughes:** Yeah.

**Ed Wilson:** Yeah and that's really cool and what that does is -- there's two reasons for this. Number one is it's easier for the product group teams to do this.

**Richard Campbell:** Right.

**Ed Wilson:** Number two, for years every product we release has to have some type of some means of management. In fact, you can't have an enterprise product that doesn't have some type of enterprise management built into it somehow...

**Greg Hughes:** Right.

**Ed Wilson:** And so WMI was the tool of choice for a lot of groups. The problem is WMI is complicated.

**Richard Campbell:** Hard.

**Ed Wilson:** Yeah and it's hard and there's a lot of work involved to do that kind of stuff. Group Policy was the tool of choice for a lot of things. The problem with that is Group Policy is not available for small and medium size companies.



**Greg Hughes:** Right.

**Ed Wilson:** A lot of small and medium size companies didn't use Group Policy.

**Richard Campbell:** Yeah, they're not running a domain.

**Ed Wilson:** Yeah, exactly. So if I need to configure IE and I need to use Group Policy to do that, it's just kind of easy to because of the code and so it would be really nice if we have some scripts and stuff to do that. So with PowerShell as a management platform people can make management tools, write command lines and expose the automation interface all at the same time. So they write one piece of code and boom, they get three check boxes on their "is your product ready to release to the world" sheet.

**Richard Campbell:** Right.

**Ed Wilson:** I mean it's a win-win situation.

**Richard Campbell:** Yeah, it actually is less code in the end for the product team and it makes a richer and more reliable environment for us Scripting people to be able to get at the product as a whole.

**Ed Wilson:** There's one other benefit to that too and that is, you know, I know PowerShell pretty well and I can manage an Exchange server if I need to.

**Richard Campbell:** Right.

**Ed Wilson:** I can manage an IIS server if I need to. I can do a lot of stuff with MOM or SMS because I know PowerShell.

**Richard Campbell:** Right.

**Ed Wilson:** Whereas before, part of the process of learning how to administer Exchange was figure out where in the world in that stupid interface the thing that I need to click on and make the little checky box. I mean, on some of my MCSC exams for Exchange 2000 literally there were questions on where do you go to click the checky box.

**Greg Hughes:** Yup, yup.

**Richard Campbell:** And then when you get into the scripty side, nothing more frustrating than finding the place in the UI to configure the thing the way you want to and then saying now I need to do that for a thousand people, how do I automate that.

**Ed Wilson:** Oh yeah.

**Richard Campbell:** And there are some other hidden utility with some crazy command line string that would have let you do that only that one doesn't work quite right because it's not the same as the one from the UI.

**Ed Wilson:** Absolutely and AdSeas is the worst in that regard because in the graphical interface box, you might say you have C,D but then the attribute is L.

**Richard Campbell:** Yeah, good luck.

**Ed Wilson:** And then the graphical interface, it says homepage or webpage, and then add C is www homepage or something like that. It's like what is the secret word on that. Well, good thing about that is in Windows 7.0 we're going to have active command list to help simplify the scripting and automation of that. So PowerShell is the future.

**Richard Campbell:** Well, so this guides us back to this conversation of VBScript versus PowerShell. Is VBScript only relevant so long as we haven't got a PowerShell implementation?

**Ed Wilson:** Oh, I don't know. I think not and there are two reasons for this. Number one is I used to be a network administrator a long time ago. I did it for five years and when I started as network administrator, on the little whiteboard within my office there were three things written down on my To Do list. When I left five years later, there were five things on that To Do list. It's like what have you done for the last five years?

**Richard Campbell:** Add on a few things onto the list.

**Ed Wilson:** Yeah and it's worse now. I mean, you come to work, you're busy, busy, busy all day long and you just don't have a lot of time to play. So anyway, so if you've got a VBScript that works, use it.

**Richard Campbell:** Right.

**Ed Wilson:** You don't need to translate that to PowerShell. I mean, even when PowerShell becomes ubiquitous, you don't need to translate that script into PowerShell because you're going to find new things to write scripts for in PowerShell, stuff that you could only dream about in VBScript because we have access to the .NET framework.

**Richard Campbell:** Yeah.

**Ed Wilson:** I've got a script that I use. I read all of the script for the Vista resource, both



editions, and after read all of the scripts for the Windows 2008 server resource. Between those three projects, those are over 450 scripts. So what I did is I had a script that I called Prepare for Release and what I would do is I would change the date created, the date modified, and the date last access to with the time stamp when I submitted the scripts to the editor. In that way, if he email me back and say he had a problem with one of the scripts, I'd say what's the time stamp on it. He doesn't have to open it, he doesn't have to do anything. Well, the script was written in June blah, blah, blah. Oh, well, I've got new ones here that I wrote in October, let me send that to you, somehow I know that you missed one.

**Richard Campbell:** Wow.

**Ed Wilson:** And so it became a L-CHEAPO version control thing.

**Richard Campbell:** Right.

**Ed Wilson:** And it took me about five minutes to write it and that's something that we could not do, we can't manipulate those attributes in VBScript, at least not easily or in a way that I know of off the top of my head.

**Richard Campbell:** I also find that PowerShell will get into this great ability to do enumerations of collections that can be pipelined to another set of functions and you just get to a level of sophistication, I think, that's overwhelming for VBScript.

**Ed Wilson:** Oh yeah, absolutely. I don't like unfair comparisons with VBScript. I mean, I love VBScript.

**Richard Campbell:** Sure.

**Ed Wilson:** Paid for my BMW and have these three books on the side. I mean love VBScript.

**Richard Campbell:** VBScript had been very, very good to you.

**Ed Wilson:** Absolutely. The fact that it was complicated, it made the people need to buy my book. I'm just joking of course, but no, I love VBScript. It's just a tribute to the creativity of network administrators, that they took this tool that was not designed to do what we use it for. VBScript initially was used on web pages and people still use it on a lot of web pages, but I mean it never had any ideas or thoughts about using it to manage network, not the way that we use it today.

**Greg Hughes:** Take your example of using VBScript to open up and then explore and open up those different tabs and pages and stuff, is there

some reason that you did that in VBScript as oppose to PowerShell?

**Ed Wilson:** Yeah because the customer, the question that came into [scriptor AT microsoft.com](mailto:scriptor@microsoft.com), the guy would want to do it in VBScript and so I wrote the whole script for that email and send it to him. Then I also use that question, that email question, it shows up on Quick-Hits Friday.

**Richard Campbell:** Right.

**Greg Hughes:** Right.

**Ed Wilson:** So I'm trying and one of the things I try to do on Quick-Hits Friday is to toss some bones to the people who are still out there that like to use VBScript because...

**Richard Campbell:** For no other reason than it's working just fine like why would you move away from it.

**Ed Wilson:** Absolutely, yeah. Now the other thing, the other reason that I did it in VBScript is because with VBScript, I have a shortcut on my desktop. I double click that script and it runs, it executes.

**Richard Campbell:** Right.

**Ed Wilson:** In PowerShell, if you double click a PowerShell script, it opens in Notepad.

**Greg Hughes:** Right.

**Ed Wilson:** So you have to open the PowerShell prompt, and in Vista I can't drag and drop from my desktop to the PowerShell prompt, it does mean you have to right click and say copy the path and then you have to paste the path there and then execute. I have actually created a script in PowerShell that creates a shortcut to a PowerShell script and it executes the PowerShell script in PowerShell exe so I double click my shortcut icon but that requires two scripts. You write a script and then you write another script, it creates a shortcut to the script.

**Richard Campbell:** That's funny. There are funny little things still that VBScript just makes more sense for, but I still get the feeling that going forward, anything new that we're writing from scratch is going to be tough to justify in VBScript.

**Ed Wilson:** That's true. That's actually my recommendation to people, is going forward, write all of your new code in PowerShell. If you get perfectly good VBScript, save them anew.



**Richard Campbell:** Right.

**Ed Wilson:** I do know some customers. I was teaching a class in Frankfurt Germany last year and one of the guys who was in my class, I was talking to him. Of course, in Germany, I mean you don't have to drive a car and you have must have just taken the autobahn back to town...

**Richard Campbell:** Right.

**Ed Wilson:** So I was walking from the office back to the Ubon and I was talking to him and he was saying, "My company has told me that we would only support PowerShell and so I have been tasked with translating all of the VB scripts into PowerShell."

**Richard Campbell:** Oh man.

**Ed Wilson:** He estimated that it was going to take him about six months.

**Richard Campbell:** Yeah, no kidding.

**Greg Hughes:** Wow.

**Ed Wilson:** Then I said I had some pretty cool tricks that we can do with WMI and so I think he was able to revive that estimate down to about four months, but still, I mean that's the only company I know of that just make an EDIX and say it will do PowerShell, boom.

**Richard Campbell:** I still think they make those EDIX not understanding the consequence of it, I mean the...

**Greg Hughes:** Yeah, the cost.

**Ed Wilson:** Its also I mean, yeah, from an organization's standpoint, hey, why maintain two scripting environments, you know, when all doing well and good in PowerShell, boom, let it go. Some companies, if you got the manpower, if you got the bandwidth, I'm all for that you did. One of the funniest thing that I ever had back when I was in consulting at Microsoft before I became a Scripting Guy, I got a phone call one day from a TAM, a technical account manager, and he says I need to arrange an emergency VBScript workshop for a customer, and I said "What? An emergency VBScript workshop, what in the world is that?" And he said, "Well, my customer, they made the scripting expert mad and he left."

**Richard Campbell:** Nice.

**Greg Hughes:** Nobody get close to VBScript.

**Ed Wilson:** And they have all of these critical VBScripts and nobody to maintain them.

**Richard Campbell:** Oh man.

**Ed Wilson:** And I felt like saying, "Well, you shouldn't make your scripting guy mad." But then I said, "Is everything working right now?" He goes, "Yeah." I said, "Well, good. Then we can schedule it." I mean, back then I was booked three months with this thing out, and when I left this past year I was booked six months in advance.

**Richard Campbell:** Wow.

**Ed Wilson:** But I mean, back to -- he said, yeah. He said, "I mean, we can schedule it for three months from now." If they have any issues between now and then, you can work with them and talk with me and we'll get resources and try to solve their problems, but you know, first time in my life I ever heard an emergency Scripting workshop.

**Richard Campbell:** Yeah, no kidding. For folks who are just getting started with Scripting, can we put him at the Omatics?

**Ed Wilson:** If you're just learning Scripting, my recommendation would be to learn PowerShell.

**Richard Campbell:** Right.

**Ed Wilson:** And just skip VBScript altogether and I did write the PowerShell Scriptomatic and so it does everything that the regular Scriptomatic does for PowerShell. The one that I would like to write but do not have time, that is the Tweakomatic, I'd love to write the Tweakomatic in PowerShell.

**Richard Campbell:** Oh wow. There is a Tweakomatic now, but it's a Scripting...

**Ed Wilson:** It's in VBScript.

**Richard Campbell:** Right, it's VBScript.

**Ed Wilson:** Yeah. The Omatics that we've got that I have been able to find, we have the Scriptomatic, the Tweakomatic, the Add C Scriptomatic, and the HTA Scriptomatic. Those four, they're Omatics that I've been able to find, and then there's the fifth one, the PowerShell Scriptomatic that I wrote.

**Richard Campbell:** And these are all about just creating catalogues of all the things that you can get at via Scripting and helping you write those core statements.



**Ed Wilson:** Yeah, absolutely. The Scriptomatic is actually a really good tool because, yeah, I used to like the WMI class and it writes a WMI script for you.

**Richard Campbell:** Right.

**Ed Wilson:** And it's reasonably good code and it displays a lot of good information for you. I use it even today as a way to browse WMI and the reason that I started doing that is because one day -- I used to pride myself on always writing all of my scripts from scratch and so one day I've spent about a half hour writing a WMI script, I ran it, and guess what, that WMI class didn't display any information. So I was like, okay, fine, I'm going to cheat from now on.

**Richard Campbell:** Right, yeah.

**Ed Wilson:** And so at that point, I started using Scriptomatic to browse first.

**Richard Campbell:** And find values.

**Ed Wilson:** Absolutely and the other thing that I did is in all three of the VBScript books that I wrote, I used exactly the same variable name that the Scripting Guys used in the Scriptomatic, but God, there's a reason for that.

**Richard Campbell:** Yeah.

**Ed Wilson:** So I can cut and paste, man, and go on and that's fine, it's amazing as you look through the internet how many scripts always use Object Shell, OBJ Shell, Osh Shell, you know, call items, OBJ items, stuff like that they use in the Scriptomatic.

**Richard Campbell:** Well, so many people they learn from the Scriptomatic so you don't have to hand code it. They tend to use the same variables, they're familiar to them.

**Ed Wilson:** Absolutely.

**Greg Hughes:** Yeah.

**Ed Wilson:** It just makes it a lot simpler, yeah.

**Richard Campbell:** Yeah.

**Ed Wilson:** I first started writing code, I don't know, like 30 years ago, and I used to spend more time thinking of cool variable name, than I did actually writing the code.

**Richard Campbell:** Yeah, it's funny.

**Ed Wilson:** Yeah, and that didn't take me long to outgrow that.

**Richard Campbell:** It does go by.

**Greg Hughes:** Well, the other benefit of PowerShell these days is this huge eruption of this massive community ramp PowerShells. There's a lot of good resources out there just in the community in general.

**Ed Wilson:** Absolutely and that's because the UNIX community has always been very active in sharing information with one another.

**Greg Hughes:** Right.

**Ed Wilson:** And it's no secret that the people who have adapted PowerShell, the Quick-Hit - - actually there are two communities, the Exchange administrators because they have no choice, and the UNIX community because they look at it and said, dude, this is cool.

**Greg Hughes:** Right.

**Ed Wilson:** So we have these two traditions, if you will, kind of growing forward. Yeah, UNIX guys look at PowerShell and they get it immediately, and then when they start playing with it, they go, wow, this is awesome. I mean, there's a port of PowerShell now for Linux, by the way, and that's a great compliment.

**Richard Campbell:** Definitely.

**Ed Wilson:** Exchange guys look at it and they get this is pretty cool, but they don't have a tendency to do as much with it as the UNIX guys have been. So a lot of these stuff that you see out there on the internet, stuff that's being written by these guys, they are just like really addicted to PowerShell and they just get carried away with it. I think one of the funniest things I've seen is there's a website out there that's called like Using and Abusing PowerShell and the guy has written the old Space Invaders program in PowerShell.

**Richard Campbell:** That's awesome.

**Ed Wilson:** I mean, it's an impressive work of art.

**Greg Hughes:** Cool.

**Ed Wilson:** And he said, yeah, he just wanted to really play around with using GDI development using PowerShell.

**Richard Campbell:** Right.



**Ed Wilson:** It's got music and everything. It's an awesome script. I can hardly understand them but the things that they put in, it's an awesome script.

**Richard Campbell:** Yeah, and we've seen a lot of examples like that. The guy who made asteroids in a DHTML library, like it's crazy some of the stuff that is out there.

**Greg Hughes:** Yeah.

**Richard Campbell:** Ed, we're a little overtime actually. Any final call outs, things people need to check out getting into Scripting?

**Ed Wilson:** Folks getting into Scripting, the TechNet Script Center, I'm proud to say, is the best resource on the internet. There's a lot of good stuff out there. I mean there's a lot of good stuff on the internet, but I think as far as having a really, really high usability ratio, come check out Script Center.

**Richard Campbell:** You bet.

**Ed Wilson:** And if you're a PowerShell guy and you haven't been around the Script Center recently, you need to come and check it out because we're having PowerShell resources everyday.

**Richard Campbell:** Ed Wilson, thanks so much for coming on the show.

**Greg Hughes:** Thanks, Ed.

**Ed Wilson:** Thank you.

**Richard Campbell:** And we'll talk to you next week on RunAs Radio.