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Richard
Campbell

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

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Rhonda Layfield on the Next Generation of Deployment!
April 15, 2009



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Brandon Wenn: From 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 #105, with guest Rhonda Layfield, recorded Tuesday, April 14, 2009. RunAs Radio is produced each week by PWOP Productions, providing professional media and podcasting services online at pwop.com. You can follow the boys on Twitter at twitter.com/runasradio.

Richard Campbell: This is Richard Campbell and you're listening to RunAs Radio. With me as always my co-host, Greg Hughes.

Greg Hughes: Hey, how are you?

Richard Campbell: I'm well, sir, and it's been awhile. We got a bunch of shows done and then we were running all over the place.

Greg Hughes: Yeah, yeah. Lots of travels especially for you. I've been watching you on TripIt since we're subscribe to each other. You've just been kind of going nuts.

Richard Campbell: Yeah, jetting here there and everywhere. I actually had a trip to Eastern Europe -- Poland fall through so it's not as bad as it could have been.

Greg Hughes: Ah, well, you've still traveling an awful lot.

Richard Campbell: Nonstop, and the bad news is you're not going to make it to TechEd.

Greg Hughes: Yeah, I can't. Unfortunately I have some other conflicts and commitments that I just have to do and so I'm really disappointed that I can't be there but I know you'll be there and I think Carl is going to be there, right?

Richard Campbell: Yeah, Carl is going to be there too and Mark Dunn, the original co-host of .NET Rocks! I've asked him to fill in for you and he was happy to do that and we've got Speaker Idol. Speaker Idol is all committed too. We're going to be doing recordings, this is at TechEd L.A. and it's all the usual shtick. It's a different show, the format and layout is a little bit different but we're putting together the Speaker Idol even as per normal. We're going to do half IT and half dev.

Greg Hughes: Very cool.

Richard Campbell: And so if you want to be a contestant on Speaker Idol, I still have a couple of

slots left. Send us an email, info@runasradio.com, I'd love to hear from you. Also over at the .NET Rocks! site, there is a contest going on right now to win a free trip to TechEd: airfare, hotel, admission, it's at dotnetrocks.com.

Greg Hughes: Ah, very cool.

Richard Campbell: And speaking of Speaker Idol, we have last year's winner...

Greg Hughes: Aha.

Richard Campbell: On the show. So let me introduce Rhonda Layfield. Rhonda has been in the IT industry for 27 years beginning with 7 years in the US Navy as a communications specialist with a top secret security clearance. Since then she has worked for large utility companies owning nuclear power plants as their Sr. Security Analyst and contracted to Microsoft PSS networking group. She is an international speaker who specializes in Microsoft's new deployment tools and Network Monitor. She enjoys showing you how to quickly and cheaply roll out thousands of desktops and Server OS's and troubleshoot them if they fail. With her two-day hands on class, she will walk you through all the Microsoft deployment tools so you can decide for yourself which is right for your environment. She is currently an NT 2000, 2003 MCSE, a Setup & Deployment MVP and Desktop Deployment Product Specialist. She contributes articles to Windows IT Pro magazine and has co-authored two books, one on Windows Server 2003 and another on Windows Server 2008. Welcome Rhonda.

Greg Hughes: Hey, Rhonda.

Rhonda Layfield: Thanks, good morning.

Greg Hughes: Good to talk to you again.

Rhonda Layfield: Oh, you too. It's always fun to talk to you guys.

Richard Campbell: Yeah, I'm so glad you can come on the show too because you really got some interesting specialties. We saw that when you did your presentations at Speaker Idol, which just for the folks who have never heard of Speaker Idol, you've been on the other side of the fence. Tell us about that experience.

Rhonda Layfield: Speaker Idol is one of the coolest things I have ever gotten to participate in. was exciting, it was a little nerve-wracking -- you know -- to get up in front of people and the crowds were of different sizes each day, so one day there might be 10 people, the next day there might be 60 watching. So that was kind of interesting and you get five



minutes, which if you have a two-day class, you have a chance to get to know the students and it's easy to kind of win people over. When you have five minutes, you have no time for mistakes so that was a little nerve-wracking, to have a five-minute presentation.

Richard Campbell: One of the reasons you won, besides the fact that you're a phenomenal presenter, was that you really nailed cool content in five minutes flat. That was what I thought was astonishing.

Greg Hughes: Right.

Richard Campbell: It was that you did this network analysis piece showing the ping running through the stream of network data, it was awesome, literally jaws dropped. I was just amazed at how effective you managed to find that tiny little nugget, five minutes is such a small amount of time to get that great impact for everyone.

Rhonda Layfield: Well, thanks. Network monitor is one of my favorite tools. I've used it and actually taught classes using network monitor since NT-3.5 so I've used it for a long time and I've got tons of tips and tricks like that to help people get started if they've never used it. Within 15 minutes, you're up and running and then some tips to kind of find the information you're looking for so I do really enjoy doing a network monitor stuff. That was cool stuff.

Richard Campbell: I think, and I'll bet you anything, folks send us an email at info@runasradio.com, tell us you want to do network monitor and I'll get Rhonda on for another show to do that because I think today it's about deployment tools.

Rhonda Layfield: Yeah, Microsoft's new deployment tools. These are all built for Server 2008 R2 in Windows 7.0. Now, they're still backward compatible with 2008 in Vista and they will deploy 2003 in XP so there's some legacy support built in but they're truly built for the new operating systems. They're going to be shipping soon we hope.

Richard Campbell: And you did say tools. So how many are we talking about?

Rhonda Layfield: Well, you've got the Windows Automated Installation toolkit. We call it WAIK for short, and they have a new version of that out, it's WAIK version 2.0. Within that, there's a bunch of tools. It's a little over 1-gig to download that guy. He's pretty big but once you get it you get all kinds of tool stuff inside it. One of my favorite is the Windows pre-installation environment where WinPE version 3.0, that's one of the really nice features that I like to just think about as replacing DOS. In the old days, if you have a machine that didn't have anything on the

hard drive and you had to get it booted up and connect it to the network, we would boot a DOS floppy back in the old days.

Richard Campbell: Absolutely.

Rhonda Layfield: Now, yeah, you're booting a Win PE. So WinPE is just our replacement for DOS to be able to get a machine up and running and connected to the network.

Richard Campbell: So this is no GUI, just a command like environment.

Rhonda Layfield: Yup. It's just command line but it does boot into a RAM disk now. So if you had your WinPE on a CD, you could plop that CD in, boot the machine up getting connected to the network and then take that CD out and put another CD in and run tools from that if you wanted which some of the older versions didn't do that. If you pull the CD out, you just crashed your operating system.

Richard Campbell: I've seen you do demos, I think around PE, where everything was on a USB key.

Rhonda Layfield: Oh, absolutely. You can put it around a USB, you can put it on an external hard drive, CD, DVD. It's pretty wide open as to what you can put it on and just boot the machine right up and get connected automatically to the network. It's really pretty slick.

Greg Hughes: So for the IT person who is still maybe sort of stuck in the legacy way of doing things using like, I don't know, Northern Ghost or something, makes an image, it's a static image. They have to make new images every time and they're just copying them to hard drives. That's really the old school way, right. What does this toolkit bring to them if they've never ever seen it before?

Rhonda Layfield: If they've never seen the entire WAIK, first of all you're going to get WinPE. Now, that just gets you up and booted, then of course most of the time the reason you want to boot the machine is to get an image applied to it. So with the new tool, you have new utilities that allow you to create operating system images, you can do FAT images with all your applications and desktop settings, everything in it, or you can do thin applications which just deploy the operating system and then you can add apps later, but the cool thing I think you're talking about here is offline servicing and this is really sweet because in the past Patch Tuesday comes around every month and we would have to blast our images out, apply the patches, and then create a brand new image and store that somewhere.

Richard Campbell: Right.



Greg Hughes: Right.

Rhonda Layfield: Now, with the new WAIK, and in fact with the old WAIK version 1.1 you could do the same thing. They've just streamlined the process even more so with the new 2.0 WAIK. Now, you can just mount an image, an operating system image, which this is just a command, it will take less than two minutes and you're looking at the entire folder structure of that image itself. You can patch that on Patch Tuesday, un-mount it, save your changes, and you've just patched the entire operating system. So what used to take two, three, sometimes four hours, you can do in 15 minutes now.

Richard Campbell: That's very cool.

Greg Hughes: That's a big deal.

Richard Campbell: Yeah, absolutely. I am surprised at how many folks are basically doing this stuff by hand when there are always great tools to make it a lot less painful.

Rhonda Layfield: I don't think they really know about the new tools. A lot of people, you look at the tools and you think, wow, that looks really cool but ah, all the documentations I have to go through, and Microsoft is now creating some step-by-step guides based on feedback at the MVP Summit last year and within 15 to 30 minutes based on where the tool is, you can have a successful experience with the tool. So just step-by-step just get it up and working, and then you can add to it and customize it later but at least get your feet wet to look at some of the step-by-step guides very quickly and easily to introduce you to the tool.

Richard Campbell: I also think that a lot of folks focused on this as a tool for desktop machines or workstations, but do you do server config like this as well?

Rhonda Layfield: Absolutely. I wouldn't use anything but these tools for both the desktop and server configurations. Yeah, they work the same on both.

Richard Campbell: All right. So besides PE, what are the other products that are getting new versions at 7.0 and 2008 R2?

Rhonda Layfield: We have the new Windows Deployment Service which is a replacement for the Remote Installation Service, those RIS that we have in the old days. I found that most people in America didn't really embrace RIS, they really hadn't used those Ghost, Atires, Acronis, some other third party utilities. One of the most important things of WDS is

it's free, it comes in the box and it works. It's better than RIS ever dreamed of being.

Richard Campbell: So this is the same -- actually in context for me, why would I use PE over WDS?

Rhonda Layfield: Well, you've got to get the machine up and booted so if you're going to apply an image to the computer, that machine has got to be booted and connected to the network. That's what WinPE does for you.

Richard Campbell: Okay.

Greg Hughes: All right.

Rhonda Layfield: Then store your images on WDS.

Richard Campbell: And so that's out on the network.

Rhonda Layfield: Right, that's across the network. But the cool thing about putting WDS in is you can put that WinPE image on a WDS server to your operating system that has Server 2008 R2, Vista Windows 7.0, put that on the WDS server as well. Now, when you go to the desktop machine, all you have to do is hit F12, do a network boot, it automatically will connect to the WDS server, boot your WinPE and give you a list of operating system images to download. So it's really sweet, you don't have to take anything to the desktop with you at all.

Greg Hughes: Very cool.

Richard Campbell: I'm thinking it from the point of view of web farms where I want every machine in my web farm to be identical, I want to be able to add new machines really painlessly. So this whole imaging mechanism where I can buy a new machine, I have to pre-configure just to boot off the network or drop that USB key and fire it up and say go grab the web farm image, and sometime later I'm up and running with this identical image for every other machine that's in my web farm.

Rhonda Layfield: Right and the cool thing is that sometimes it's usually about 20 minutes.

Richard Campbell: Are you kidding me?

Rhonda Layfield: No. I've had servers, fat images of servers isolated down in seven minutes. This thing screamed across the network. It really did a great job and the multicast has been changed with this version. So are you familiar with multicast traffic?

Richard Campbell: I know about it from an IT perspective but tell me the story.



Rhonda Layfield: Let's say that you have your web farm and you're just now getting it set up. You've got 25 machines that you want them to have an identical image blasted out to. You can hop around each one of those machines, F12, have it connected to the WDS server.

Richard Campbell: Right.

Rhonda Layfield: It's going to take you a few minutes to get from machine 1 to machine 20.

Richard Campbell: Yeah.

Rhonda Layfield: It doesn't happen immediately.

Richard Campbell: No, no, no. It takes time.

Rhonda Layfield: So you'll hit machine one and it starts getting the operating system image downloaded from the WDS server. By the time you get to machine 20, maybe it's 30 minutes later...

Richard Campbell: Yeah.

Rhonda Layfield: Machine one is on packet 7,462, let's say, of the image. So you get to machine 20. Machine 20, first packet it gets is packet number 7,462 and it goes all the way to the end, and when the WDS server has completed sending out the image, it hollers out and say hey, does anybody needs me to start again? Well, yeah, you're going to have some machines say yup, you need to start again, and so you'll start back at packet one until it has competed and then it will shout out again, does anybody needs me to start again. If nobody says anything, then it closes down that image installation.

Greg Hughes: Got you.

Rhonda Layfield: So, yes, it's kind of cool. You can add images in the middle of blasting out to multiple machines.

Richard Campbell: There is always this idea that it's truly multicasting that if I've got 10 machines working on an install, they are all reading the same transmit from the WDS server.

Rhonda Layfield: That's true and I think it's interesting because with unicast traffic, if you did this, and you can, you can do unicast traffic so your server WDS within packet one to client one, then you could send packet one to client two, packet one on the end of the line. With multicast, it's sending packet one to everyone who is listening at the exact same time.

Richard Campbell: Right and so this is just about not bearing a network. If I'm doing a 2-gigabyte

image off of 10 machines, I'll swamp any gigabyte network that will just kill it.

Greg Hughes: Sure.

Rhonda Layfield: Yeah.

Richard Campbell: It looks awesome.

Rhonda Layfield: Yeah. So with multicasting, well, and one of the cool thing about this version of multicast, we have multicast with the previous version in Server 2008 but the slowest client who is downloading the image would dictate the speed for everyone.

Richard Campbell: Right, with synchronous.

Rhonda Layfield: Yeah. So with this, when we have to read different streams, so they call it multi-stream multicast traffic, you've got fast, slow, and medium clients so they kind of find their niche for which one they're into and there are three streams of traffic out there so no one client is bringing everybody else down.

Richard Campbell: Interesting. Yeah, very, very clever. All right, so back to the Windows Deployment Server side, so this is where I actually construct my image of my, say my workstation, install office like all of the tools that the folks are going to have and then deploy as an image.

Rhonda Layfield: Yes.

Richard Campbell: So the challenge you have here is dealing with the domain, dealing with the machine names, like what's the story in all that?

Greg Hughes: What makes a machine individual, right?

Rhonda Layfield: There's a lot you can do when it comes to naming a computer. There are all kinds of variables that you can use and those variables are different. If you're using special tools in the WAIK versus WDS versus the Microsoft deployment toolkit, and then once again if you go all the way to config manager, the big daddy that has everything in it, the variables are different between each one of those. They all have some unique ways that they can name the computer and different wild cards you can put in there.

Richard Campbell: Okay.

Greg Hughes: So I think about computer naming, and the other thing I think about, maybe on servers but especially with deploying workstations, and I know there have been ways in the past to do



this, I'm curious if it has changed, is I have maybe web application developers, I have DBAs, or I have different classes of developers, I have non-developer types productivity, just general worker type people that maybe need Office installed, I want to have one Vista or one Windows 7.0 image to start with, that's my base image, but then I want to kind of take it further, that one image I want to be able to sort of customize it for different classes of workers if you will. How can I do that?

Rhonda Layfield: That is so cool. They've done a fantastic job with that. So now what you would do is you would have multiple images but you could store them in the same file and it's a Win file, a Windows image file. So that's the file format you would get, and why that's so cool is let's say that you have an image that you've created for the HR department and it has all the HR apps on it, and then you did another image that you've created for the accounting department with all of their applications' specific. You store those images and with that they've got both let's say Windows 7.0 Ultimate, it's the operating system. So you would store both of those images inside the same Win file and there's something called single instancing that wakes up and it looks at every single file you're about to put inside that Win and it will not store redundant files so it only brings in files that it doesn't already have. If the HR and the accounting images have the same operating system core files, those are only stored once inside that Win file and then just the files that are different are stored in the separate images within that Win file. So your size is greatly reduced for storing your images.

Richard Campbell: The bulk of the weight when it comes to image like this is going to be the OS and Office.

Rhonda Layfield: Right.

Richard Campbell: So you're just taking the differences, right?

Rhonda Layfield: Yeah, just the differences, that's it.

Greg Hughes: I'm curious, and having not actually taken the specific route myself, you're saying we're going to create these images and then store them together and there's some sort of an analysis that takes place to basically make sure we don't have duplicates. So when I'm creating these original images, am I doing that -- what's the process that I go through to do that, is it what I would expect in the old school kind of way, I need to have a machine that I build up and I make it exactly the way that I want it to be and then I take it from there or how does it really work?

Rhonda Layfield: Exactly. That would be your model machine so you would install whatever operating system, Windows 7.0 Ultimate in our last example, and then put your applications on it and then actually generate the image. You've got a few choices. You'll have to boot to WinPE. You can't capture image of a machine when it's up and running. It would be like trying to, I don't know, tuning a car when it's going down the road 60 miles an hour.

Greg Hughes: Good analogy.

Rhonda Layfield: If you've got files open, services that are chatting with things, you need to down that OS completely. Then you would boot in to Windows PE and then if you wanted to do it manually, you could use image X, tell it to capture the image and then store it locally on that machine and then put it on a server someplace if you want it to or you could just automatically put it on a server some place else. So image X is in the WAIK, that's one of the tools that gets downloaded with the WAIK 2.0. You also have a WDS capture program if you want to have it stored in WDS server. So you could automatically connect to the WDS server, have it run its captured wizard, and then create the image and automatically store it inside WDS for you and then you also have the Microsoft deployment toolkit that can look at that model machine, generate an image and store it inside the MDT Server which the MDT, since I haven't mentioned before, is just a new version of the Solution Accelerator for Business Desktop Deployment kit, the BDD. So you have a few options there as to how you create that image and where you store it.

Richard Campbell: All right. So PE, WDS, one more tool.

Rhonda Layfield: Yes, Microsoft deployment toolkit.

Richard Campbell: Deployment toolkit. So that's actually a tool on its own or stuff for other deployment?

Rhonda Layfield: This is a tool all by itself. This is one of the Solution Accelerator tools that have come out from Microsoft. Once again this is a free tool and it does everything you could possibly imagine in a deployment solution. It does require that you download the WAIK, it uses some of the tools in the WAIK so to the use the MDT you have to download and install WAIK 2.0 as well.

Richard Campbell: So what's WAIK?

Rhonda Layfield: WAIK is the Windows Automated Installation Kit.



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Richard Campbell: Okay, WAIK.

Rhonda Layfield: WAIKa.

Richard Campbell: WAIK, yes. Now WAIT. WAIK.

Greg Hughes: The naming conventions are always fun to talk about.

Rhonda Layfield: Well, I think that somebody was paid by the silver bowl when it came to some of these utilities. The Solution Accelerator for Business Desktop Deployment kit, I mean that's a mouthful.

Greg Hughes: Yeah.

Richard Campbell: Unless you make a good acronym.

Rhonda Layfield: No.

Greg Hughes: You know, they run out of good acronyms before so I think my theory is that because all the acronyms have been used up and typically used at least twice, they're not allowed to use a name that uses an old acronym anymore. There must be some secret office inside of Microsoft that makes you cope with new acronyms and their names.

Richard Campbell: Right.

Rhonda Layfield: That makes sense.

Richard Campbell: So what does the WAIK do?

Rhonda Layfield: The WAIK has a bunch of tools that you would download and use. So the WAIK is a combination of tools that other utilities will use and that you can manually use if you choose. Now, WinPE is actually in the WAIK so for you to create your own Windows pre-installation environment you have to download the WAIK and run the utilities from within it.

Greg Hughes: So the WAIK is that huge file that you talked about earlier that's a gigabyte in size and it contains all these other tools.

Rhonda Layfield: Right and everybody else needs to use the tools that are built into this, but you can manually, and I always tell people you should use the tools manually or you should at least understand how they work manually so you can troubleshoot. If one of these other tools that use those utilities doesn't work properly, you know how to troubleshoot it.

Greg Hughes: Sure.

Richard Campbell: All right, and the toolkit that's part of WAIK, is it a toolkit WAIK or is it a toolkit something else?

Rhonda Layfield: The Microsoft Deployment Toolkit is a utility all on its own.

Richard Campbell: Okay.

Rhonda Layfield: But it uses the scripts that run, utilize the utilities inside the WAIK. So you have to have the WAIK installed on the same machine that you've got the MDT installed on or the MDT will not work.

Greg Hughes: So there's a dependency there, that's what we're talking about.

Rhonda Layfield: Yes, absolutely.

Richard Campbell: And so what does the toolkit do exactly? What are the pieces that it got?

Rhonda Layfield: The toolkit, what Microsoft says it does is it removes the complexity of manually using the tools inside the WAIK. So MDT is all graphical. It just got nice pictures. You walk through these friendly wizards that ask you few questions, you store that information in script. When you just click okay or finish on a wizard, it automatically enter the hood towards all of your information in these scripts that are run later to capture images of machines or apply images of machines, or to go out and capture users profile and their documents and all their settings. You can migrate those to a new Windows 7.0 box when you install it. But if you have an XP machine, you could run the MDT, point it to the XP machine and say go get me all the users' specific information off that machine.

Richard Campbell: Right.

Greg Hughes: Okay.

Rhonda Layfield: Or your PST...

Richard Campbell: Registry files, or like that stuff.

Rhonda Layfield: Yeah, exactly and then migrate that to Windows 7.0 so that when people get on in their new Windows 7.0 box, they're not completely lost. All their emails are there, history is there, things like that makes it a lot easier.

Greg Hughes: Their broken Outlook profile from the old machine is now on the new machine.

Rhonda Layfield: Absolutely.



Richard Campbell: All right, these are all tools that help us move our pain from one computer to the next.

Rhonda Layfield: Yup.

Greg Hughes: Yeah, yup, yup. Now, Rhonda, if I understood what Richard was saying during the intro here in your bio at the beginning of the show, you have like a two-day class if you will on this topic, is that right?

Rhonda Layfield: Yes and I go into detail on every single one. We start with the WAIK. So every tool you get hands on experience with. There are tons of labs and as we go through the two days, there are so many utilities that most people, when you just sit down and listen to a 30-minute interview or just chit-chat about it with them, there are so confused because there are so many tools and there are so many different ways to do everything. So in the two-day class, I show you every single way to do it and then you can choose what's right for your environment, and as I've mentioned before all of these tools are free except system center configuration manager, that guy is going to cost an extra couple of dollars because he does everything that a deployment could possibly want.

Greg Hughes: Sure.

Richard Campbell: I think the reason people are so confused is that Microsoft makes so many different products with so many different acronyms...

Greg Hughes: Yeah.

Richard Campbell: And if I'm willing to spend the money, do I ignore all these and just go straight to system center.

Rhonda Layfield: You could but I would only suggest enterprise customers. We're deploying a few hundreds or possibly a multiple thousand of machines. These other tools, the free tools, will completely take care of an environment up to 250 machines I would think.

Greg Hughes: Okay.

Richard Campbell: Okay, so it's definitely a scope thing here and I got to think it's a per see price for system center is not cheap.

Rhonda Layfield: No, it is not.

Richard Campbell: Okay. So definitely an enterprise product versus using the free tools, it's mostly about dealing with scope, it's not that the system center is so much easier to use. My experience with PE in WDS is not just that painful.

Rhonda Layfield: They're really simple to use. It's amazing how easy they are and we put up two newsletters together and I documented a step-by-step for creating WinPE, for creating your automated unattended answer files for your installations. That's a new tool that really kind of has a huge learning curve to it. When you first look at that tool, Windows System Image Manager, it is a little daunting. You look at it and you don't know where to start, what does this tool do for me so I have some step-by-step newsletters at www.minasi.com.

Richard Campbell: Right.

Rhonda Layfield: If you want to define that, how to do a WinPE, that's newsletter 50, and then we talk a lot about Sysprep in newsletter 60, 61 is all about creating an automated unattended answer file, and their pretty simple just to follow along. The one with the answer file, you can download the answer file from our website, www.minasi.com and you've got your own answer file. You will have to supply your own product key, we don't give you the product key, but you're ready to go within five minutes. So we're trying to make it easy for people who are doing so much documentations with so many different, it's three pages long and that's where you can start.

Richard Campbell: And that's at www.minasi.com. Our good friend Mark Minasi has done a show a few times actually. So somehow really talked about the deployment installation inside, but do these tools and images help us repair broken desktops?

Rhonda Layfield: Well, it's funny that you asked that because we've talked about WinPE a few times.

Richard Campbell: Yeah.

Rhonda Layfield: The cool part with WinPE and the custom WinPE is this called Windows Recovery Environment, WinRE.

Richard Campbell: Cool.

Rhonda Layfield: With Windows 7.0, this gets installed when you install the operating system. So you just put it on a special hidden partition. If you have ever boot that Windows Server machine and you have a file that's corrupted or missing and it's needed for the boot process, WinRE automatically wakes up and will repair that file or put a new copy of that file out there so that you can get that machine booted.

Richard Campbell: This is something that OEMs like Dell and stuff have been doing for years but now it's part of Windows.



Rhonda Layfield: Yes, yup. In fact, these tools that I have been talking to you about, the entire WAIK, they were written for OEMs. We've just now been getting them the last couple of years, the last two versions, but prior to that they were built for OEMs.

Richard Campbell: That's funny. So now they're just freely available to us. We just download them, it works. So wrapping up, where do we send people to start? What's the first thing they should be grabbing?

Rhonda Layfield: I would suggest that they go to our website, the www.minasi.com, start with newsletter 59 and just keep it short and simple. We have a fantastic forum. If you have questions about anything, you'll find a lot of answers at the same site, just the forum, and you could post questions there and lots of smart people answer those.

Richard Campbell: Excellent, the Windows Automated Installation Kit is just freely downloadable from Microsoft.

Rhonda Layfield: Yes, it is.

Richard Campbell: Excellent. Rhonda, thanks so much for coming on the show.

Greg Hughes: Thanks Rhonda.

Rhonda Layfield: Thanks for having me.

Richard Campbell: All right, and we'll talk to you next week on RunAs Radio.