Windows PowerShell Scripting and Toolmaking

Duration: 5 Days **Course Code: M55039** **Delivery Method: Virtual Learning**

Overview:

Learn to create reusable PowerShell scripts, functions, and tools that automate Windows administration tasks and improve IT operational efficiency.

Updated August 2026

Virtual Learning

This interactive training can be taken from any location, your office or home and is delivered by a trainer. This training does not have any delegates in the class with the instructor, since all delegates are virtually connected. Virtual delegates do not travel to this course, Global Knowledge will send you all the information needed before the start of the course and you can test the logins.

Target Audience:

This course is intended for administrators in a Microsoft-centric environment who want to build reusable units of automation, automate business processes, and enable less-technical colleagues to accomplish administrative tasks.

Objectives:

- **After completing this course, students will be able to:**
- Create and execute PowerShell scripts to automate administrative tasks.
- Develop reusable PowerShell functions, modules, and custom tools.
- Work with variables, arrays, loops, and conditional logic in PowerShell scripts.
- Manage files, services, processes, and system resources using PowerShell.
- Query and manipulate data from Windows systems and administrative tools.
- Implement error handling, debugging, and script troubleshooting techniques.
- Build automation solutions for Windows administration and enterprise operations.
- Apply PowerShell best practices for script design, maintenance, and reuse.

Prerequisites:

The course assumes a basic working knowledge of PowerShell as an interactive command-line shell, and teaches students the correct patterns and practices for building reusable, tightly scoped units of automation.

Before attending this course, students must have:

- Basic understanding of Windows administration and management tasks.
- Familiarity with Windows networking, file systems, and administrative tools.
- Experience using the Windows command line or PowerShell console is beneficial.
- Basic scripting or automation knowledge is helpful but not required.
- Fundamental knowledge of Microsoft server or desktop environments is recommended.

Testing and Certification

None

Follow-on-Courses:

- M55318 – Advanced Automated Administration with Windows PowerShell: Build on your scripting skills with advanced PowerShell automation, administration, and tool development techniques.
- M-AZ040 - Automate Administration with PowerShell (AZ-040)
- M-AZ800 - Administer Windows Server Hybrid Core Infrastructure (AZ-800)
- M-AZ801 - Configure Windows Server Hybrid Advanced Services (AZ-801)
- M-MD102 - Microsoft 365 Endpoint Administrator (MD-102)

Content:

Module 1: Tool Design

This module explains how to design tools and units of automation that comply with native PowerShell usage patterns.Lessons

- Tools do one thing
- Tools are flexible
- Tools look nativeLab : Designing a Tool
- Design a tool

After completing this module, students will be able to:

- Describe the native shell patterns that a good tool design should exhibit
- Describe the benefits of discovery and experimentation in the console
- Discover and experiment with existing commands in the console
- Build a basic function
- Create a script module
- Run a command from a script module
- Describe the purpose of CmdletBinding and list common parameters
- Parameterize a script's input
- Define parameters as mandatory
- Define parameters as accepting pipeline input
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- Describe how to define multiple parameter sets
- Describe other parameter definition options
- Describe the advantages of external help
- Create external help using PlatyPS and Markdown
- Describe the purpose of unit testing
- Describe the purpose of the ETS
- Extend an existing object type

This module explains how to add comment-based help to tools.Lessons

- Where to put your help
- Getting started
- Going further with comment-based help
- Broken helpLab : Designing a Tool
- Comment-based help

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- Use JSON data within a PowerShell function
- Describe the use of SQL Server from within PowerShell
- Write and run SQL Server queries
- Design tools that use SQL Server for data storage
- Create PowerShell tools, using native design patterns, from business requirements.

Module 2: Start with a Command

This module explains how to start the scripting process by beginning in the interactive shell console.Lessons

- Why start with a command?
- Discovery and experimentationLab : Designing a Tool
- Start with a command

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Module 9: Handling Errors

This module explains how to create tools that deal with anticipated errors.Lessons

- Understanding errors and exceptions
- Bad handling
- Two reasons for exception handling
- Handling exceptions in our tool
- Capturing the actual exception
- Handling exceptions for non-commands
- Going further with exception handling
- Deprecated exception handlingLab : Designing a Tool
- Handling errors

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Module 16: Publishing Your Tools

This module explains how to publish tools to public and private repositories.Lessons

- Begin with a manifest
- Publishing to PowerShell Gallery
- Publishing to private repositoriesLab : Designing a Tool
- Publishing your tools

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Module 3: Build a Basic Function and Module

This module explains how to build a basic function and module, using commands already experimented with in the shell.Lessons

- Start with a basic function
- Create a script module
- Check prerequisites
- Run the new commandLab : Designing a Tool
- Build a basic function and module

After completing this module, students will be able to:

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Run a command and observe error handling behaviors

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Module 17: Basic Controllers: Automation Scripts and Menus

This module explains how to create controller scripts that put tools to use.Lessons

- Building a menu
- Using UIChoice
- Writing a process controllerLab : Designing a Tool
- Basic controllers

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- Write and run SQL Server queries
- Design tools that use SQL Server for data storage
- Create PowerShell tools, using native design

Module 10: Basic Debugging

This module explains how to use native PowerShell script debugging tools.Lessons

- Two kinds of bugs
- The ultimate goal of debugging
- Developing assumptions
- Write-Debug
- Set-PSBreakpoint
- The PowerShell ISELab : Designing a Tool
- Basic debugging

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patterns, from business requirements.

Module 4: Adding CmdletBinding and Parameterizing

This module explains how to extend the functionality of a tool, parameterize input values, and use CmdletBinding.Lessons

- About CmdletBinding and common parameters
- Accepting pipeline input
- Mandatory-ness
- Parameter validation
- Parmeter aliasesLab : Designing a Tool
- Adding CmdletBinding and Parameterizing

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Module 11: Going Deeper with Parameters

This module explains how to further define parameter attributes in a PowerShell command.Lessons

- Parameter positions
- Validation
- Multiple parameter sets
- Value from remaining arguments
- Help messages
- Aliases
- More CmdletBinding

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Module 18: Proxy Functions

This module explains how to create and use proxy functions.Lessons

- A proxy example
- Creating the proxy base
- Modifying the proxy
- Adding or removing parametersLab : Designing a Tool
- Proxy functions

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Define parameter validation

Module 5: Emitting Objects as Output

This module explains how to create tools that produce custom objects as output.Lessons

- Assembling information
- Constructing and emitting output
- Quick testsLab : Designing a Tool
- Emitting objects as output

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Module 19: Working with XML Data

This module explains how to work with XML data in PowerShell.Lessons

- Simple: CliXML
- Importing native XML
- ConvertTo-XML
- Creating native XML from scratchLab : Designing a Tool
- Working with XML

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requirements and conform to native patterns
- Describe the six output channels in the shell
- Write commands that use verbose, warning, and informational output
- Describe the purpose and construction of comment-based help
- Add comment-based help to a function
- Identify causes of broken comment-based help
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- Add error handling to a command
- Describe the tools used for debugging in PowerShell
- Debug a broken script
- Describe the use of positional parameters
- Describe additional parameter validation methods
- Describe how to define multiple parameter sets
- Describe other parameter definition options
- Describe the advantages of external help
- Create external help using PlatyPS and Markdown
- Describe the purpose of unit testing
- Describe the purpose of the ETS
- Extend an existing object type
- Describe the use of Script Analyzer
- Perform a basic script analysis
- Describe the tool publishing process and requirements
- Publish a tool to a repository
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- Use XML data within a PowerShell function
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- Use JSON data within a PowerShell function
- Describe the use of SQL Server from within PowerShell
- Write and run SQL Server queries
- Design tools that use SQL Server for data storage
- Create PowerShell tools, using native design patterns, from business requirements.

Module 6: An Interlude: Changing Your Approach

This module explains how to re-think tool design, using concrete examples of how it's often done wrong.Lessons

- Examining a script
- Critiquing a script
- Revising the script

After completing this module, students will be able to:

Module 12: Writing Full Help

This module explains how to create external help for a command.Lessons

- External help
- Using PlatyPs
- Supporting online help
- "About" topics
- Making your help updatableLab : Designing a Tool
- Writing full help

After completing this module, students will be able to:

- Describe the native shell patterns that a good tool design should exhibit
- Describe the benefits of discovery and experimentation in the console
- Discover and experiment with existing commands in the console
- Build a basic function
- Create a script module
- Run a command from a script module
- Describe the purpose of CmdletBinding and list common parameters
- Parameterize a script's input
- Define parameters as mandatory
- Define parameters as accepting pipeline input
- Describe the purpose of object-based output
- Create and output custom objects from a function
- Describe the native patterns that a good tool design should exhibit
- Redesign a script to meet business requirements and conform to native patterns
- Describe the six output channels in the shell
- Write commands that use verbose, warning, and informational output
- Describe the purpose and construction of comment-based help
- Add comment-based help to a function
- Identify causes of broken comment-based help
- Describe the native patterns for handling errors in a command
- Add error handling to a command
- Describe the tools used for debugging in PowerShell
- Debug a broken script
- Describe the use of positional parameters
- Describe additional parameter validation methods
- Describe how to define multiple parameter sets
- Describe other parameter definition options
- Describe the advantages of external help
- Create external help using PlatyPS and

input
- Describe the purpose of object-based output
- Create and output custom objects from a function
- Describe the native patterns that a good tool design should exhibit
- Redesign a script to meet business requirements and conform to native patterns
- Describe the six output channels in the shell
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- Use JSON data within a PowerShell function
- Describe the use of SQL Server from within PowerShell
- Write and run SQL Server queries
- Design tools that use SQL Server for data storage
- Create PowerShell tools, using native design patterns, from business requirements.

Module 20: Working with JSON Data

- Describe the native shell patterns that a good tool design should exhibit
- Describe the benefits of discovery and experimentation in the console
- Discover and experiment with existing commands in the console
- Build a basic function
- Create a script module
- Run a command from a script module
- Describe the purpose of CmdletBinding and list common parameters
- Parameterize a script's input
- Define parameters as mandatory
- Define parameters as accepting pipeline input
- Describe the purpose of object-based output
- Create and output custom objects from a function
- Describe the native patterns that a good tool design should exhibit
- Redesign a script to meet business requirements and conform to native patterns
- Describe the six output channels in the shell
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- Describe how to define multiple parameter sets
- Describe other parameter definition options
- Describe the advantages of external help
- Create external help using PlatyPS and Markdown
- Describe the purpose of unit testing
- Describe the purpose of the ETS
- Extend an existing object type
- Describe the use of Script Analyzer
- Perform a basic script analysis
- Describe the tool publishing process and requirements
- Publish a tool to a repository
- Describe the purpose of basic controller scripts
- Write a simple controller script
- Describe the purpose of proxy functions
- Create a simple proxy function
- Describe the use of XML within PowerShell
- Use XML data within a PowerShell function
- Describe the use of JSON data within PowerShell
- Use JSON data within a PowerShell function
- Describe the use of SQL Server from within PowerShell

Markdown

- Describe the purpose of unit testing
- Describe the purpose of the ETS
- Extend an existing object type
- Describe the use of Script Analyzer
- Perform a basic script analysis
- Describe the tool publishing process and requirements
- Publish a tool to a repository
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- Use JSON data within a PowerShell function
- Describe the use of SQL Server from within PowerShell
- Write and run SQL Server queries
- Design tools that use SQL Server for data storage
- Create PowerShell tools, using native design patterns, from business requirements.

Module 13: Unit Testing Your Code

This module explains how to use Pester to perform basic unit testing.Lessons

- Sketching out the test
- Making something to test
- Expanding the test
- Going further with PesterLab : Designing a Tool
- Unit testing your code

After completing this module, students will be able to:

- Describe the native shell patterns that a good tool design should exhibit
- Describe the benefits of discovery and experimentation in the console
- Discover and experiment with existing commands in the console
- Build a basic function
- Create a script module
- Run a command from a script module
- Describe the purpose of CmdletBinding and list common parameters
- Parameterize a script's input
- Define parameters as mandatory
- Define parameters as accepting pipeline input
- Describe the purpose of object-based output
- Create and output custom objects from a

This module explains how to using JSON data in PowerShell.Lessons

- Converting to JSON
- Converting from JSONLab : Designing a Tool
- Working with JSON data

After completing this module, students will be able to:

- Describe the native shell patterns that a good tool design should exhibit
- Describe the benefits of discovery and experimentation in the console
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- Run a command from a script module
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- Describe other parameter definition options
- Describe the advantages of external help
- Create external help using PlatyPS and Markdown
- Describe the purpose of unit testing
- Describe the purpose of the ETS
- Extend an existing object type
- Describe the use of Script Analyzer

- Write and run SQL Server queries
- Design tools that use SQL Server for data storage
- Create PowerShell tools, using native design patterns, from business requirements.

Module 7: Using Verbose, Warning, and Informational Output

This module explains how to use additional output pipelines for better script behaviors.Lessons

- Knowing the six channels
- Adding verbose and warning output
- Doing more with verbose output
- Informational outputLab : Designing a Tool
- Using Verbose, Warning, and Informational Output

After completing this module, students will be able to:

- Describe the native shell patterns that a good tool design should exhibit
- Describe the benefits of discovery and experimentation in the console
- Discover and experiment with existing commands in the console
- Build a basic function
- Create a script module
- Run a command from a script module
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- Redesign a script to meet business requirements and conform to native patterns
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- Describe additional parameter validation methods
- Describe how to define multiple parameter sets

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- Describe the native patterns that a good tool design should exhibit
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- Use JSON data within a PowerShell function
- Describe the use of SQL Server from within PowerShell
- Write and run SQL Server queries
- Design tools that use SQL Server for data storage
- Create PowerShell tools, using native design patterns, from business requirements.

Write basic unit tests for PowerShell functions

Module 14: Extending Output Types

- Perform a basic script analysis
- Describe the tool publishing process and requirements
- Publish a tool to a repository
- Describe the purpose of basic controller scripts
- Write a simple controller script
- Describe the purpose of proxy functions
- Create a simple proxy function
- Describe the use of XML within PowerShell
- Use XML data within a PowerShell function
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- Design tools that use SQL Server for data storage
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Module 21: Working with SQL Server Data

This module explains how to use SQL Server from within a PowerShell script.Lessons

- SQL Server terminology and facts
- Connecting to the server and database
- Writing a query
- Running a query
- Invoke-SqlCmd
- Thinking about tool design patterns

After completing this module, students will be able to:

- Describe the native shell patterns that a good tool design should exhibit
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- Create a script module
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- Describe the native patterns that a good tool design should exhibit
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Run commands with extra output enabled

Module 8: Comment-Based Help

This module explains how to extend objects with additional capabilities.Lessons

- Understanding types
- The Extensible Type System
- Extending an object
- Using Update-TypeData

After completing this module, students will be able to:

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Module 22: Final Exam

This module provides a chance for students to use everything they have learned in this course within a practical example.Lessons

- Lab problem
- Break down the problem
- Do the design
- Test the commands
- Code the toolLab : Final Exam
- Lab oneLab : Final Exam

- Describe the use of Script Analyzer
- Perform a basic script analysis
- Describe the tool publishing process and requirements
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Module 15: Analyzing Your Script

This module explains how to use Script Analyzer to support best practices and prevent common problems.Lessons

- Performing a basic analysis
- Analyzing the analysisLab : Designing a Tool
- Analyzing your script
- Lab two

After completing this module, students will be able to:

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Further Information:

For More information, or to book your course, please call us on Head Office 01189 123456 / Northern Office 0113 242 5931

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