

Introduction

WSH is part of Microsoft Windows since Microsoft Windows 98. Also Windows 95 and Windows NT 4.0 can be updated with the Windows Scripting Host (download the free tools from msdn.microsoft.com/scripting). The Windows Script Host offers you new features for your operating system.

The story about this book?

In 1998 I investigated a beta of Microsoft Windows 98. I discovered that Windows was shipped with a feature called Windows Scripting Host (later named Windows Script Host) that allows execution of script programs. Six months later I convinced Microsoft Press Germany to publish a book about WSH scripting. This book was world wide definitely the first title about that topic. Whilst the German title was rather successful - we have published the 3rd revised edition, covering also WSH 5.6 in Windows XP - the international edition caused me a lot of trouble. First my Microsoft Press USA editor refused to publish the book, because he could not see "that there is a market " for such a book. Then I failed with a second publisher. They signed a publishing contract, but after I did send over my manuscript, two things happened. First I noticed that my material was sent over to a competitive author. After canceling my contract, the publisher released a book written by the competitive author. Finally Microsoft Press USA agreed to publish a WSH scripting title with me. Unfortunately my MS Press editor requested a 1,000 pages manuscript and then he went to another publisher. The editor granted to the project informed me, that a book may have no more than 600 pages. He proposed to split the material into two volumes - a developer's guide and an advanced scripting title. After rewriting my material a third time, the first volume was released as "Microsoft Windows Script Host 2.0 Developer's Guide" (MS Press).

Before I began to rewrite the second volume dealing with advanced topics, I asked Microsoft Press for advice how many pages this title may have. Two weeks later they informed me that their marketing people sees no room for a second WSH title. So the project was stopped and one year later they cancelled the Advanced title. So I was sitting again in front of unpublished material. After publishing the first WSH title, many of my readers tried to order the proposed Advanced WSH title. So I received many e-mails asking when the book will be available. Because I wrote the manuscript already, I decided to collect the raw material and convert it into an electronic book. The result is a small booklet that covers in eight

chapters several advanced topics like Office scripting, ActiveX programming, ADO, ADSI and WMI.

How to use this book?

This book depends on my already published title "Microsoft Windows Script Host 2.0 developer's Guide" (Microsoft Press). With the knowledge of this book, it might be no major task to read and understand the items described on the following pages.

All people who are reading the material should notice, that I'm not an English native. So my writing style isn't perfect. Also my intension wasn't to create a perfect layout for a camera copy ready manuscript. But I hope the material contained within this book will be helpful for advanced scripters.

To simplify the orientation within the book, I have marked several paragraphs as *Note*, *Important* or *Tip*.

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| Note | Such paragraphs contain additional information about the topic discussed on this page. |
| Tip | Sometimes it is helpful to know additional techniques or to get additional tools. I have highlighted these paragraphs with the word <i>Tip</i> . |
| Important | Sometimes it is risky to try an operation, or there are bugs, or you need a special environment to run the sample. Places where you can get further information about that are indicated as <i>Important</i> . |

File names and other topics are formatted in italics to highlight them against the other text. I assume you haven't the time to read the book from the first page to the last page. Dividing the book into several independent chapters allow you to jump into the details, depending on your knowledge. Each chapter group similar topics, and also the grade of difficulty within a chapter should be at one level. Using the table of content and the index should allow you to browse the book and access the requested topics easily.

A few other remarks

The examples are divided into chapters, and the samples files are located in subfolders of the folder `\Samples`. Each chapter describing a sample file contains also a note about the location of this file within the sample files. In most cases double-clicking the file's icon is sufficient to launch a sample. But keep in mind that some samples require a special environment, and sometimes the sample change something within your Windows. Therefore you should carefully read the explanations given in the book how to use a sample.

NOTE: Because I was reorganizing the material, chapter numbering between the text and the samples are differs. The chaptes within this book are running from 1 to 8, while the samples are referenced to chapter numbers from 9 to 17.

The examples of this book were developed under Windows 98 to Windows XP and I have tested them under Windows NT. But keep in mind that nobody is perfect, so the sample code still could contains bugs. Some examples are written especially for Windows 98, others are written for Windows NT (for example scripts accessing the ActiveX Directory Services Interface). Information about these restrictions is given within the book. Also there are several versions of the script engines out there. Most of the samples work under WSH 1.0 and the language engines version 3.1x. But some examples requires language engines version 5.0. So, if a sample won't work, check whether the requirements are fulfilled.

IMPORTANT: All samples discussed within the book comes on the basis »AS-IS«. If an example should not run at you machine, check whether the requirements are fulfilled (for instance: are the required files and ActiveX controls installed and registered). Test your application again and again. Please understand that the author can't give support to run the scripts and correct your programs. So you use the samples at your own risk. In no event shall the author be liable for the consequences (damages, losses or whatever else) resulting from the use of the information given in the book or from the use of the samples. For feedback and references to errors I am however grateful. However please understand, that I can't answer each problem, nor I can send over the amended version of a script. If I get a solution, I will publish the samples on the web on the WSH Bazaar.