

# Get quick info from a remote Windows machine with WMI and Powershell 2.0

This post is meant to offer some quick and easy ways to use Powershell and WMI for System Administrators. Many tools are available to find out attributes of machines on your network, but sometimes you need something quick, simple and direct. Below are some one-liners that I find useful.

WMI queries must be allowed on your systems, and you'll need Powershell 2.0 and administrative privileges.

If you're completely unfamiliar with Powershell, check out this page first:

<http://technet.microsoft.com/en-us/library/ee221100.aspx>

## Example: Current logged on user

### Long Version

```
Get-WmiObject
```

```
win32_computersystem - Computer
```

```
remote_computer | Select username
```

# Slightly Shorter Version

```
gwmi win32_computersystem -comp  
remote_computer | select username
```

## What's Going On?

Get-WmiObject is querying the data in the **win32\_computersystem** object. It queries the remote computer we specified by using the **-comp** tag, which can be either a machine name or IP address. Otherwise it would get results from the local machine. From the results of that query, we are displaying only the **username** value, which contains the name of the user that is currently logged on in the format *domain\username*. If no one is logged in, the result will be blank.

## Other Useful WMI Queries

Try them for yourself! Just replace the values in the example with the values listed below.

WMI Object Name	Value
win32_OperatingSystem	LastBootUpTime
win32_OperatingSystem	Caption
win32_OperatingSystem	CSDVersion
win32_LogicalDisk	FreeSpace
win32_LogicalDisk	Size
win32_BIOS	SerialNumber
win32_ComputerSystem	TotalPhysicalMemory

Of course there are many, many more...

---

Revision #3

Created Fri, Apr 2, 2010 8:43 PM by Wilson, Jonathan

Updated Fri, Apr 2, 2010 11:46 PM by Wilson, Jonathan