

TECHMENTOR

IN-DEPTH TRAINING FOR IT PROS

MARCH 7 – 11, 2016
BALLY'S HOTEL & CASINO, LAS VEGAS, NV

TRACK TOPICS INCLUDE:



DataCenter



Client Devices



Dev Ops



IT Soft Skills



The Real Cloud



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“My first TechMentor was great! I love the hand-on labs. Much better than sitting through powerpoints.”

- Joseph Price, Santa Barbara Museum of Art





A MESSAGE FROM THE CO-CHAIRS

Don Jones & Greg Shields

In March 2016, TechMentor will return to Las Vegas for the first time in years, bringing an all-new slate of amazing IT content from some of the best and most well-known experts on the planet. We didn't leave any room for marketing mumbo-jumbo in the schedule – it's 100% deep, rich technical content that's immediately applicable to what you're actually doing in your environment.

Start with DevOps. Wait... that's a marketing term, right? Something ISVs use to sell configuration management tools? No! DevOps is a real thing, and we'll prove it with an entire track that shows you exactly how technologies like PowerShell and Desired State Configuration can be used right now to start practicing your DevOps approach.

Speaking of breaking down marketing tropes, you should check out our cloud track – which we're calling "The Real Cloud" to make it clear that these are things people can actually do, today, in real organizations who have real concerns about "the cloud." Rather than pitching a bunch of technologies and services you might not be ready for or interested in, we're looking at the discrete services you should be looking into: Azure AD integration, infrastructure automation in AWS, connecting on-prem networks to cloud-based assets, containers, and more. We even look at hybrid Exchange/O365 installations, because that's definitely what's happening in the real world!

One of the coolest things about TechMentor is our ability to provide both short, focused session and deeper-dive seminars. You get the perfect mix of content to help you keep up, and to help you become actually proficient at key new approaches and technologies.

Still running your own datacenter? Of course you are. And a full quarter of our program is designed to help you do it better, with advanced tactics for Hyper-V, advanced certificate services, Windows Server 2016 first looks, Nano Server details, Windows troubleshooting and performance optimization, and new approaches to disaster recovery.

Still have end-users working on client devices? Of course you do, even if sometimes you wished you didn't, right? We have your back with the latest approaches to making client administration easier, including information on managing Macs in a Windows environment, managing Group Policy with PowerShell, remote access using DirectAccess, repackaging applications for easier deployments, and just a ton more. We've got packet capture and analysis, and even mobile device management using EMS. It's a lot.

We haven't forgotten about you and your career, either. We've included a small selection of hard-hitting sessions designed to help you elevate your career (and resume), round out your skills, and help you to start acquiring some of the "professional skills" that take you beyond being a "just" a technologist and into being a valuable business asset to your organization.

All of this comes from some of the top names in the fields – real, working experts, not marketing program managers. Names like Don Jones and Greg Shields, who helped assemble our program and our cadre of speakers. Experts like Jeff Hicks and Ed Horley, deep-dive geniuses like Bruce Mackenzie-Lowe and John O'Neill, Sr. Career gurus like Casey Ayers. It's an amazing lineup, and it's worth checking out the agenda – conveniently available online at www.TechMentorEvents.com – to see the full lineup.

It's all at TechMentor Las Vegas, and we hope to see you there.

Don Jones
Director, IT Pro Content, *Pluralsight*
TechMentor Conference Co-Chair

Greg Shields
Author / Evangelist, *Pluralsight*
TechMentor Conference Co-Chair

TOP 10 REASONS TO ATTEND TECHMENTOR LAS VEGAS

- 1 Nothing Trumps Live Learning!**
Attending a live conference remains the best way to stay current in the ever-changing IT industry. Technologies evolve, new products are released and there are constant upgrades to keep up with. You need a single event that will cover all your bases - you need TechMentor!
- 2 Before You Fold . . .**
In sessions, workshops, keynotes and networking events, you'll have access to the expertise of independent IT veterans and Microsoft insiders dedicated to helping you answer your most difficult questions. Walk away with real-world solutions to your everyday IT problems that you can implement immediately within your organization.
- 3 Real Tools for Today's IT Challenges**
This is the slogan for the event for a reason. What sets TechMentor apart, and makes it a viable alternative to huge, first-party conferences, is the immediately usable IT education, providing the tools you need today, while preparing you for tomorrow. Zero marketing-speak, a strong emphasis on doing more with the technology you already own, and solid coverage of what's just around the corner.
- 4 Learn from the Best**
The speakers at TechMentor are some of the best in the business. Don't miss your chance to learn from experts such as PowerShell MVP Jeffery Hicks, Master Consultant Bruce Mackenzie-Low, Microsoft Senior Premier Field Engineers Michael O'Neill and Neil Peterson, and TechMentor Conference Co-Chairs Don Jones and Greg Shields.
- 5 Drill Down and Dive Deep**
Ever leave a conference session thinking, "One hour was only enough time to scratch the surface. I wish there were more time to really dig in." Well, we read your mind (and your conference evaluations). We offer plenty of 3 hour deep dives, allowing ample time to drill into the details of today's technology.
- 6 Topics Hotter Than the Desert Sun**
PowerShell. DevOps. Security. Hyper-V. Windows Server. Nano Server. The Real Cloud. Shall we go on? This year's agenda covers it all - and then some.
- 7 Go "All-in" On Your IT Investment**
Join your fellow IT colleagues in focused discussions, exercises and tutorials to combat inefficiencies in your organization. You will learn current trends and best practices to help save your company time and money.
- 8 Just the Right Size.**
TechMentor Las Vegas is a boutique IT conference, on purpose! The smaller conference size allows you to not only have your voice heard, but you won't have to worry about walking a mile or more to the next session room only to find there are no seats available. The intimate setting also allows more one-on-one time with both speakers and fellow attendees.
- 9 Pitch-Free Content**
Sales and marketing pitches have no place in the world of TechMentor. We only allow unbiased, technical training from today's most renowned and experienced IT experts.
- 10 IT Training in the Heart of the Strip**
Learn by day, and experience all that Las Vegas has to offer by night!

EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

The Fun Stuff: TechMentor Las Vegas Events

Your attendance at TechMentor Las Vegas is about learning from your peers as well as the experts; make the most of your time with us and add these events to your itinerary!

Dine-A-Round Dinner

Monday, March 7, 6:00 – 8:00pm

Join other conference attendees and speakers for a casual, no-host dinner and make a few new friends while enjoying the fun and delicious restaurants in or around Bally's Hotel & Casino. This is your opportunity to meet fellow attendees and start friendships that can last for the week or even longer. Attendees can break into smaller groups based on where everyone wants to dine and head off to dinner. Everyone is responsible for their own dinner.



Welcome Reception

Tuesday, March 8, 5:00 – 6:30pm

All conference attendees are invited to celebrate the start of TechMentor Las Vegas at the Welcome Reception. Join us in the expo area to network with fellow conference attendees and speakers, talk with the event sponsors, enjoy complimentary drinks and hors d'oeuvres, and participate in the conference raffle.

Birds of a Feather Lunch

Wednesday, March 9, 12:30 – 2:00pm

Enjoy lively lunchtime discussions by joining one of our table topic conversations. Tables will have a designated topic to help start discussions and interact with your fellow attendees. You may even learn a new trick or two or some great tips to take back to the office.



We will also have designated speaker tables – noted with the speaker's name. Join your favorite speaker for a lunchtime discussion or just to ask questions or clarify anything from their sessions.



KEYNOTE & GENERAL SESSION

Learn to “keep up” with where the IT industry is going. Strengthen your career and sharpen your mind with awesome “insider” keynotes and general addresses.

Tuesday Keynote:

NO SUNNY DAYS, BUT THAT'S NOT SO BAD: CLOUDS IN 2016

Tuesday March 8
8:30am - 9:30am



*Mark Minasi, IT Consultant,
Author, Speaker, MR&D*

It's 2016, and almost everybody's in the cloud. Cloud vendors have indeed delivered on their promises for agile, speedy deployment and cost savings for many customers. Projects and entire enterprises can be spun up in minutes or hours, and often more cheaply than could be accomplished on-premises. Email SaaS like Office 365, Gmail and the like probably host more mailboxes than anyone else on the planet. So things seem pretty good, cloud-wise, then...

... Or do they? According to bestselling tech author, Cloudnostic and speaker Mark Minasi, not everything that seems real, however, is real. (Take phantom cell phone vibration, for example.)

In this fast, fact-filled, fun presentation, Mark rounds up The State of the Cloud: what's good, what's bad and what's about to happen in mankind's latest, most expensive experiment in communications, storage, and computing. Don't miss it, because if you do, you will never find out how clouds are like potatoes!

Wednesday General Session:

WHAT DEVOPS ACTUALLY LOOKS LIKE

Wednesday March 9
11:30am - 12:30pm



*Don Jones, MVP, Curriculum
Director for IT Pro Content,
Pluralsight*

Plenty of people these days have co-opted “DevOps” as a marketing term. They want to sell you DevOps. Rent DevOps Cloud services. Ship DevOps tools. But DevOps isn't something you can buy; it's more a way of doing business. Join Don Jones for a concrete, real-world, actually-exists look at what DevOps really looks like from the IT Operations perspective. He'll lay out the big picture, but show you the actual moving parts, too. You'll learn what capabilities you need, what tools might help make things faster, and what skills you'll need to pick up in order to make it happen in your own environment – and why you might want to hurry that up.



AGENDA AT-A-GLANCE



START TIME	END TIME	TechMentor Pre-Conference Workshops: Monday, March 7, 2016 <i>(Separate entry fee required)</i>			
8:00 AM	9:00 AM	Registration - Coffee and Morning Pastries			
9:00 AM	12:00 PM	TM01 Workshop: Building Real PowerShell Tools for Real Ops Tasks - <i>Adam Bertram</i>	TM02 Workshop: Azure AD for IT Pros - <i>Kunal D Mehta</i>	TM03 Workshop: Advanced Tactics in Configuring Hyper-V and VMM Networking - <i>Greg Shields</i>	
12:00 PM	1:30 PM	Lunch @ Le Village Buffet, Paris Las Vegas			
1:30 PM	4:30 PM	TM04 Workshop: Managing Hyper-V with PowerShell - <i>Jeffery Hicks</i>	TM05 Workshop: Infrastructure Automation in Amazon Web Services - <i>Mike Pfeiffer</i>	TM06 Workshop: IPv6 Boot Camp: Get Up to Speed Quickly - <i>Ed Horley</i>	
6:00 PM	8:00 PM	Dine-A-Round Dinner			

START TIME	END TIME	TechMentor Day 1: Tuesday, March 8, 2016			
7:30 AM	8:30 AM	Registration - Coffee and Morning Pastries			
8:30 AM	9:30 AM	Keynote: No Sunny Days, But That's Not So Bad: Clouds in 2016 - <i>Mark Minasi, IT Consultant, Author, Speaker, MR&D</i>			
9:45 AM	12:45 PM	TT01 Desired State Configuration for IT Ops - <i>Jason Helmick</i>	TT02 Discovering Hyper-V Containers (by Building a Minecraft Server!) - <i>Orin Thomas</i>	TT03 No User Necessary: Creating an Automated Client Troubleshooting Tool - <i>Adam Bertram</i>	TT04 The Absolute Beginner's Guide to Advanced Certificate Services - <i>Greg Shields</i>
12:45 PM	2:00 PM	Lunch - Visit Exhibitors			
2:00 PM	3:15 PM	TT05 Getting Graphic with PowerShell: Adding GUI Elements Without WinForms or WPF - <i>Jeffery Hicks</i>	TT06 Managing Office 365 and Exchange with PowerShell - <i>Mike O'Neill</i>	TT07 Mac's Not So Bad: Managing Macs in a Windows Environment - <i>Don Jones</i>	TT08 To Be Announced
3:15 PM	3:45 PM	Sponsored Break - Visit Exhibitors			
3:45 PM	5:00 PM	TT09 Create Your Own PowerShell Repository - <i>Don Jones</i>	TT10 Connect to the Cloud! An Introduction to Azure Site-to-Site Networking - <i>Richard Hicks</i>	TT11 Managing Group Policy with PowerShell - <i>Jeffery Hicks</i>	TT12 Hyper-V: From 101 to BlackBelt in Under an Hour! - <i>Clint Wyckoff</i>
5:00 PM	6:30 PM	Exhibitor Welcome Reception			

Speakers and sessions subject to change

AGENDA AT-A-GLANCE (continued)



START TIME	END TIME	TechMentor Day 2: Wednesday, March 9, 2016			
7:30 AM	8:00 AM	Registration - Coffee and Morning Pastries			
8:00 AM	11:00 AM	TW01 Building Secure and Available DSC Pull Servers - <i>Jason Helmick</i>	TW02 In-Depth Intro to Containers on Microsoft Platforms and Services - <i>Neil Peterson</i>	TW03 Secure Access Everywhere! Implementing DirectAccess with Win2012R2 - <i>Richard Hicks</i>	TW04 What's New in Windows Server 2016 - <i>Orin Thomas</i>
11:00 AM	11:30 AM	Networking Break • Visit Exhibitors			
11:30 AM	12:30 PM	General Session: What DevOps Actually Looks Like - <i>Don Jones, MVP, Curriculum Director for IT Pro Content, Pluralsight</i>			
12:30 PM	2:00 PM	Birds-of-a-Feather Lunch - Visit Exhibitors - Exhibitor Raffle @ 1:40 pm (Must be present to win)			
2:00 PM	3:15 PM	TW05 DevOps: What it Actually Means to YOU - <i>Don Jones</i>	TW06 Managing Hybrid Deployments of Exchange and Office 365 - <i>Mike O'Neill</i>	TW07 Regular Expressions, Windows PowerShell, and You - <i>Timothy Warner</i>	TW08 Choosing a Windows Update Solution, 2016 Edition - <i>Orin Thomas</i>
3:30 PM	4:45 PM	TW09 Secrets of PowerShell Remoting - <i>Don Jones</i>	TW10 Troubleshooting Office 365 Exchange / Outlook Connectivity Issues - <i>Mike O'Neill</i>	TW11 Dealing with App Install Overload: Repackaging for Easy Deployment - <i>John O'Neill, Sr.</i>	TW12 Building a Nano Server - Right Now - <i>Timothy Warner</i>
7:00 PM	9:00 PM	TechMentor Evening Event			

Speakers and sessions subject to change

"I haven't attended TechMentor; usually I attend IT/DevConnections Conference this time of year. It was pleasant surprise all the way around."

- Dan Romanski, ECU

AGENDA AT-A-GLANCE (continued)

 Datacenter	 Client Devices	 DevOps	 IT Soft Skills	 The Real Cloud
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START TIME	END TIME	TechMentor Day 3: Thursday, March 10, 2016			
8:00 AM	8:30 AM	Registration - Coffee and Morning Pastries			
8:30 AM	11:30 AM	TH01 Securing Windows Activities with "Just In Time" and "Just Enough" Administration - <i>Orin Thomas</i>	TH02 Deploy Apps in the Cloud with Azure RemoteApp: A Walkthrough - <i>John O'Neill, Sr.</i>	TH03 Troubleshooting Client Connectivity with WireShark - <i>Timothy Warner</i>	TH04 Troubleshooting Hyper-V 2016 Performance: Notes from the Field - <i>Dave Kawula & Clint Wyckoff</i>
11:30 AM	12:30 PM	Lunch			
12:30 PM	1:45 PM	TH05 Elevate Your Career: Why Now is the Time to Earn Your PMP - <i>Casey Ayers</i>	TH06 Tackling Disaster Recovery Challenges with the Cloud - <i>Jennelle Crothers</i>	TH07 The Hidden Benefits of RDP 8.0 on Win2012 and Win2016 - <i>Andy Milford</i>	TH08 Implementing Hyper-V Host and Guest Failover Clusters - <i>Bruce Mackenzie-Low</i>
2:00 PM	3:15 PM	TH09 47 in 75: A Whirlwind Tour of the Project Management Body of Knowledge - <i>Casey Ayers</i>	TH10 Automating Azure with PowerShell - Beyond the Azure Module - <i>Neil Peterson</i>	TH11 Creating a Reusable Windows Deployment Image in 30 Minutes or Less - <i>John O'Neill, Sr.</i>	TH12 Building a SAN with Windows Storage Spaces and SMB3 - <i>Michael Steineke</i>
3:30 PM	4:45 PM	TH13 How to Build a Conference-Winning Technical Presentation - <i>Sami Laiho</i>	TH14 From Help Desk to the Big Desk: Preparing for IT Management - <i>Matthew B. Parks, Sr.</i>	TH15 How Enterprise Mobility Suite (EMS) Empowers All Users, Not Just Mobile - <i>Shannon Fritz</i>	TH16 Disaster Recovery Scenarios with Server Virtualization - <i>Michael Steineke</i>

START TIME	END TIME	TechMentor Post-Conference Workshops: Friday, March 11, 2016 <i>(Separate entry fee required)</i>		
8:30 AM	9:00 AM	Post-Conference Workshop Registration - Coffee and Morning Pastries		
9:00 AM	12:00 PM	TF01 Workshop: Hacking Hyper-V: How to Protect Your Private Cloud - <i>Dave Kawula & Clint Wyckoff</i>	TF02 Workshop: Advanced Windows Troubleshooting - Blue Screen of Death, Crashes, and Hangs - <i>Bruce Mackenzie-Low</i>	TF03 Workshop: BlackBelt - Windows Security Internals - <i>Sami Laiho</i>
12:00 PM	1:30 PM	Lunch @ Le Village Buffet, Paris Las Vegas		
1:30 PM	4:30 PM	TF04 Workshop: Boost Your IT Career at the Don and Jason Show - <i>Jason Helmick & Don Jones</i>	TF02 Workshop Continues	TF03 Workshop Continues

Speakers and sessions subject to change

SESSION DESCRIPTIONS BY TRACK



DATACENTER

Servers, servers, everywhere– and we've got the info you need to make managing them easier, more efficient, and maybe even more fun. From Windows core to Nano excitement, we have some of the biggest names covering the most influential technologies in the industry ready to light up your mind.

■ TM03 - Workshop: Advanced Tactics in Configuring Hyper-V and VMM Networking -

Intermediate / Advanced

Greg Shields

Monday, March 7, 9:00am - 12:00pm

Whether you're a beginner or an expert, networking with Hyper-V and VMM can be surprisingly difficult. Even connecting a pair of Hyper-V hosts on a network isn't that easy. The challenge grows more difficult as you add virtual switches, logical switches, Hyper-V network virtualization, and the variety of VMM's other nifty networking bits. Join Greg Shields in this deep dive exploration of virtual networking with System Center Virtual Machine Manager. In this 100% demo session, you'll explore the best ways to configure VMM's many networking components, including Hyper-V Network Virtualization. You'll leave with a better appreciation for VMM's abilities to connect your virtual machines.

You will learn:

- Why VMM offers so many networking objects, and the best ways to connect them
- Experience three hours of demos as Greg constructs a production-ready VMM infrastructure that supports complex networking and Hyper-V network virtualization
- Leave with the step-by-step instructions you need to accomplish the same thing in your own environment

■ TM06 - Workshop: IPv6 Boot Camp: Get Up to Speed Quickly - *Introductory / Intermediate*

Ed Horley

Monday, March 7, 1:30 - 4:30pm

This presentation will focus on IPv6 and how to start using it quickly. You'll learn about IPv6 addresses, stateless and stateful auto-configuration, address management, planning a migration and comparing and contrasting IPv6 to IPv4. This workshop also covers what transition technologies to pay attention to and how and why they are used and what problems they address. Finally, you'll receive a checklist of tasks and recommendations for deploying IPv6. The Internet at large is out of IPv4 addresses, it is time to start the journey of learning IPv6 so take your first step!

You will learn:

- The basics of IPv6 addresses and planning
- IPv6 transition technologies that Microsoft includes in Windows
- How IPv6 impacts Microsoft technologies

■ TT04 - The Absolute Beginner's Guide to Advanced Certificate Services - *Introductory / Intermediate*

Greg Shields

Tuesday, March 8, 9:45am - 12:45pm

Tuesday, March 8, 9:45am - 12:45pm

These days, AD CS is becoming as important a network service as AD DS. Applications from Web servers to VPNs, System Center components to PowerShell all require (or strongly recommend) certificates as a secondary (or primary!) mechanism of authentication. You just can't operate a modern Windows environment without being able to generate your own certificates. The problem is building a production-worthy PKI isn't a matter taken lightly. They require planning, tiering, protection against data loss or failure, as well as ancillary services like CRLs, CDPs, online responders, and correctly-configured templates before ever generating your first certificates.

Join Greg Shields for a 100% demo-filled exploration of building your own AD Certificate Services infrastructure. In three hours, you'll begin with nothing and end with a production-worthy solution that's ready for users, their computers, and all your network services.

You will learn:

- The many components of a production-worthy AD CS infrastructure, and see them deployed from start to finish in this all demonstration session
- Learn the correct ways to configure a two-tier PKI using Microsoft Active Directory Certificate Services
- Leave with the step-by-step instructions you need to accomplish the same in your own environment

■ TT12 - Hyper-V: From 101 to BlackBelt in Under an Hour! - *Intermediate*

Clint Wyckoff

Tuesday, March 8, 3:45pm - 5:00pm

Whether you are running one virtual machine or a few thousand, your architecture needs to be able to scale as your workloads demand. We'll discuss industry best practices for Hyper-V deployments along with key design considerations to consider within the highly virtualized data center.

You will learn:

- Basics to Advanced areas of what makes up Hyper-V
- How to easily scale and build out your Hyper-V empire!
- Advanced tips and tricks for managing, monitoring and ensuring availability within the enterprise

■ TWO4 - What's New in Windows Server 2016 - *Intermediate*

Orin Thomas

Wednesday, March 9, 8:00 - 11:00am

When a new version of Windows Server comes out, IT Pros naturally ask "what makes this version different from the last." In this session you'll learn about the major differences between Windows Server 2016 and Windows Server 2012 R2. You'll learn about big changes, such as

SESSION DESCRIPTIONS BY TRACK (continued)

Nano Server, Containers, and Hyper-V improvements. You'll also learn about smaller changes such as DNS Policies, Privileged Access Management and Package Management. You'll learn how you can deploy these improvements in your environment and migrate existing workloads to this newest version of Windows Server.

You will learn:

- What differentiates Windows Server 2016 from previous versions of the Windows Server operating system
- The benefits of major new features such as containers and Nano Servers
- How to migrate to Windows Server 2016 from existing server deployments

■ TW08 - Choosing a Windows Update Solution, 2016 Edition - *Intermediate*

Orin Thomas

Wednesday, March 9, 2:00 - 3:15pm

Microsoft recently introduced Windows Update for Business, which left many IT Pros wondering about the future of update management and whether or not the traditional WSUS server on the internal network was going to still be available in future releases of Windows Server. The reality is Windows Update for Business provides another option when it comes to managing software updates for client computers. In this session, you will learn about the differences between Windows Update for Business, Windows Server Update Services, Microsoft Intune, and System Center Configuration Manager. You'll learn about the scenarios where each is appropriate which will help you determine which solution is appropriate for your environment.

You will learn:

- The differences between patch management solutions available for computers running Windows Operating Systems
- About the benefits and drawbacks of each patch management solution
- How to switch between patch management solutions

■ TW12 - Building a Nano Server - Right Now - *Introductory/ Intermediate*

Timothy Warner

Wednesday, March 9, 3:30 - 4:45pm

Lots of Windows systems administrators wonder (and worry) what the Windows Server 2016 Nano installation option means for them in terms of impact and learning curve. We'll spend time assessing where Nano is as of March 2016 and actually build one or more Nano servers to play with. You'll learn to understand the crucial importance of containerization.

You will learn:

- How Nano fits into Microsoft's "Cloud OS" vision, the role Windows PowerShell plays in this scheme, and the importance of application containers
- How to install one or more Nano servers in a test lab environment, preferably as VMs
- Demonstrate Nano remote management by using PowerShell WS-Man remoting and (potentially) the Azure Stack Web portal

■ TH04 - Troubleshooting Hyper-V 2016 Performance: Notes from the Field - *Advanced*

Dave Kawula

Thursday, March 10, 8:30 - 11:30am

This session will cover common techniques for troubleshooting Hyper-V performance issues. These tips, tricks and techniques have all been used in the field and are immensely valuable. You'll learn a great approach to troubleshooting from the ground up with Hyper-V, and this demo-centric session will deal with common questions like "Why is my server so slow?" During the performance troubleshooting process, you'll first look at the host server, network configuration, storage and OS, followed by troubleshooting the actual guests. This unique presentation will showcase PowerShell scripts that will be used to break the environment and simulate real-world scenarios for active participation and troubleshooting.

■ TH07 - The Hidden Benefits of RDP 8.0 on Win2012 and Win2016 - *Introductory/ Intermediate*

Andy Milford

Thursday, March 10, 12:30 - 1:45pm

Many Windows administrators are not yet familiar with the incredible improvements in Version 8 of the Remote Desktop Protocol, found in Windows 8, Windows Server 2012, and the upcoming Windows Server 2016. For instance, they may not know about its adaptive graphics capabilities, the ability to use both UDP and TCP as the transport protocol for exceptional reliability/responsiveness over unreliable connections, and its expanded RemoteFX features. More frequently overlooked is the rich instrumentation, logging, and diagnostics Windows Server 2012 admins can now use to determine all sorts of characteristics about each RDP 8.0 client connection. This is a shame, because one of the biggest challenges Remote Desktop Services administrators face is determining whether connectivity issues are isolated to single client or several of them.

Windows 2012 and Windows 8 provide a wealth of diagnostic information about RDP 8 client connections, such as:

- Outbound and inbound bandwidth to/from the RDP client
- Round trip time to/from the RDP client
- Loss rate / Retransmission rate
- The transport protocol (UDP and TCP, or just TCP) that was negotiated when the client connected

■ TH08 - Implementing Hyper-V Host and Guest Failover Clusters - *Introductory/ Intermediate*

Bruce Mackenzie-Low

Thursday, March 10, 12:30 - 1:45pm

Over the years, Microsoft has consistently embraced and enhanced failover clusters to provide a fault tolerant platform for your mission critical applications. Now with Hyper-V, many new opportunities exist to virtualize your legacy clusters to take advantage of newer hardware and the latest operating system features. In

SESSION DESCRIPTIONS BY TRACK (continued)

this session, you'll learn how you can implement both Windows Hyper-V host and guest failover clusters in your environment. You'll run through a variety of storage scenarios, including SAN, shared iSCSI disks, virtual HBAs and shared VHDX (Virtual Hard Disk) files. You'll also learn best practices for configuring host and guest cluster networks, storage and other Windows Server 2012 R2 clustering features.

■ TH12 - Building a SAN with Windows Storage Spaces and SMB3 - *Intermediate*

Michael Steineke

Thursday, March 10, 2:00 - 3:15pm

While virtualization helps reduce server costs, you still need storage for your VMs. Windows Server 2012 R2 and upcoming 2016 have great features that can help you replace your traditional SAN. By using Windows to replace your SAN, you can reduce storage costs, as well as management costs and complexity. You can accomplish all this without sacrificing capabilities, and in some cases have more features than your SAN has today. This session will review real world production configurations and customer use cases.

You will learn:

- Simplicity of using Windows as your SAN
- SMB3 and RDMA basics, ease of management
- Clustered Storage spaces can work in SMB to Enterprise environments

■ TH16 - Disaster Recovery Scenarios with Server Virtualization - *Advanced*

Michael Steineke

Thursday, March 10, 3:30 - 4:45pm

Many companies have embraced and adopted high-availability in their Windows Server virtualized environments. VMWare and Hyper-V have made it pretty easy to create highly available virtual machines. Disaster Recovery is next step for companies that want to ensure they can continue to do business after a disaster. There

are many different options depending on what your datacenter infrastructure looks like. This session will go through real-world solutions using Hyper-V Replica, Azure Site Recovery for VMWare and Hyper-V as well as talk about SAN technologies and Storage Replica in Windows Server 2016.

You will learn:

- Why Disaster Recovery does not need to be completely unaffordable
- How Azure Site Recovery supports VMWare Hosts
- Why Azure Site Recovery does not mean your VM's have to be in Azure

■ TF02 - Workshop: Advanced Windows Troubleshooting - Blue Screen of Death, Crashes, and Hangs (HOL) - *Intermediate / Advanced*

Bruce Mackenzie-Low

Friday, March 11, 9:00am - 4:30pm

This full day workshop will give you hands-on experience as you practice labs with proven tools and techniques for resolving Windows system and application crashes and hangs.

Seize this opportunity to enhance your troubleshooting skills by learning how to tackle the toughest problems that Windows can dish out. Enrich your job security for years to come by knowing what tools to use to analyze the Blue Screen of Death (BSOD), system and application crashes and hangs. Leverage free, state-of-the-art tools from Microsoft including the Windows Debugging Tools, along with step-by-step cookbook instructions to guide you along the way. You'll leave this workshop with the knowledge, tools and confidence you'll need to tackle the toughest outages for years to come.

Bring-Your-Own-Laptop running Windows 7 or later to gain hands-on experience with labs. You'll need at least 2GB of free disk space to install tools and stage lab materials. Power strips will be provided.



DEVOPS

We've got your PowerShell, we've got your automation, and we've got your Azure Stack. It's all part of the new DevOps approach to things. We'll help you learn the tools and tech you need to make it happen inside your organization.

■ TM01 - Workshop: Building Real PowerShell Tools for Real Ops Tasks - *Advanced*

Adam Bertram

Monday, March 7, 9:00am - 12:00pm

This workshop session will cover building a PowerShell project from the ground up. The project will be called SoftwareDeployer. It will be a PowerShell module you can use to deploy software to lots of clients. However, this isn't just putting some name to it. The end product will be a software deployer, but you will learn to create all the blocks that go into making a full-fledge PowerShell project. The session will cover everything that's necessary to build a PowerShell project like this from the ground up.

You will learn:

- Mindset: Taking PowerShell from simple scripts to software project
- Planning: The audience will be involved in the entire planning process and will see what goes into putting together a full client/server project
- Soup-to-nuts understanding from an intro to TDD and Pester, getting a SQL database setup, using and managing jobs, manipulating XML and more

SESSION DESCRIPTIONS BY TRACK (continued)

■ TMO4 - Workshop: Managing Hyper-V with PowerShell - *Intermediate / Advanced*

Jeff Hicks

Monday, March 7, 1:30 - 4:30pm

It seems you can't walk across the datacenter without tripping over some piece of virtualization software. If you run a Windows shop, that's most likely Microsoft Hyper-V. Even better, starting with Windows 8, you could run Hyper-V on a client giving you an instant test environment. But it doesn't matter if you need to manage a desktop Hyper-V setup or a set of corporate servers. You can do it all from your desktop with Windows PowerShell. This session led by PowerShell expert Jeff Hicks will have plenty of live demonstrations showing how to manage just about everything in Hyper-V from creating new virtual machines, to managing snapshots to health reporting to troubleshooting. If your laptop has Windows 8.1 or later with Hyper-V, you are welcome to follow along but this is not a hand-on lab. But don't worry. All demos and samples will be made available.

You will learn:

- How to use the Hyper-V cmdlets
- How to manage Hyper-v virtual machines with PowerShell
- How to troubleshoot Hyper-V with PowerShell

■ TT01 - Desired State Configuration for IT Ops

- *Intermediate*

Jason Helmick

Tuesday, March 8, 9:45am - 12:45pm

If you want to start moving your company forward, why not start with the configuration management side of DevOps? Learn PowerShell while learning PowerShell DSC and get control of your servers while preventing drift. Go through the process with PowerShell MVP Jason Helmick as he takes you through real-life deployment of a server, server roles and application. Learn what resources are available off-the-shelf and know when it's time to create your own custom resource.

You will learn:

- To deploy IIS and additional websites with available DSC resources
- Manage drift and updates with DSC
- Discover insights into creating custom DSC resources for IIS

■ TT05 - Getting Graphic with PowerShell: Adding GUI Elements Without WinForms or WPF

- *Introductory/ Intermediate*

Jeff Hicks

Tuesday, March 8, 2:00 - 3:15pm

Graphical PowerShell scripts seem all the rage these days. Most often, though, that means using Windows Forms or Windows Presentation Foundation which can be very tedious to work with. That's not the only game in town, though. Depending on your requirements, there are a number of techniques you can use to add graphical elements to your PowerShell scripts. This session will explore how to create message boxes, input forms and more, all without a single Windows Form. If you are just getting started with writing PowerShell scripts, you'll find these techniques simple to use, plus there will be plenty of sample code for all!

You will learn:

- How to add graphical elements to a PowerShell script without WinForms or WPF
- Advanced PowerShell scripting techniques
- When and when not to include graphical elements in your PowerShell scripts

■ TT09 - Create Your Own PowerShell

Repository - Intermediate

Don Jones

Tuesday, March 8, 3:45 - 5:00pm

Learn to distribute your own PowerShell modules internally using the new PowerShellGet and PowerShell Package Manager features of WMF5—features being made available to downlevel versions of Windows and

PowerShell! MVP Don Jones walks you through setting up and configuring the repository on your network, authorizing it for use by your clients and servers, and publishing a PowerShell module for distribution. It's the first step on the path toward better module management entirely within your organization, and toward a Continuous Integration model for developing PowerShell-based tools.

You will learn:

- Set up and configure a Chocolatey repository
- Publish PowerShell modules for distribution
- Configure PowerShell Package Manager

■ TWO1 - Building Secure and Available DSC Pull Servers - *Intermediate*

Jason Helmick

Wednesday, March 9, 8:00 - 11:00am

Using Desired State configuration (DSC) in production requires you to securely pass configurations and custom resources. For the cost of a cup of coffee, you can add high availability to your secured environment, freeing the stress of a lost Pull server. Let Windows PowerShell MVP Jason Helmick take you through the complexities of building a secured and load balanced IIS Pull server for all your DSC needs. Jason will show you how to properly package your configurations and custom resources using the new features of PowerShell V5.

You will learn:

- To deploy a secured HTTPS DSC Pull server.
- How to properly package configurations and custom resources for Pull servers
- Leave with all the examples and scripts

SESSION DESCRIPTIONS BY TRACK (continued)

■ **TW05 - DevOps: What it Actually Means to YOU** - *Introductory*

Don Jones

Wednesday, March 9, 2:00 - 3:15pm

Forget the marketing jargon and vague definitions. Join MVP Don Jones, author of "DevOps: The Ops Perspective," for a detailed, definitive, and actionable look at what DevOps actually means to your IT Operations team. What capabilities will you need to develop in order to support DevOps? Does the phrase "DevOps Engineer" have any meaning whatsoever? What management changes must accompany a DevOps approach? The answers to these and other questions will help you understand what this new approach means, and how it affects you, your organization, and your career.

You will learn:

- To describe DevOps in meaningful, actionable terms
- How you can support DevOps initiatives in your organization
- The tools and technologies that can help make DevOps a reality

■ **TW09 - Secrets of PowerShell Remoting** - *Intermediate*

Don Jones

Wednesday, March 9, 3:30 - 4:45pm

Learn the ins, outs, whys, and wherefores of PowerShell Remoting from the author of "Secrets of PowerShell Remoting." Learn how to enable Remoting in a variety of situations, learn about Remoting's security features, and discover best practices for this important management technology. You'll also learn how Remoting's underlying technology—WinRM—works and how it's used in other scenarios like CIM.

You will learn:

- To enable Remoting the right way
- To secure Remoting in a variety of situations
- How the WinRM protocol works

■ **TH01 - Securing Windows Activities with "Just In Time" and "Just Enough" Administration** - *Intermediate / Advanced*

Orin Thomas

Thursday, March 10, 8:30 - 11:30am

The new administration model is "just enough." This involves giving those that need to perform administrative tasks only those tools needed to complete those tasks. Just-In-Time administration is a complementary technology available in Windows Server 2016 that lets you assign users to privileged groups for a limited duration instead of on a semi-permanent basis. In this session, you'll learn about the steps you need to take to deploy Just Enough Administration and Just-In-Time Administration. You'll learn about how you can configure Just Enough Administration to allow users to perform specific tasks. You'll also learn how you can configure Just-In-Time administration so that users are removed from privileged groups after a specific amount of time.

You will learn:

- Understand JEA and JIT Administration
- How to configure JEA
- How to configure JIT Administration

CLIENT DEVICES



There's exciting stuff happening in the server space. But you still have to support, upgrade, migrate, and troubleshoot all those client computers, right? We've got your back, with a brand-new lineup of client-centric sessions from some of our favorite speakers.

■ **TT03 - No User Necessary: Creating an Automated Client Troubleshooting Tool** - *Advanced*

Adam Bertram

Tuesday, March 8, 9:45am - 12:45pm

Have you ever followed up on a help-desk ticket and was quickly and easily able to diagnose some difficult problem? Have you ever called a user that opened a ticket, asked for their IP address to connect to and immediately got all the information you need? Me neither. This session will be about developing a FREE tool from scratch using only Windows PowerShell that eliminates the user phone call completely. This tool will help you immediately connect, and gather common troubleshooting information, and get a handy report without needing any information from the user at all. No more asking for computer names or IP addresses to VNC into. With the tool you'll be learning how to build in this session, you'll be able to connect to, troubleshoot and fix without ever even making a phone call. The only call you'll be making is one to tell the user their ticket has been closed because it's been resolved.

You will learn:

- How to plan and build a software project in PowerShell
- How to use PowerShell Remoting concepts, event log cmdlets like Get-WinEvent, querying text logs for important information and getting what you need out of WMI
- How to develop a simple PowerShell GUI using Sapien's PowerShell Studio

■ **TT07 - Mac's Not So Bad: Managing Macs in a Windows Environment** - *Intermediate*

Don Jones

Tuesday, March 8, 2:00 - 3:15pm

There's no reason you can't be as comfortable on a Mac as you are on Windows 7. Closet Mac fan Don Jones shows you where all of the Windows-equivalent troubleshooting tools live in Mac OS X, and introduces

SESSION DESCRIPTIONS BY TRACK (continued)

you to some of Mac's lesser-known capabilities, including AD authentication, Group Policy-like abilities, and more.

You will learn:

- Find Windows-equivalent troubleshooting tools in Mac OS X
- Learn to integrate Macs into a Windows environment
- Become as comfortable on a Mac as you are on Windows

■ **TT11 - Managing Group Policy with PowerShell**
- *Introductory / Intermediate*

Jeff Hicks

Tuesday, March 8, 3:45 - 5:00pm

Does your boss want to know how many GPOs were created in the last month? Do you need to know what GPOs have no settings? Do you need to modify access control on a 100 GPOs? This session will demonstrate how to manage your Group Policy infrastructure using PowerShell. All of these tasks and more are within reach with a little basic PowerShell and the Group Policy cmdlets from Microsoft.

You will learn:

- How to create GPO reports in either HTML or XML format
- How to filter GPOs
- How to enable and disable GPOs

■ **TWO3 - Secure Access Everywhere!**
Implementing DirectAccess with Win2012R2 -
Intermediate

Richard Hicks

Wednesday, March 9, 8:00 - 11:00am

With today's highly mobile workforce, secure access regardless of location is essential for maintaining productivity. DirectAccess, a remote access technology included with Windows Server 2012 R2, is a paradigm shift in the way remote access is delivered. DirectAccess provides always-on, seamless and transparent remote access any time a client is connected to the Internet.

With DirectAccess, users access data and applications remotely as if they were in the office. Network communication is protected using IPsec encryption and authenticated using Kerberos, NTLM, and certificates. DirectAccess connectivity is bi-directional, enabling compelling manage-out capabilities not available with tradition VPN solutions.

You will learn:

- What DirectAccess is and how it works
- What platform technologies are required to support DirectAccess
- How to install, configure, and manage DirectAccess

■ **TWO7 - Regular Expressions, Windows PowerShell, and You** - *Introductory / Intermediate*
Timothy Warner

Wednesday, March 9, 2:00 - 3:15pm

There are many Windows systems administrators who spend way too much time trying to locate files and other resources by shoe-horning the old MS-DOS asterisk and question mark wildcards. How can a busy sysadmin figure out, for instance, which of their company's 10,000 documents contain personally identifiable information? Regular expressions and Windows PowerShell to the rescue!

You will learn:

- About regular expressions (their function, interoperability, and usage) intelligently with programmers, DBAs, and potentially other IT pros
- How to apply basic RegEx search patterns, including special characters, sets, ranges, qualifiers, and character classes
- How to leverage Windows PowerShell skills by implementing regular expressions in -match expressions, Select-String statements, and the regex type accelerator
- New ways to solve old problems regarding searching in their daily work

■ **TW11 - Dealing with App Install Overload: Repackaging for Easy Deployment** - *Introductory / Intermediate*

John O'Neill, Sr.

Wednesday, March 9, 3:30 - 4:45pm

Let's face it—the shoe leather approach to software installation just doesn't cut it anymore. As IT pros, we need to quickly and easily deploy software with the options and additions our users need. This often involves creating and customizing software packages. This session will teach you how to perform common tasks including repackaging an MSI, customizing installation options, testing installation packages, and troubleshooting when things go wrong.

You will learn:

- How to package and repackage software
- Downloading, installing, and using Microsoft Orca
- Understand and use custom transform files
- Debugging MSI problems

■ **THO3 - Troubleshooting Client Connectivity with WireShark** - *Intermediate / Advanced*
Timothy Warner

Thursday, March 10, 8:30 - 11:30am

Nowadays, many organizations use line-of-business (LOB) applications with browser-based front ends to increase productivity. Systems administrators sometimes need to turn to protocol analysis in order to visualize client/server network traffic and resolve client connectivity problems. In this session, you'll become intimately familiar with Wireshark, the free, open-source protocol analyzer. Because capture and display filters have a sometimes-confusing syntax, you'll spend lots of time crafting and using filters to solve the most common network access issues.

You will learn:

- How to install and use Wireshark on any operating system

SESSION DESCRIPTIONS BY TRACK (continued)

- How to build capture and display filters in order to study specific network traffic types
- How to analyze network traffic patterns, make accurate diagnoses, and solve client connectivity problems with least administrative effort

■ TH11 - Creating a Reusable Windows Deployment Image in 30 Minutes or Less -

Introductory/ Intermediate

John O'Neill, Sr.

Thursday, March 10, 2:00 - 3:15pm

Deploying Windows to PCs and Servers can take hours, destroying employee efficiency for both the user and the IT pro. What if you could create a single Windows installation image complete with all software, updates, and custom settings you could quickly roll out to PC after PC? Well you can, and the best part is Microsoft provides all the necessary tools for FREE! Attend this session to learn how to simplify your Windows deployment process.

You will learn:

- Microsoft's free tools for creating reusable deployment images
- How to create a reusable Windows 10 deployment image
- Special techniques used to create images destined for virtual machines
- How to create a deployment image that can be used on virtually any hardware configuration

■ TH15 - How Enterprise Mobility Suite (EMS) Empowers All Users, Not Just Mobile -

Introductory/ Intermediate

Shannon Fritz

Thursday, March 10, 3:30 - 4:45pm

While Microsoft EMS is known for providing services for secure user mobility scenarios and mobile device management, it simultaneously provides enhancements and features that benefit everyone else as well. One

license suite gives your organization centralized access to Web Apps both on-premises and hosted, Multifactor Authentication, transparent File and Email Encryption services, Identity Management, Device and Computer management, security alerting and so much more. Come see how it works and extends your existing investment in Active Directory identities.

You will learn:

- Understand the features and benefits of the components of EMS
- See demonstrations of the user experience with EMS services
- How quickly you can enable these services and use with your existing infrastructure

■ TFO3 - Workshop: BlackBelt - Windows Security Internals -

Intermediate

Sami Laiho

Friday, March 11, 9:00am - 4:30pm

Building a secure Windows implementation and infrastructure requires you to know how the security subsystem really works. This workshop will take you deep beneath the surface of Windows Security features like: BitLocker, Limited User Account problems, AppLocker, Device Guard, Credential Guard and PTH-mitigations, Windows Hello, Windows Passport, UAC, Security Templates, Group Policy, SIDs, Access Tokens and security descriptors. Sami is known worldwide for his Internals sessions and you will not be disappointed!

You will learn:

- How Windows Security subsystem really works
- How Authentication and Authorization really works and how to keep it secure
- How your enemy bypasses Windows Security



IT SOFT SKILLS

Being a successful IT Pro requires more than just technology skills. TechMentor helps boost your career with a selection of "soft skills" presentations from some of the industry's most experienced instructors and motivational speakers.

■ TH05 - Elevate Your Career: Why Now is the Time to Earn Your PMP -

Introductory

Casey Ayers

Thursday, March 10, 12:30 - 1:45pm

Even in today's Agile-focused world, the PMP remains one of the most relevant and highly sought after certifications in IT due to its focus on principles that can be applied to a variety of project management methodologies. This session will provide an introduction to the PMP certification and exam to those who may have heard of it or considered earning it in the past, but have yet to take their first steps toward doing so.

You'll learn more about the PMP certification and how to determine if it may be a worthwhile step in their career. How to meet the PMP's three key prerequisites, and how to provide proof that these requirements have been met, will also be discussed in detail. The bulk of the session, however, will focus on introducing the PMP curriculum at a high level, sharing the learning objectives for the credential set by the Project Management Institute and the type of material candidates might expect to encounter in their studies.

You'll leave with a specific set of actionable steps in hand that let you pursue a PMP certification effectively regardless of where you might be on your career path at present.

You will learn:

- First, this breakout session will help you determine if earning a PMP certification is right for you. Is it a cost-

SESSION DESCRIPTIONS BY TRACK (continued)

effective option? Will it help you take that next step in your career? Is it worth the time and effort entailed, given your background and aspirations?

- Then, we'll explore the prerequisites that must be met before taking the PMP exam, and how you can meet them most easily. We'll look at how to catalog work experience, navigate the application process, and earn the training hours required before sitting for the exam.
- Finally, we'll help you build your plan for PMP success, sharing information on the exam's structure, what material you'll need to master before taking the test, and advice on how to structure your studies to maximize your odds of passing it on your very first attempt.

■ TH09 - 47 in 75: A Whirlwind Tour of the Project Management Body of Knowledge -

Introductory/ Intermediate

Casey Ayers

Thursday, March 10, 2:00 - 3:15pm

The PMBOK Guide is a notoriously dry and dense read. Yet it's impossible to succeed in attaining any PMI-issued project management certifications without demonstrating mastery over its content. The PMBOK Guide is tough in large part because it doesn't feel approachable, can often seem repetitive, and can shift from dwelling on the obvious to mentioning previously unreferenced concepts in just a few words.

This session will cut a path for aspiring PMPs and those who simply wish to learn more about PMI's classic project management framework. By cross-cutting through knowledge areas and process groups, and shedding light on each of the PMBOK Guide's 47 processes, this session will help attendees grasp the broader concepts that apply to the entire framework. You'll learn how closely many processes relate and gain a narrative sense of how the PMBOK Guide's many concepts support one another and allow for a more complete style of project management when used together.

You will learn:

- The Project Management Body of Knowledge is the foundation for a variety of certifications offered by the Project Management Institute, most notably the PMP. Many would also consider it to be a project manager's Bible. But, like scripture, the PMBOK Guide can be a long and difficult read, and isn't very accessible to those approaching the material for the first time.
- This session seeks to uncover the secrets of the PMBOK Guide, making the nuts and bolts of its project management framework easier to understand. In just over an hour, we'll dive into all 47 of the project management processes found in the PMBOK Guide. You'll learn how these seemingly disparate concepts actually align and intermingle within the project management environment.
- Whether you're studying for the PMP exam or simply want to learn what makes one of the world's most popular project management frameworks tick, you're sure to leave with a better understanding of how a formalized project management structure can make your life easier and your project more successful.

■ TH13 - How to Build a Conference-Winning Technical Presentation - *Introductory/ Intermediate*

Sami Laiho

Thursday, March 10, 3:30 - 4:45pm

What takes a session to top 100 in a big conference? That you can do with great technical skills but to take your session to the top three that requires more than just that. I've been an IT-instructor for more than 15 years. I've won three major TechEd's with my sessions, more than 10 other conferences and taught public speaking and presentation skills for hundreds of professional speakers around the world. Let me share you my stories and tips on how to create great presentations for technical audiences.

You will learn:

- How to create great presentations
- How to take a session to the top 3 of a conference
- How to evolve a presentation into an entertaining show

■ TH14 - From Help Desk to the Big Desk: Preparing for IT Management - *Introductory/ Intermediate*

Matthew B. Parks, Sr.

Thursday, March 10, 3:30 - 4:45pm

The IT business is a unique and interesting beast. Unlike most career paths, few change as fast or are as depended upon as IT in the modern business world. Lots of IT Pros want to make the move into leader, but few know how. You can make a great living in IT, but moving from the server room to the boardroom takes some planning and some guts. This session will explore the strategies that can help you move from a seat at the bench to a seat at the table. IT at its core is a service industry, so transitioning from serving to decision making is not always easy.

You will learn:

- How to recognize mentors and opportunities
- How to translate IT to Business
- Recognize your place in the organization

■ TF04 - Workshop: Boost Your IT Career at the Don and Jason Show - *Intermediate*

Jason Helmick & Don Jones

Friday, March 11, 1:30 - 4:30pm

Round out your resume and help solidify your career—and have a blast doing it. Don Jones and Jason Helmick reprise their fun-filled, ad-hoc, totally serious take on IT careers. You'll learn just enough SQL Server administration to be effective, learn the top troubleshooting and performance tips for IIS, get a crash course in Desired State Configuration, learn what "Continuous Integration" actually means, and get dozens of "soft skills" tips and tricks along the way. This is a great way to round out your TechMentor experience and go home with a renewed mission for your career!

You will learn:

- How to manage SQL Server
- How to troubleshoot and tune IIS
- A variety of other useful, career-building tips and advice

SESSION DESCRIPTIONS BY TRACK (continued)



THE REAL CLOUD

We left our marketing presentations at home, so instead we're stuck with bringing you "the cloud" as you're actually using it: Hybrid, connected, private, and absolutely real.

■ **TM02 - Workshop: Azure AD for IT Pros -**
Intermediate / Advanced

Kunal D Mehta

Monday, March 7, 9:00am - 12:00pm

Windows Server Active Directory has been the center of identity and access management for more than a decade now. In recent years, though, more services and applications are now running on the cloud as opposed to traditional on-premises environments. Therefore, it makes sense to architect an efficient and a hybrid system for authentication which works seamlessly for both on-premises and cloud based services and applications. That's where Azure AD comes into picture.

This session will take a deep dive at what Azure AD is, how it works, its architecture, and the best ways to implement a hybrid of on-premises AD and Azure AD environment. Doing so has many benefits like - faster and easier SSOs, ability to leverage ready-made multifactor authentication feature, less IT overhead for on-premises, less authentication traffic coming into the organization's network, and more security. You'll see how all of that happens and how it affects the overall authentication strategy of an organization.

Then, you'll also learn about Azure AD Premium, see how Azure AD integrates with Microsoft products like Office 365, Intune, Azure services, third party business applications, and Facebook/Twitter. You'll also get a sneak peak at Azure AD Join for Windows Server 2016. Learning Azure AD can greatly simplify an organization's authentication strategy and serve as a great solution in the long run.

■ **TM05 - Workshop: Infrastructure Automation in Amazon Web Services -**
Intermediate / Advanced
Mike Pfeiffer

Monday, March 7, 1:30 - 4:30pm

If you're looking to master the art of infrastructure automation, this session is for you. Learn the tools and techniques used to implement and automate the provisioning of complete application environments in the AWS cloud. Hear about the techniques used by real-world customers to automate the creation of entire application architectures, including networks, servers, storage, and applications. This session will be jam packed with live demos, and you'll walk away with plenty of code samples that you can use immediately after you get back to the office.

You will learn:

- About infrastructure automation in the cloud
- How to automate complete environments which include networking, servers, and storage
- How to bootstrap servers from scratch to fully configured and functional systems

■ **TT02 - Discovering Hyper-V Containers (by Building a Minecraft Server!)** - *Intermediate / Advanced*

Orin Thomas

Tuesday, March 8, 9:45am - 12:45pm

Containers are a relatively technology that can be a little baffling. Many IT Pros have questions on how they differ from VMs and are trying to come to terms with questions such when it makes sense to deploy a workload in a container and when it makes sense to deploy a workload in a separate VM. In this session, you'll learn about Windows Server and Hyper-V containers through example. You'll learn how they can be created and configured to host a workload, in this case a Minecraft Server. You'll also learn how they can be deployed and verify that deployment by having Minecraft clients make a connection to the workload running in the container.

You will learn:

- Windows Server and Hyper-V Containers
- How to create and configure Windows Server and Hyper-V Containers
- How to deploy and modify Windows Server and Hyper-V Containers

■ **TT06 - Managing Office 365 and Exchange with PowerShell -**
Intermediate / Advanced
Mike O'Neill

Tuesday, March 8, 2:00 - 3:15pm

Exchange, either on-premises or online, doesn't have to be difficult to manage and leveraging PowerShell to help make your job easier is the goal of this presentation. These topics present the Exchange on premises and Exchange Online administration, configuration and auditing using simple PowerShell commandlets to help you save time, save money, and be more productive with your day-to-day tasks.

You will learn:

- Administration: Simple steps and one-liners to help you administrate your Exchange/O365 environment
- Auditing: How to setup simple tasks using scripts for poor man monitoring and auditing of your Exchange environment
- Configuration: How to verify Azure AD synchronization, Exchange on-premises co-existence, and testing connectivity

■ **TT10 - Connect to the Cloud! An Introduction to Azure Site-to-Site Networking -**
Intermediate / Advanced

Richard Hicks

Tuesday, March 8, 3:45 - 5:00pm

As organizations begin to adopt Microsoft Azure Infrastructure-as-a-Service, virtual machines running in Azure often need access to on-premises resources such as Active Directory or SQL databases. The reverse is also true, where on-premises systems need to access

SESSION DESCRIPTIONS BY TRACK (continued)

cloud-based systems. It is increasingly common that cloud-based virtual machines need to be managed just like on-premises systems, which requires network-level connectivity. Microsoft Azure provides a site-to-site VPN gateway to let organizations connect their Azure-hosted virtual machines to their on-premises networks or even other cloud providers. This session will explore various different methods to use the Azure site-to-site VPN gateway to enable cross-premises network connectivity.

You will learn:

- How the Azure site-to-site VPN gateway works and what options are available to support various different on-premises gateway devices
- How to create and configure an Azure gateway and how to configure on-premises devices such as Windows Server 2012 R2 or other third-party devices
- How to configure Azure site-to-site VPN to provide access to multiple on-premises locations

■ **TWO2 - In-Depth Intro to Containers on Microsoft Platforms and Services** - *Introductory / Intermediate*

Neil Peterson

Wednesday, March 9, 8:00 - 11:00am

The container virtualization movement is upon us. Containers deliver the promise of portable development, rapid deployment and true scale bursting capabilities. If you have not yet taken a fundamental look at container technology please do, containers will be important to developers, IT Pros and those in between.

This session will discuss fundamental aspects of container virtualization and the details the opportunity for using containers on Microsoft platforms and services. It will include details and demonstrations in:

- Running Linux containers in Azure and managing these containers with Docker
- Developing in Linux containers on a Windows System using Docker Toolbox
- Running and managing Windows Server Containers with both PowerShell and Azure

This will be a demo heavy session and will appeal to those familiar with containers but looking for more information into the Microsoft Platforms and Service, as well as those to whom containers are new.

You will learn:

- How to deploy and manage Linux containers in Azure
- How to develop in Linux containers on a Windows system
- About the upcoming Windows Server Container technology

■ **TWO6 - Managing Hybrid Deployments of Exchange and Office 365** - *Intermediate / Advanced* **Mike O'Neill**

Wednesday, March 9, 2:00 - 3:15pm

Hybrid can appear to be a different setup than most administrators have been experienced from their On Premises organizations. This discussion looks at Exchange Online administration and Hybrid deployment scenarios. See how to manage both O365 and On Premises Exchange servers, AAD Sync, and the new AAD Connect tool using PowerShell to help make your daily job easier.

You will learn:

- Administration: Exchange online administration and configuration design considerations
- Active Directory Synchronization: How to use AAD Sync and AAD Connect to manage accounts, assign licenses, and use PowerShell to manage the environment
- Hybrid co-existence using Single Sign-On or Same Sign On and Hybrid requirements for on-premises synchronization

■ **TW10 - Troubleshooting Office 365 Exchange / Outlook Connectivity Issues** - *Introductory / Intermediate*

Mike O'Neill

Wednesday, March 9, 3:30 - 4:45pm

The cloud is not always under your control and these tips and tricks with tools can help you with connection issues from your end users to their online resources.

This information will help participants with information necessary to troubleshoot common issues that may be encountered when using the Microsoft Exchange Online service. This information is for customers who have moved or are looking to moving to O365 for e-mail content by viewing troubleshooting issues that may arise when shifting from an on-premises environment to a cloud based service.

You will learn:

- Outlook connectivity using different tests, tools, and understanding of how Outlook connections are designed
- About DirSync, Password sync, DNS setup, and filter options for syncing data to the cloud
- About common hybrid setup errors, design overview of hybrid, and common mail flow options

■ **THO2 - Deploy Apps in the Cloud with Azure RemoteApp: A Walkthrough** - *Introductory / Intermediate*

John O'Neill, Sr.

Thursday, March 10, 8:00 - 11:30am

Easily extend anytime, anywhere, any device access to critical business applications using Microsoft Azure RemoteApp. You no longer need take on steep development costs to provide mobile device access to Windows applications. Leverage Azure RemoteApp, Windows, OS X, iOS, and Android devices to become key productivity tools. You can deploy software from everyday apps such as Office to line of business apps including ERP or CRM solutions. Azure RemoteApp provides unprecedented scaling, quickly adjusting to changing business or workforce demands.

You will learn:

- How to deploy a Windows application through Azure RemoteApp
- About live deployment of actual Windows App through RemoteApp
- Supported authentication methods
- How to access apps from Windows, iOS, Mac OS X, or Android devices

SESSION DESCRIPTIONS BY TRACK (continued)

■ TH06 - Tackling Disaster Recovery Challenges with the Cloud - *Introductory / Intermediate*

Jennelle Crothers

Thursday, March 10, 12:30 - 1:45pm

Disaster Recovery is the topic everyone loves to hate. This session will cover some of the ways to take advantage of the cloud to improve your disaster recovery planning. Is cloud storage right for you? Can you leverage hybrid cloud to ensure your users can quickly get back to work? Can you increase the success of your testing plans?

You'll learn about technologies that help you bridge the gap between what you are using on-prem and how you can protect those assets by tapping into hosted solutions.

You will learn:

- How to leverage the cloud as a hot or cold site for organizations that only have one physical location
- How current applications, like SQL, have features built in to support cloud backup
- How to use the cloud to practice and improve recovery testing

"The three hour sessions were awesome. I feel that I was able to "learn" vs. just observe."

- Jeanne Harden Chemring Ordnance

■ TH10 - Automating Azure with PowerShell - Beyond the Azure Module - *Intermediate / Advanced*

Neil Peterson

Thursday, March 10, 2:00 - 3:15pm

Azure and PowerShell is a big deal. There's no question about that. However, are you aware that PowerShell capability in Azure IaaS extends well beyond what can be performed with the Azure PowerShell module? This session will detail the many ways you can engage with Azure and Azure virtual machines using PowerShell by explaining and demonstrating the following features:

- Azure PowerShell Module
- Azure VM DSC extensions
- Azure VM Custom Script Extension
- Azure Automation

This session will quickly ramp you up on everything you need in order to select and use one or many options for Azure VM automation and configuration using PowerShell.

You will learn:

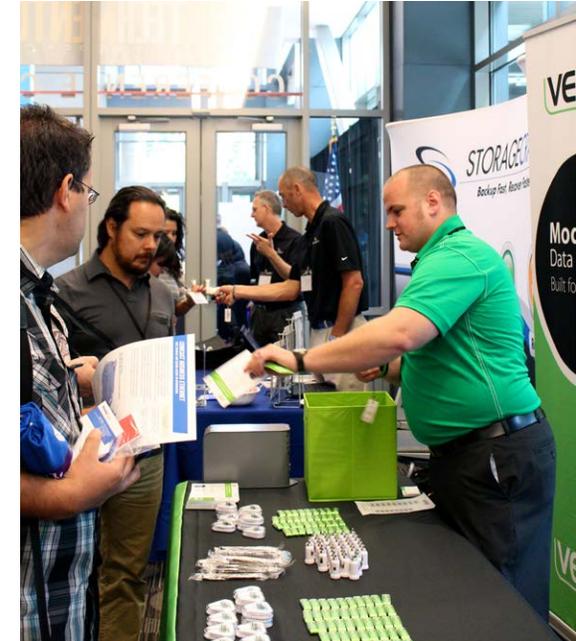
- How to deploy, configure and manage Azure Virtual Machines using the most appropriate automation method
- How to integrate PowerShell scripts, PowerShell DSC and PowerShell Workflow into Azure deployments, configuration and management strategy
- About the Azure VM Agent and how to use this to work around Azure deployment and configuration road blocks

■ TF01 - Workshop: Hacking Hyper-V: How to Protect Your Private Cloud - *Advanced*

Dave Kawula

Friday, March 11, 9:00am - 12:00pm

Hear the tips and tricks you need to know to protect Hyper-V datacenters of all sizes by fixing numerous security holes to which you're already exposed, but never even knew about. Join 5nine's virtualization expert -and Hyper-V MVP Dave Kawula to learn the best practices for protection and compliance for Hyper-V, System Center Virtual Machine Manager (VMM) and Azure Pack (WAP)/Stack. See how a combination of firewall, AV, intrusion detection and scanning tools can meet your security and compliance requirements.



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Don Jones

TechMentor Conference Co-Chair, Curriculum Director for IT Pro Content, PluralSight

Don Jones is a multiple-year recipient of Microsoft's MVP Award, and is Curriculum Director for IT Pro Content for video training company Pluralsight. Don

is also a co-founder and President of PowerShell.org, a community dedicated to Microsoft's Windows PowerShell technology. Don has more than two decades of experience in the IT industry, and specializes in the Microsoft business technology platform. He's the author of more than 50 technology books, an accomplished IT journalist, and a sought-after speaker and instructor at conferences worldwide. Reach Don on Twitter at @concentratedDon, or on Facebook at Facebook.com/ConcentratedDon.



Greg Shields

TechMentor Conference Co-Chair, Author Evangelist, PluralSight

Greg Shields is Author Evangelist with PluralSight, and is a globally-recognized expert on systems management, virtualization, and cloud technologies. A multiple-year recipient of the Microsoft MVP,

VMware vExpert, and Citrix CTP awards, Greg is a contributing editor for Redmond Magazine and Virtualization Review Magazine, and is a frequent speaker at IT conferences worldwide. Reach him on Twitter at @ConcentratdGreg.

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Lafe Low

Editor, Live! 360 Events

Lafe Low has been a technology editor and writer for more than 25 years. Most recently, he was the editor in chief of *TechNet* magazine. He has also held various editorial positions with *Redmond* magazine, *CIO* magazine and

InfoWorld. He also launched his own magazine entitled *Explore New England*, and has published four editions of his guidebook *The Best in Tent Camping: New England*.



Jeffrey Schwartz

Editor, Redmond Magazine

Jeffrey Schwartz is the editor of 1105 Media's *Redmond* magazine, an editor-at-large and columnist for *Redmond Channel Partner* magazine, and author of a blog covering enterprise cloud computing called *The Schwartz*

Cloud Report. Earlier in his tenure with the Enterprise Computing Group of 1105 Media, he held senior editorial positions with *Application Development Trends*, *Visual Studio Magazine* and *Redmond Developer News*. He has covered all aspects of enterprise IT for more than two decades and has spent much of that time writing about mobile computing technology. Before joining 1105 Media's Enterprise Computing group, he held several senior editorial roles with such publications as *VARBusiness* (now part of CRN), *InternetWeek* and *CommunicationsWeek*.



Keith Ward

Editor in Chief, Virtualization Magazine

Keith Ward is editor in chief of *Virtualization Review* Magazine. He's been a technology journalist for more than a decade. In that time, he's covered all aspects of the industry, from IT

administration to virtualization to software development. He was founding editor of *Virtualization Review* magazine, editor of *Redmond* magazine and senior editor of *Microsoft Certified Professional* magazine. He served as editor in chief of *MSDN Magazine* and *Visual Studio* Magazine before his current role with *Virtualization Review*.

"The presenters really know the topics presented and are available for one on one questions before and after sessions."

- Allan Krantz, University of Massachusetts

CONFERENCE SPEAKERS



Casey Ayers

Consultant / Author, Pluralsight

Casey Ayers is an independent project manager and strategic consultant, with experience leading projects in many fields, including healthcare, digital media, mobile app development, consumer product design, education, and event management.

Casey has a Project Management Professional (PMP) certification, and earned an MBA from the Crummer School of Business at Rollins College in beautiful Winter Park, Florida in 2010. Prior to that, he received a Bachelor's of Business Administration degree majoring in Economics and Investment Finance from the University of North Florida.

In addition to his client work, Casey's love of travel led him to develop PointsAway.com, a site where he shows readers how to earn and use frequent flyer miles to make travel dreams a reality, even for those who hardly ever travel.

Learn more about Casey's services and his other ventures at CaseyAyers.com.



Adam Bertram

Senior Systems Consultant, Keller Schroeder

Adam Bertram is an independent consultant, technical writer, trainer and presenter. Adam specializes in consulting and evangelizing all things IT automation mainly focused around Windows PowerShell. Adam is a Microsoft Windows PowerShell MVP, 2015 powershell.org PowerShell hero and has numerous Microsoft IT pro certifications. He is a writer, trainer and presenter and authors IT pro course content for Pluralsight. He is also a regular contributor to numerous print and online publications and presents at various user groups and conferences. You can find Adam at <http://adamtheautomator.com>; or on Twitter at @adbertram.



Jennelle Crothers

Sr. Technical Evangelist, Microsoft

A Microsoft Technical Evangelist who likes computer networking, server administration, among other things! Spent 15 years as a sysadmin "jack of all trades" overseeing Windows domains, Exchange Server, desktops and other IT systems. Now she supports platform awareness for Windows Server and related technologies.



Shannon Fritz

Cloud Datacenter Solutions Architect, Concurrency

Shannon Fritz is a Microsoft MVP for Enterprise Security and is the Cloud Datacenter Solutions Architect & Team Lead at Concurrency, Inc.; a Systems Integrator consulting firm focused entirely on Microsoft solutions. Shannon specializes in Windows Server platform solutions and holds an array of Microsoft Certifications. Shannon has

also been a technical reviewer for books focused on DirectAccess and Hyper-V best practices.



Jason Helmick

Author, Pluralsight

Jason is a 25-year IT veteran and author at Pluralsight. He's an avid supporter of the PowerShell community as board member and CFO of PowerShell.Org and a Windows PowerShell MVP. He is the author of "Learn Windows IIS in a Month of Lunches" and contributing author to "PowerShell Deep Dives", along with a columnist for TechNet and TechTarget Magazine and other industry publications.



Jeffery Hicks

Senior Technology Fellow, JDH IT Solutions

Jeffery Hicks is an IT veteran with over 25 years of experience, much of it spent as an IT infrastructure consultant specializing in Microsoft server technologies with an emphasis in automation and efficiency. He is a multi-year recipient of the Microsoft MVP Award in Windows PowerShell. He works today as an independent author, trainer and consultant. Jeff has written for numerous online sites and print publications, is a contributing editor at Petri.com, and a frequent speaker at technology conferences and user groups.



Richard Hicks

Owner, Richard M Hicks Consulting

Richard Hicks (MCP, MCSE, MCTS, MCITP: Enterprise Administrator, MCSA) is a network and information security expert specializing in Microsoft technologies. As a six-time Microsoft Most Valuable Professional (MVP), he has traveled around the world speaking to network engineers, security administrators, and IT professionals about Microsoft edge security and remote access.

CONFERENCE SPEAKERS (continued)

Richard has nearly two decades experience working in large scale corporate computing environments and has designed and deployed perimeter defense and secure remote access solutions for some of the largest companies in the world. Richard is an independent consultant focused on helping organizations large and small implement DirectAccess and client-based remote access VPN using the Microsoft platform.



Ed Horley

Practice Manager - Cloud Solutions, Groupware Technology

Ed Horley is the Practice Manager - Cloud Solutions and Practice Lead - IPv6 at Groupware Technology. He is the author of Practical IPv6 for Windows Administrators from Apress and a Pluralsight Author. Ed is the current Co-Chair of the California IPv6 Task Force and speaks internationally on IPv6 and various conferences.



Don Jones

TechMentor Conference Co-Chair, Curriculum Director for IT Pro Content, PluralSight

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Dave Kawula

Principal Consultant, TriCon Elite Consulting

With over 18 years experience in the IT Industry Dave has run 2 other IT Services organizations before starting TriCon Elite Consulting. In April of 2012 he was honored with a special designation from Microsoft called Most Valuable Professional "MVP" in Hyper-V. This special designation sees him being part of an elite group of 75 others in the world. He also holds over 50 Microsoft Certifications in various technology areas.

Dave has successfully completed over 40 projects with his teams in the past 5 years alone. Many of these project come as repeat business from the same clients over and over again. Dave is also an upstanding member of the community and believes in "Working Hard, Playing Hard and sharing success with others less fortunate."



Sami Laiho

Senior Technical Fellow, Adminize.com

Sami Laiho is one of the world's leading professionals in the Windows OS. Sami has been working with and teaching OS troubleshooting, management and security for 20 years. Sami's session was evaluated as the best session at TechEd Europe and TechEd North America 2014.



Bruce Mackenzie-Low

Systems Software Engineer, Hewlett-Packard Company

Bruce Mackenzie-Low, MCSE/MCSA is a master consultant at HP providing 3rd level worldwide support on Microsoft Windows based products specializing in Clusters and Crash Dump Analysis. With over 25 years of computing experience at Digital, Compaq and HP, Bruce is a well-known resource for troubleshooting highly complex problems involving

clusters, storage, networking and internals. He has taught extensively throughout his career always leaving his audience energized with his enthusiasm for technology.



Kunal D Mehta

Author, Pluralsight

Kunal D Mehta is a Microsoft and VMware certified IT Pro specializing in Microsoft based Core Infrastructure solutions.

He has trained over half a dozen SI partner companies in India on Server 2012 and Private Cloud solutions covering over two thousand people through in-person events and several other thousands through his Pluralsight courses. He has a Dell PowerEdge R420 rack server at home where he practices all his IT stuff. Also loves geeky computer jokes!

When he is not doing his geeky thing, he likes to hang out with friends to play a game of snooker or bowling. He also loves watching all types of movies, going out on long drives on the highway, listening to soothing music, and playing pranks on people.



Andy Milford

CEO, RDPSoft

Andy Milford is a veteran software entrepreneur in the Windows networking and security space. Prior to founding RDPSoft, Andy was the CEO and founder of a Windows event log management company, Dorian Software Creations, Inc., which was acquired by Ipswitch Software in 2009. While at Ipswitch, Andy served as Vice President of Business Intelligence Products and was responsible for expansion of the log management and similar product lines. Andy left Ipswitch in 2012 and founded RDPSoft to begin development on Remote Desktop Reporter, a comprehensive metric tracking and reporting solution for server based computing platforms like Microsoft RDS, Citrix, and VMWare Horizon View. Similar to his approach

CONFERENCE SPEAKERS (continued)

at Dorian Software, Andy believes that the SBC market can be improved by creating easy-to-use and affordable tools for small and medium sized businesses.



Mark Minasi

IT Consultant, Author, Speaker, MR&D

Mark Minasi is a best-selling author, popular technology columnist, commentator, keynote speaker, and IT consultant. He first got the chance to play with a computer at a university class in 1973. At that time, he learned two things:

- First, computers are neat. (People still said “neat” back in 1973. Hey, it was back in the 20th Century.)
- Second, many technical people are very nice folks, but they can sure put you to sleep in an instant while explaining technical things. Mark transformed those two insights into a career making computers and networking easier and more fun to understand. He’s done that by writing over a thousand computer columns, several dozen best-selling technical books, and explaining operating system and networking planning, installation, maintenance and repair to crowds from two to two thousand.

Mark is probably best known for his Mastering Windows Server and Complete PC Upgrade and Maintenance Guide books, both of which have seen more than 12 editions and sold over a million copies. Mark’s humorous, provocative and yet informative style makes him a favorite of audiences around the world. Mark’s firm, MR&D, is based in Pungo, a town in Virginia’s Tidewater area which is distinguished by having one and only one traffic light.



John O'Neill, Sr.

Chief Technologist, AWS Solutions

During his 20+ years in the IT industry, John has enjoyed the opportunity to work as a consultant, architect, executive, speaker, and author. He’s been involved in multi-national networking, messaging, and communications projects as well as finding solutions for small mom and pop shops allowing them to use technology to increase business opportunity and decrease operational complexity.

John is a contributing editor for the Petri.co.il online community. In addition, he has authored material for both Thomson-Reuters’ Aspatore Books and Exec Blueprints publications. He also develops exciting technology training courses for the leader in IT training, Pluralsight.

John often speaks at IT events around the nation. Recently he has been a featured presenter on innovative technology solutions for the enterprise at conferences such as TechMentor, Cloud and Virtualization Live! 360, the NEOSA CIO Summit, and the NorthEast Ohio Technology Summit. When he’s not presenting at a conference, John can often be found leading informative webinars.

John is proud to be honored as a multi-year Microsoft MVP and for receiving NEOSA’s CIO of the Year Award.



Michael O'Neill

Senior Premier Field Engineer, Microsoft

Mike endeavors to empower engineers as much as possible with sharing of information and overall IT knowledge. He is currently a Microsoft Senior Premier Field Engineer (PFE) focusing on Exchange, O365, and Active Directory. With ongoing delivers of Active Directory and Exchange Risk Assessment Programs, and Exchange workshops including: Exchange PowerShell, Administration and

troubleshooting, Migration courses, and the O365: Exchange Administration and Configuration course. He is continually looking for new methods to help improve IT engineer’s efficiency and knowledge about Exchange and AD. Mike is also a contributing editor to the Exchange Team Blog site (eHelo) <http://blogs.technet.com/b/exchange/> and occasional posts to his general TechNet blog <http://blogs.technet.com/b/mconeill/>



Matthew B. Parks, Sr.

Director of Information Technology, PACE Center for Girls

Matthew is an IT Professional, Consultant, Blogger, IT Instructor and Presenter. An IT professional since 1995, he has many industry recognized certifications. He works as the Director of Information Technology for PACE Center for Girls, Inc., a nationally recognized state-wide prevention program for adolescent at-risk girls. He oversees PACE’s Information Technology for 20 PACE location across Florida and growing. Matthew advises the Executive Leadership Team, local PACE Executive Directors, and PACE staff members and provides cutting edge, safe, and reliable technology services to support our mission – Believing the Empowerment Girls. Matthew has supported varies client software, Operating Systems and hardware for a multitude for clients, ranging from individual customers to small businesses to enterprises. Since coming to PACE, Matthew managed the technology migration of 18 independent phone and information networks into a single unified VoIP/MPLS networking, increasing WAN speeds 10 fold. He led PACE’s migration of all data-center, remote servers and all users to modern computer hardware, while migrating to Windows 8, Office 2010 and Server 2012, and building a modern IT department, all in an 8 month period. An in-demand, energetic Technology presenter and has given presentations for conferences such as Tech Mentor Las Vegas 2011 and Tech Mentor Orlando 2013. Matthew can also be found blogging, Straight up Geeksta and via @MatthewBParksSr. Whether Hardware, Software, Networking, Audio/Visual,

CONFERENCE SPEAKERS (continued)

Home Theater or Telephony, he is both dedicated and evangelistic about his craft in addition to being enthusiastic about sharing his knowledge. In fact, a signature of Matthew's presentations is his ability to simplify or "Caveman" some of the more complex subjects in IT using simile to the familiar, the everyday and the applicable. Matthew currently resides in Jacksonville, Florida.



Neil Peterson

Senior Premier Field Engineer, Microsoft

Neil Peterson is a Senior Premier Field Engineer based out of Houston TX. While his primary area of support is with System

Center Orchestrator and System Center Configuration Manager, Neil is also involved in all aspects of many virtualization and private cloud / automation projects. Neil blogs about his learnings from these projects at <http://blogs.technet.com/neil>.



Mike Pfeiffer

Ecosystem Solutions Architect, Amazon Web Services

Mike Pfeiffer is an accomplished IT architect, consultant, and conference

speaker, with over fifteen years of experience in the tech industry. He's published books, blogs, white papers, and training courses on a variety of topics related to infrastructure architecture, deployment automation, configuration management, and more. You can find him on twitter as @mike_pfeiffer.



Greg Shields

TechMentor Conference Co-Chair, Author Evangelist, Pluralsight

Greg Shields is Author Evangelist with Pluralsight, and is a globally-recognized expert on systems management, virtualization, and cloud technologies. A multiple-year recipient of the

Microsoft MVP, VMware vExpert, and Citrix CTP awards, Greg is a contributing editor for *Redmond* magazine and *Virtualization Review* Magazine, and is a frequent speaker at IT conferences worldwide. Reach him on Twitter at @ConcentratdGreg.



Michael Steineke

Solution Lead, Concurrency, Inc.

Michael Steineke is a Windows Server Platform expert with an industry-wide reputation as an innovator in the areas of

Windows Server, storage and network architecture, disaster recovery, datacenter configuration, and SQL Server. His thought leadership has led to six consecutive Microsoft Cluster MVP awards and regular speaking engagements.

Currently he is an Infrastructure Architect, and Solution Lead for SQL Server and Business Intelligence at Concurrency, Inc.

Steineke served as Vice President of Information Technology for Edgenet – an industry leader in collecting, structuring and delivering product data. Since 1997, Michael designed and implemented a private cloud infrastructure for scalability, high availability and disaster recovery – employing his expert knowledge of Windows Clustering including geographically dispersed clusters.

Michael has spoken on subjects like Windows Server 2012 R2, clustering, Hyper-V, SQL Server, and multi-site clusters at user groups and conferences of all sizes, including SQL Saturdays, SQL PASS Summit, Microsoft TechEd, and the MVP Summit held at Microsoft.



Orin Thomas

Author / Server Administrator, Pluralsight

Orin Thomas is an MVP, a Microsoft Regional Director, an MCT, and has a string of Microsoft MCSE and MCITP certifications.

He has written more than 30 books for Microsoft Press on topics including Windows Server, Windows Client,

Azure, System Center, Exchange Server, Security, and SQL Server. He is an author at Pluralsight and is a contributing editor at Windows IT Pro. He has been working in IT since the early 1990's and regularly speaks at conferences in Australia and around the world. Orin founded and runs the Melbourne System Center, Security, and Infrastructure Group and is a candidate in the Doctor in Information Technology program at Charles Sturt University. You can follow him on twitter at <http://twitter.com/orinthomas>



Timothy Warner

Author/Evangelist, Pluralsight

Timothy Warner is an IT professional and technical trainer based in Nashville, TN. A computer enthusiast who authored his first

BASIC program in 1981 on the Radio Shack TRS-80 Model III, Tim has worked in nearly every facet of IT, from systems administration and software architecture to technical writing and training.



Clint Wyckoff

Microsoft Product Strategy Evangelist Veeam Software

Clint Wyckoff is a Product Strategy Evangelist at Veeam focused on all things

Microsoft. He is an avid technologist and virtualization fanatic with over a decade of Enterprise Data Center Architecture experience. Clint is an energetic and engaging speaker that places a large emphasis on solving real-world IT challenges. Additionally, he has been awarded VMware vExpert designation for 2015 and is also a VMCE and MCP. Follow Clint on Twitter @ClintWyckoff or @Veeam.

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- Kyle Johnston,
Frontline Computer Services

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not trying to sell me something.”**

- Ricardo Falanga, Forum Info-Tech

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- Gabriel Diaz, Oxnard Housing Authority

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- Carolyn Bland, WVSOM