

vSphere PowerCLI Administration Guide

VMware vSphere PowerCLI 4.0 Update 1

EN-000153-01

vmware[®]

You can find the most up-to-date technical documentation on the VMware Web site at:

<http://www.vmware.com/support/>

The VMware Web site also provides the latest product updates.

If you have comments about this documentation, submit your feedback to:

docfeedback@vmware.com

Copyright © 2009, 2010 VMware, Inc. All rights reserved. This product is protected by U.S. and international copyright and intellectual property laws. VMware products are covered by one or more patents listed at <http://www.vmware.com/go/patents>.

VMware is a registered trademark or trademark of VMware, Inc. in the United States and/or other jurisdictions. All other marks and names mentioned herein may be trademarks of their respective companies.

VMware, Inc.
3401 Hillview Ave.
Palo Alto, CA 94304
www.vmware.com

Contents

About This Book	5
1 Getting Started with vSphere PowerCLI	7
Introduction to the vSphere PowerCLI Cmdlets	7
Command-Line Syntax	7
Launching vSphere PowerCLI	8
List All vSphere PowerCLI Cmdlets	8
Displaying Help for Any Cmdlet	8
Connecting to a Server	8
2 Basic Cmdlet Usage	11
PowerShell Cmdlet Usage	11
Pipelines	11
Wildcards	11
Common Parameters	12
vSphere PowerCLI Specific Cmdlet Usage	12
Specifying Objects	12
Managing Default Servers	12
Running PowerCLI Cmdlets Asynchronously	13
Examples of Basic Usage of the vSphere PowerCLI Cmdlets	14
Connecting to a Server	14
Basic Virtual Machine Operations	14
Basic Virtual Machine Host Operations	15
3 Advanced Cmdlet Usage	17
Examples of Advanced Cmdlet Usage	17
Using the vSphere PowerCLI Cmdlets	17
Create vSphere Objects	17
Use Virtual Machine Templates	18
Create Virtual Machines Using an XML Specification File	19
Create Snapshots	19
Update the Resource Configuration Settings of a Virtual Machine	20
List Various Virtual Machine Hosts and Displaying Their Properties	20
Change the Host Advanced Configuration Settings	21
Migrate a Virtual Machine	21
Use Virtual Machine Host Profiles	21
Manage Statistics and Statistics Intervals	22
Configure the NIC Teaming Policy of a Virtual Switch	23
Manage Virtual Appliances	23
Manage Guest Networks	24
Work with Host Storages and iSCSI HBA Devices	25
Manage PCI and SCSI Passthrough Devices	25

Web Service Access Cmdlets	26
Filter vSphere Objects	26
Populate a View Object	26
Update the State of a Server-Side Object	26
Mixed Usage of vSphere PowerCLI and Web Service Access Cmdlets	27
The Inventory Provider	28
Basic Functions of the Inventory Provider	28
The Datastore Provider	29
Basic functions of the Datastore Provider	29

About This Book

The *vSphere PowerCLI Administration Guide* provides information about using the VMware vSphere PowerCLI cmdlets (pronounced “commandlets”) set that ships with vSphere PowerCLI for managing, monitoring, automating, and handling life-cycle operations for VMware vSphere components—virtual machines, datacenters, storage, networks, and so on.

Intended Audience

This book is intended for anyone who needs to use vSphere PowerCLI. The information in this book is written for administrators who are familiar with virtual machine technology and Windows PowerShell. There are two categories of users for vSphere PowerCLI:

- **Basic** administrators can use PowerShell commands included in vSphere PowerCLI to manage their VMware infrastructure from the command line.
- **Advanced** administrators can develop PowerShell scripts that may be reused by other administrators or integrated into other applications.

NOTE All vSphere PowerCLI users are expected to be familiar with the details of VMware vSphere administration and the Windows operating system. Solution developers are expected to be familiar with the .NET infrastructure and the VIM object model as well.

Document Feedback

VMware welcomes your suggestions for improving our documentation. If you have comments, send your feedback to docfeedback@vmware.com.

Technical Support and Education Resources

The following sections describe the technical support resources available to you. To access the current version of this book and other books, go to <http://www.vmware.com/support/pubs>.

Online and Telephone Support

To use online support to submit technical support requests, view your product and contract information, and register your products, go to <http://www.vmware.com/support>.

Customers with appropriate support contracts should use telephone support for the fastest response on priority 1 issues. Go to http://www.vmware.com/support/phone_support.html.

Support Offerings

To find out how VMware support offerings can help meet your business needs, go to <http://www.vmware.com/support/services>.

VMware Professional Services

VMware Education Services courses offer extensive hands-on labs, case study examples, and course materials designed to be used as on-the-job reference tools. Courses are available onsite, in the classroom, and live online. For onsite pilot programs and implementation best practices, VMware Consulting Services provides offerings to help you assess, plan, build, and manage your virtual environment. To access information about education classes, certification programs, and consulting services, go to <http://www.vmware.com/services>.

Getting Started with vSphere PowerCLI

1

vSphere PowerCLI provides easy-to-use C# and PowerShell interface to VMware vSphere APIs. It ships with a number of cmdlets that you can use to perform various administration tasks on VMware vSphere components. This chapter explains how to get started using the vSphere PowerCLI cmdlets.

This chapter covers the following topics:

- [“Introduction to the vSphere PowerCLI Cmdlets”](#) on page 7
- [“Launching vSphere PowerCLI”](#) on page 8

Introduction to the vSphere PowerCLI Cmdlets

Microsoft PowerShell is both a command-line and scripting environment, designed for Windows. It leverages the .NET object model and provides administrators with management and automation capabilities. Working with PowerShell, like with any other console environment, is done by typing commands. In PowerShell commands are called cmdlets, which term we will use throughout this guide.

vSphere PowerCLI 4.0 Update 1 ships with more than 160 PowerShell-based cmdlets. The toolkit also includes 2 .NET cmdlets for use through PowerShell—the Web Service Access Cmdlets. For more information about the .NET cmdlets, see [“Web Service Access Cmdlets”](#) on page 26.

vSphere PowerCLI cmdlets are created to answer the specific needs of the VMware vSphere administration and management. All vSphere PowerCLI cmdlets are found in the `VMware.VimAutomation.Core` snapin.

Command-Line Syntax

vSphere PowerCLI command-line syntax is the same as generic PowerShell syntax.

PowerShell cmdlets use a consistent verb-noun structure, where the verb specifies the action and the noun specifies the object to operate on. PowerShell cmdlets follow consistent naming patterns, which makes it easy to figure out how to construct a command if you know the object you want to work with.

All command categories take parameters and arguments. A parameter starts with a hyphen and is used to control the behavior of the command. An argument is a data value consumed by the command.

A simple PowerShell command looks like the following:

```
command -parameter1 -parameter2 argument1 -argument2
```

Launching vSphere PowerCLI

To launch vSphere PowerCLI from the **Start** menu, click **Programs > VMware > VMware vSphere PowerCLI > VMware vSphere PowerCLI**.

The script configuration file `Initialize-VIToolkitEnvironment.ps1` is loaded automatically. This file is located in the `Scripts` folder in the vSphere PowerCLI installation directory. Administrators can edit and extend the script to define cmdlets aliases, configure the environment, or set vSphere PowerCLI start up actions.

NOTE Instead of launching the vSphere PowerCLI console, administrators can also access the vSphere PowerCLI snapin directly from other tools, like PowerShell Plus or PowerGUI, by running:

```
Add-PSSnapin VMware.VimAutomation.Core
```

In this case, the `Initialize-VIToolkitEnvironment.ps1` script configuration file is not started automatically. To load it, type its name in the console window without specifying the path:

```
Initialize-VIToolkitEnvironment.ps1
```

Loading the file provides access to vSphere PowerCLI cmdlets aliases, like `Get-VC`, `Get-ESX`, and to other configuration settings.

List All vSphere PowerCLI Cmdlets

If you are new to vSphere PowerCLI, one thing you want to know is what cmdlets are available to you. To get a list of all vSphere PowerCLI cmdlets, use the `Get-Command` cmdlet with the `-PSSnapin` parameter in the following way:

```
Get-Command -PSSnapin VMware.VimAutomation.Core
```

The vSphere PowerCLI cmdlets are listed in the console window as one long, scrolling topic. You can view them a single page at a time by piping the results of the `Get-Command` cmdlet to the `more` option in the following way:

```
Get-Command -PSSnapin VMware.VimAutomation.Core | more
```

Displaying Help for Any Cmdlet

You can get help for a specific cmdlet by supplying the `Get-Help` command in the vSphere PowerCLI Console. For example, for information on the `Add-VMHost` cmdlet, run the `Get-Help` command as follows:

```
Get-Help Add-VMHost
```

For more detailed information, add the `-full` parameter:

```
Get-Help Add-VMHost -full
```

Alternatively, you can use the `help` alias with any cmdlet:

```
help Add-VMHost
```

To view detailed help information page by page, pipe the `help` cmdlet to the `more` cmdlet:

```
help Add-VMHost -full | more
```

Connecting to a Server

To run specific vSphere PowerCLI cmdlets and perform administration or monitoring tasks, first establish a connection to an ESX or a vCenter Server.

In the vSphere PowerCLI console window, type the following cmdlet:

```
Connect-VIServer -Server <Server_Address>
```

where `<Server_Address>` is the IP address or DNS name of the vCenter Server or ESX host. When prompted, enter your user name and password to authenticate with the server.

Another way is to put all information on the command line at once, using the `Protocol`, `User`, and `Password` parameters. For example:

```
Connect-VIServer -Server 192.168.10.10 -Protocol http -User admin -Password sck9p84
```

After a connection is established, you are ready to run the vSphere PowerCLI cmdlets.

For example, you can start a specific virtual machine using the following cmdlet:

```
Get-VM -name <virtual_machine_name> | Start-VM
```

For example, to run a virtual machine named `MyVM`, run:

```
Get-VM -name MyVM | Start-VM
```


Basic Cmdlet Usage

This chapter explores the basics of the vSphere PowerCLI cmdlets usage.

The chapter discusses the following topics:

- [“PowerShell Cmdlet Usage”](#) on page 11
- [“Examples of Basic Usage of the vSphere PowerCLI Cmdlets”](#) on page 14

NOTE This chapter does not discuss PowerShell basics. You are expected to have knowledge of PowerShell and its command-line and scripting conventions.

PowerShell Cmdlet Usage

In this section, some of the cmdlets syntax and usage basic concepts are described.

Pipelines

A pipeline is a series of commands separated by the pipe operator `|`. Each command in the pipeline receives an object from the previous command, performs some operation on it, and then passes it along to the next command in the pipeline. Objects are output from the pipeline as soon as they become available. You can type a pipeline on a single line, or spread it across multiple lines. You can cycle backwards through command history using the up arrow, so it is easier to repeat pipelines if you type them on a single line.

Wildcards

PowerShell has a number of pattern matching operators called wildcards, which work on strings. For example, to display all files with a `.txt` extension, run:

```
dir *.txt
```

In this example, the asterisk `*` operator matches any combination of characters.

Wildcard patterns allow you to specify character ranges as well. For example, to display all files that start with the letter S or T and have a `.txt` extension, run:

```
dir [st]*.txt
```

You can use the question mark `?` wildcard to match any single character within a sequence of characters. For example, to display all `.txt` files whose names consist of 'string' and one more character in the end, run:

```
dir string?.txt
```

All wildcard expressions can be used with the vSphere PowerCLI cmdlets.

Common Parameters

The Windows PowerShell engine implements a set of reserved parameter names, referred to as common parameters. All PowerShell cmdlets, including the vSphere PowerCLI cmdlets, support them. Common parameters are: `Verbose`, `Debug`, `ErrorAction`, `ErrorVariable`, `OutVariable`, and `OutBuffer`. Respectively, the following aliases are reserved for these parameters: `vb`, `db`, `ea`, `ev`, `ov`, and `ob`.

In addition, there are two risk mitigation parameters in PowerShell: `WhatIf` and `Confirm`. `WhatIf` is used when you want to see the effects of a command without executing it. `Confirm` is used when a cmdlet performs an operation that stops a program or service or deletes data.

For more details on the usage of common parameters, use the following command:

```
Get-Help about_CommonParameters
```

vSphere PowerCLI Specific Cmdlet Usage

This section explores some specific concepts of the vSphere PowerCLI cmdlets.

Specifying Objects

In vSphere PowerCLI, all parameters that take as arguments inventory objects (`Cluster`, `Datacenter`, `Folder`, `ResourcePool`, `Template`, `VirtualMachine`, `VMHost`, `VirtualSwitch`), `datastores`, `OSCustomizationSpec` objects, and `VIserver` objects can be specified by strings and wildcards. This is called Object-by-Name selection (OBN). If a provided object name is not recognized, an OBN failure occurs. In such cases, a non-terminating error is generated and the cmdlet is executed ignoring the invalid name.

Example 2-1. An OBN Failure

```
Set-VM -VM "VM1", "VM2", "VM3" -Server $server1, $server2 -MemoryMB 512
```

If the VM2 virtual machine does not exist on either of the specified servers, a non-terminating error is thrown and the command is applied only on the VM1 and VM2 virtual machines.

For more details on OBN, use the following command:

```
help about_OBN
```

Instead of assigning an object name to a cmdlet parameter, users can pass the object through a pipeline or a variable.

NOTE In vSphere PowerCLI, passing strings as pipeline input is not supported.

For example, the following three lines are interchangeable:

```
Remove-VM -VM "Win XP SP2"
```

```
Get-VM -Name "Win XP SP2" | Remove-VM
```

```
Remove-VM -VM (Get-VM -Name "Win XP SP2")
```

Managing Default Servers

vSphere PowerCLI cmdlets run on default vSphere servers, if no target servers can be determined from the provided parameters.

When you connect to a vSphere server using `Connect-VIserver`, the server connection is stored in the `$DefaultVIServers` array variable. This variable contains all connected servers for the current PowerCLI session. To remove a server from the `$DefaultVIServers` variable, you can either use `Disconnect-Server` to close all active connections to this server, or modify the value of `$DefaultVIServers` manually.

vSphere PowerCLI allows you to work with a single default server instead of using multiple default servers. In this case, the `$DefaultVIServers` variable always contains the last connected server, and its value is updated every time you connect to a new server. Working with a single default server is deprecated and will be removed in a following release.

To switch to a single default server mode

- 1 Run `Get-PowerCLIConfiguration` to view the actual PowerCLI configuration:

```
Get-PowerCLIConfiguration
```

- 2 Run `Set-PowerCLIConfiguration` to change the default server mode to `Single`:

```
Set-PowerCLIConfiguration -DefaultVIServerMode Single
```

A lot of PowerCLI cmdlets have a parameter named `Server`. The `Server` parameter allows you to run the cmdlet on servers different from the default ones. This parameter takes both server names and `VIserver` objects.

Running PowerCLI Cmdlets Asynchronously

By default, vSphere PowerCLI cmdlets return an output only after completion of the requested tasks. If you want a cmdlet to return to the command line immediately, without waiting for the tasks to complete, you can specify the `RunAsync` parameter. In this case, the cmdlet returns `Task` objects instead of its usual output.

The `Status` property of a returned `Task` object contains a snapshot of the task's initial state. This state is not automatically updated and has the values `Error`, `Queued`, `Running`, or `Success`. You can refresh a task state by retrieving the task object with the `Get-Task` cmdlet. If you want to observe the progress of a running task and wait for its completion before initiating other commands, use the `Wait-Task` cmdlet.

Example 2-2. Running Remove-VM With and Without the RunAsync Parameter

```
Remove-VM $vmList
```

The command returns with no output when all virtual machines stored in the `$vmList` variable are removed (simultaneously or not).

```
Remove-VM $vmList -RunAsync
```

The command returns immediately and the output consists of one or more `Task` objects.

In vSphere PowerCLI, the `RunAsync` parameter affects only the cmdlets' invocation and does not control whether the initiated tasks run consecutively or in parallel. For example, the `Remove-VM` cmdlet might remove the specified virtual machines simultaneously or consecutively depending on the vSphere PowerCLI internal design. To make sure that tasks initiated by a cmdlet run consecutively, run the cmdlet in a loop, each time applying it to a single object.

Example 2-3. Removing Virtual Machines Consecutively

```
foreach ($vm in $vmList)
{
    Remove-VM $vm
}
```

Examples of Basic Usage of the vSphere PowerCLI Cmdlets

This section provides some examples of basic vSphere PowerCLI cmdlets usage.

Connecting to a Server

The following cmdlet establishes a connection to a local server and asks for credentials (user name and password), as they are not passed as parameters:

```
Connect-VIServer -Server <VI_server_address>
```

For example:

```
Connect-VIServer -Server esx3.example.com
```

NOTE If a proxy server is used for the connection, the administrator should verify that it is configured properly, so that the connection is kept alive long enough not to break the long running vSphere PowerCLI tasks. To remove a proxy, run the following command:

```
Set-PowerCLIConfiguration -ProxyPolicy NoProxy
```

In vSphere PowerCLI, you can have more than one connections to the same server. To disconnect from a server, you must close all active connections to this server running the `Disconnect-VIServer` cmdlet.

Basic Virtual Machine Operations

The following scenario shows how to retrieve information of available virtual machines and their operation system. It also demonstrates how to shut down a virtual machine guest operating system and to power off the virtual machine using vSphere PowerCLI cmdlets.

To manage virtual machines

- 1 After establishing a connection to a server, list all virtual machines on the target system:

```
Get-VM
```

- 2 Save the name and the power state properties of the virtual machines in the MyRP resource pool into a file named `myVMProperties.txt`:

```
$pool = Get-ResourcePool MyRP
```

```
Get-VM -Location $pool | Select-Object Name, PowerState > myVMProperties.txt
```

- 3 Start the MyVM virtual machine:

```
Get-VM MyVM | Start-VM
```

- 4 Retrieve information of the guest OS of the MyVM virtual machine:

```
Get-VMGuest MyVM | fc
```

- 5 Shutdown the OS of the MyVM virtual machine:

```
Shutdown-VMGuest MyVM
```

- 6 Power off the MyVM virtual machine:

```
Stop-VM MyVM
```

- 7 Move the virtual machine `mMyVM` from the ABC host to the XYZ host:

```
Get-VM -Name MyVM -Location (Get-VMHost ABC) | Move-VM -Destination (Get-VMHost XYZ)
```

NOTE If the virtual machine you want to move across hosts is powered on, it must be located on a shared storage registered as a datastore on both the original and the new host.

Basic Virtual Machine Host Operations

The following examples illustrate some basic operations with virtual machine hosts, like adding a host to a vCenter Server, putting a host into maintenance mode, shutting down, and removing a host from the vCenter Server.

To add a standalone host to the vCenter Server

- 1 List all hosts on the target VMware vSphere server that you have established a connection with:

```
Get-VMHost
```

- 2 Add the MyHost standalone host:

```
Add-VMHost -Name MyHost -Location (Get-Datacenter Main) -User root -Password pass
```

To activate maintenance mode for a host

- 1 Save the MyHost host object as a variable:

```
$myHost = Get-VMHost -Name MyHost
```

- 2 Retrieve the cluster to which MyHost belongs and save the cluster object as a variable:

```
$hostCluster = Get-Cluster -VMHost $myHost
```

- 3 Initialize a task that activates maintenance mode for the MyHost host and save the task object as a variable:

```
$updateHostTask = Set-VMHost -VMHost $myHost -State "Maintenance" -RunAsync
```

NOTE If the host is not automated or is partially automated and has powered on virtual machines running on it, you must specify the `RunAsync` parameter and wait until all powered on virtual machines are relocated or powered off before applying DRS recommendations.

- 4 Retrieve and apply the recommendations generated by DRS:

```
Get-DrsRecommendation -Cluster $hostCluster | where {$_.Reason -eq "Host is entering maintenance mode"} | Apply-DrsRecommendation
```

- 5 Retrieve the task output object and save it as a variable:

```
$myUpdatedHost = Wait-Task $updateHostTask
```


Advanced Cmdlet Usage

This chapter provides examples of advanced usage of the vSphere PowerCLI cmdlets.

The chapter discusses these topics:

- [“Examples of Advanced Cmdlet Usage”](#) on page 17
- [“The Inventory Provider”](#) on page 28
- [“The Datastore Provider”](#) on page 29

Examples of Advanced Cmdlet Usage

This section contains examples of using the vSphere PowerCLI cmdlets, the Web Service Access cmdlets, the datastore provider, and the inventory provider functionality for retrieving and managing VMware vSphere objects.

Using the vSphere PowerCLI Cmdlets

The following examples illustrate how to use advanced functionality provided by the vSphere PowerCLI cmdlets:

Create vSphere Objects

The following scenario illustrates common methods for creating folders, datacenters, clusters, resource pools, and virtual machines using vSphere PowerCLI cmdlets.

To create inventory objects

- 1 Establish a connection to a vCenter Server system:

```
Connect-VIServer -Server <Server_Address>
```

For example:

```
Connect-VIServer -Server 192.168.10.10
```

When prompted, provide the administrator's user name and password to authenticate access on the server.

- 2 Get the inventory root folder and create a new folder called `MainFolder` in it:

```
$mainFolder = Get-Folder -NoRecursion | New-Folder -Name MainFolder
```

Note that the information about the location of the new folder is specified through the pipeline.

- 3 Create a new datacenter called `MyDC` in the `MainFolder` folder:

```
New-Datacenter -Location $mainFolder -Name MyDC
```

- 4 Create a folder called MyFolder01 under MyDC:

```
Get-Datacenter MyDC | New-Folder -Name MyFolder01

$myFolder01 = Get-Folder -Name MyFolder01
```

NOTE Search in PowerShell is not case-sensitive.

- 5 Create a new cluster MyCluster01 in the MuFolder01 folder:

```
New-Cluster -Location $MyFolder01 -Name MyCluster01 -DrsEnabled -DrsAutomationLevel
FullyAutomated
```

NOTE DRS (Distributed Resource Scheduler) is a facility that allows automatic allocation of cluster resources.

- 6 Add a host in the cluster using the Add-VMHost command, which prompts you for credentials:

```
$myHost01 = Add-VMHost -Name 10.23.112.345 -Location ( Get-Cluster MyCluster01 )
```

The parentheses interpolate the object returned by the Get-Cluster command into Location parameter.

- 7 Create a resource pool in the cluster's root resource pool:

```
$myClusterRootRP = Get-ResourcePool -Location ( Get-Cluster MyCluster01 ) -Name Resources

New-ResourcePool -Location $clusterRootRP -Name MyRP01 -CpuExpandableReservation $true
-CpuReservationMhz 500 -CpuSharesLevel high -MemExpandableReservation $true -MemReservationMB
500 -MemSharesLevel high
```

- 8 Create a virtual machine synchronously:

```
New-VM -Name MyVM1 -VMHost $myHost01 -ResourcePool ( Get-ResourcePool MyRP01 ) -DiskMB 4000
-MemoryMB 256
```

- 9 Create a virtual machine asynchronously:

```
$vmCreationTask = New-VM -Name MyVM2 -VMHost $myHost01 -ResourcePool (Get-ResourcePool
MyRP01) -DiskMB 4000 -MemoryMB 256 -RunAsync
```

The -RunAsync parameter specifies that the command will be executed asynchronously. This means that in contrast to a synchronous operation, you do not have to wait for the process to complete before supplying the next command in the command line.

Use Virtual Machine Templates

A virtual machine template is a reusable image created from a virtual machine. The template, as a derivative of the source virtual machine, includes virtual hardware components, an installed guest operating system, and software applications.

This procedure illustrates how to create virtual machines templates and convert them to virtual machines. The example uses the VMware vSphere objects created in the previous example.

To create and use virtual machine templates

- 1 Add an additional 2GB hard disk to the MyVM2 virtual machine:

```
$vmCreationTask | Wait-Task | New-HardDisk -CapacityKB ( 2 * 1024 * 1024 )
```

- 2 Create a template from the MyVM1 virtual machine:

```
New-Template -VM MyVM1 -Name MyVM1Template -Location (Get-Datacenter MyDC )
```

NOTE Note that on VirtualCenter 2.0 and VirtualCenter 2.5, the virtual machine must be powered off before creating a template based on it. On VirtualCenter 2.5 Update 2, the virtual machine can be powered off or powered on, but not suspended.

- 3 Convert this template for a use by a virtual machine named MyVM3:

```
Get-Template MyVM1Template | Set-Template -ToVM -Name MyVM3
```

- 4 Create a template from the MyVM2 virtual machine:

```
New-Template -VM MyVM2 -Name MyVM2Template -Location (Get-Datacenter MyDC )
```

- 5 Convert this template to a virtual machine named MyVM4:

```
Get-Template MyVM2Template | Set-Template -ToVM -Name MyVM4
```

- 6 Move the virtual machines into the MyRP01 resource pool:

```
Get-VM MyVM? | Move-VM -Destination ( Get-ResourcePool MyRP01 )
```

Use ? as a wildcard to match just one symbol. The command returns all virtual machines whose names start with MyVM and have one more symbol at the end. In this example, MyVM1, MyVM2, MyVM3, and MyVM4 are retrieved and moved into the MyRP01 resource pool.

- 7 Start the virtual machines in the MyRP01 resource pool:

```
Get-ResourcePool MyRP01 | Get-VM | Start-VM
```

Create Virtual Machines Using an XML Specification File

This example illustrates how to create virtual machines in accordance with the specification provided in an XML file.

Consider a myVM.xml file, with the following content:

```
<CreateVM>
  <VM>
    <Name>MyVM1</Name>
    <HDDCapacity>10000</HDDCapacity>
  </VM>
  <VM>
    <Name>MyVM2</Name>
    <HDDCapacity>10000</HDDCapacity>
  </VM>
</CreateVM>
```

- 1 Read the content of the myVM.xml file:

```
[xml]$s = Get-Content myVM.xml
```

- 2 Create the virtual machines:

```
$s.CreateVM.VM | where { New-VM -VMHost 192.168.10.11 -Name $_.Name -Disk MB $_.HDDCapacity}
```

Create Snapshots

A snapshot captures the memory, disk, and settings state of a virtual machine at a particular moment. When you revert to a snapshot, you return all these items to the state they were in at the time you took that snapshot.

The following procedure illustrates taking a snapshot of virtual machines and then reverting the virtual machines to it.

To create and use snapshots

- 1 Take a snapshot of all virtual machines in the MyRP01 resource pool:

```
Get-ResourcePool MyRP01 | Get-VM | New-Snapshot -Name InitialSnapshot
```

The -Location parameter takes arguments of the VIContainer type, on which Cluster, Datacenter, Folder, ResourcePool, and VMHost object types are based. Therefore, the -Location parameter can use arguments of all these types.

- 2 Revert all virtual machines in the MyRP01 resource pool to the InitialSnapshot snapshot:

```
$VMs = Get-VM -Location ( Get-ResourcePool MyRP01 )
foreach( $vm in $VMs ) { Set-VM -VM $vm -Snapshot ( Get-Snapshot -VM $vm -Name
InitialSnapshot ) }
```

Update the Resource Configuration Settings of a Virtual Machine

The following procedure illustrates how to retrieve and modify the resource configuration properties of a virtual machine.

To update the resource configuration of a virtual machine

- 1 Establish a connection to an ESXi host by the `Connect-VIServer` command:

```
Connect-VIServer -Server 10.23.114.123
```

- 2 Retrieve the resource configuration for the MyVM1 virtual machine.:

```
Get-VMResourceConfiguration -VM ( Get-VM MyVM1 )
```

- 3 Display the disk share of the MyVM1 virtual machine:

```
Get-VMResourceConfiguration -VM ( Get-VM MyVM1 ) | Format-Custom -Property  
DiskResourceConfiguration
```

- 4 Change the memory share of the MyVM1 virtual machine to low:

```
Get-VM MyVM1 | Get-VMResourceConfiguration | Set-VMResourceConfiguration -MemSharesLevel low
```

- 5 Update the CPU share of the MyVM1 virtual machine to high:

```
Get-VM MyVM1 | Get-VMResourceConfiguration | Set-VMResourceConfiguration -CpuSharesLevel high
```

- 6 Change the disk share of the MyVM1 virtual machine to 100:

```
$myVM1 = Get-VM MyVM1
```

```
$myVM1disk = Get-HardDisk $myVM1
```

```
Get-VMResourceConfiguration $myVM1 | Set-VMResourceConfiguration -Disk $myVM1disk  
-DiskSharesLevel custom -NumDiskShares 100
```

List Various Virtual Machine Hosts and Displaying Their Properties

This scenario illustrates how to list all available virtual machine hosts in a datacenter and display their properties.

To list the available hosts and display their properties

- 1 List all virtual machine hosts that are part of the datacenter named MyDC:

```
Get-Datacenter MyDC | Get-VMHost | Format-Custom
```

- 2 Display the properties of the first virtual machine host in the datacenter:

```
Get-Datacenter MyDC | Get-VMHost | Select-Object -First 1 | Get-View | Format-Custom
```

- 3 Displays the Name and the OverallStatus properties of the virtual machine hosts in the MyDC datacenter:

```
Get-Datacenter MyDC | Get-VMHost | Get-View | Format-Table -Property Name, OverallStatus  
-AutoSize
```

- 4 Display all virtual machine hosts and their properties, and save the results to a file:

```
Get-Datacenter "MyDC" | Get-VMHost | Get-View | Format-Custom | Out-File -FilePath hosts.txt
```

- 5 List the virtual machine hosts that are in maintenance mode and can be configured for VMotion operations:

```
Get-VMHost -State maintenance | Get-View | Where-Object -FilterScript { $_.capability -ne  
$null -and $_.capability.vmotionSupported }
```

Change the Host Advanced Configuration Settings

This procedure shows how to migrate virtual machines from one host to another.

To change the host advanced configuration settings

- 1 Change the migration time-out for the MyESXHost1 virtual machine host:


```
Get-VMHost MyESXHost1 | Set-VMHostAdvancedConfiguration -Name Migrate.NetTimeout -Value ( [system.int32] 10 )
```
- 2 Enable making checksum of the virtual machines memory during the migration:


```
Get-VMHost MyESXHost1 | Set-VMHostAdvancedConfiguration -Name Migrate.MemChksum -Value ( [system.int32] 1 )
```
- 3 Get the MyESXHost1 virtual machine host migration settings:


```
$migrationSettings = Get-VMHost MyESXHost1 | Get-VMHostAdvancedConfiguration -Name Migrate.*
```
- 4 Apply the migration settings to MyESXHost2:


```
Set-VMHostAdvancedConfiguration -VMHost ( Get-VMHost MyESXHost2 ) -Hashtable $migrationSettings
```

Migrate a Virtual Machine

The following procedures illustrate how to migrate a virtual machine between hosts and datastores using the VMotion and Storage VMotion features.

To move a virtual machine using VMotion

- 1 Establish a connection to a server using the Connect-VIServer command:


```
Connect-VIServer -Server 10.23.111.235
```
- 2 Retrieve the MyVM1 virtual machine and move it to the host named ESXHost2:


```
Get-VM MyVM1 | Move-VM -Destination ( Get-VMHost ESXHost2 )
```

NOTE VMotion allows to move a virtual machine that is powered on from one host to another. The virtual machine must be stored on a datastore shared by the current and destination hosts, and the VMotion interfaces on the two hosts must be properly configured.

To move a virtual machine using Storage VMotion

- 1 Establish a connection to a server using the Connect-VIServer command:


```
Connect-VIServer -Server 10.23.111.235
```
- 2 Retrieve the MyVM1 virtual machine and move it to the datastore named MyDatastore2:


```
Get-VM VM1 | Move-VM -Datastore ( Get-Datastore MyDatastore2 )
```

NOTE Storage VMotion allows to move a virtual machine that is powered on from one datastore to another. The host on which the virtual machine is running must have access both to the datastore where the virtual machine is located and to the destination datastore.

Use Virtual Machine Host Profiles

This scenario illustrates how to get use of the virtual machine host profiles.

To create and apply host profiles

- 1 Establish a connection to a server using the Connect-VIServer command:


```
Connect-VIServer -Server 10.32.110.123
```

The server must be vCenter 4.0 or later. Earlier releases do not support host profiles.
- 2 Get the virtual machine host named MyHost01 and store it in the \$h variable:


```
$h = Get-VMHost MyHost01
```

- 3 Create a profile based on the MyHost01 virtual machine host:


```
New-VMHostProfile -Name MyHostProfile01 -Description "This is my test profile based on MyHost01." -ReferenceHost $h
```
- 4 Get the newly created virtual machine host profile:


```
$hp01 = ( Get-VMHostProfile -Name MyHostProfile01 )[0]
```
- 5 Change the description of the MyHostProfile01 host profile:


```
Set-VMHostProfile -Profile $hp01 -Description "This is my old test host profile based on MyHost01."
```
- 6 Get the MyHost02 virtual machine host, on which to apply the testProfile virtual machine host profile:


```
$myHost02 = Get-VMHost MyHost02
```
- 7 Associate the MyHost02 virtual machine host with the MyHostProfile01 host profile:


```
Set-VMHost -VMHost $myHost02 -Profile $hp01
```
- 8 Test if the MyHost02 host is compliant with the MyHostProfile01 profile:


```
Test-VMHostProfileCompliance -VMHost $myHost02
```

The output of this command contains the host's noncompliant settings, if any.
- 9 Apply the profile to the MyHost02 host:


```
$neededVariables = Apply-VMHostProfile -Entity $myHost02 -Profile $hp01 -Confirm:$false
```

The `$neededVariables` variable contains the names of all required variables and their default or current values, as returned by the server. Otherwise, the `$neededVariables` variable contains the name of the host on which the profile has been applied.
- 10 Export the MyHostProfile01 profile to a file:


```
Export-VMHostProfile -FilePath export.prf -Profile $hp01 -Force
```
- 11 Import a new profile from the `export.prf` file:


```
Import-VMHostProfile -FilePath export.prf -Name MyImportedProfile01
```
- 12 Delete the created profiles:


```
Get-VMHostProfile -Name "MyHostProfile01","MyImportedProfile01" | Remove-VMHostProfile -Confirm:$false
```

Manage Statistics and Statistics Intervals

This example scenario shows how to use the vSphere PowerCLI cmdlets to retrieve and manage inventory objects' statistics.

To create and manage statistics and statistics intervals

- 1 Establish a connection to a server by using the `Connect-VIServer` command:


```
Connect-VIServer -Server 10.32.110.123
```

The server must have VirtualCenter 2.0 or higher installed. Earlier releases do not support creating statistics intervals.
- 2 Create a new statistics interval named `minute`:


```
New-StatInterval -Name minute -SamplingPeriodSecs 60 -StorageTimeSecs 600
```
- 3 Create another statistics interval named `past hour`:


```
New-StatInterval -Name "past hour" -SamplingPeriodSecs (60 * 60) -StorageTimeSecs 50000
```

NOTE The sampling period of a new statistics interval must be a multiple of the previous interval sampling period.

- 4 Create a third statistics interval named `past day`:


```
New-StatInterval -Name "past day" -SamplingPeriodSecs ( 60 * 60 * 12 ) -StorageTimeSecs 500000
```
- 5 Extend the storage time of the `past day` statistics interval:


```
Set-StatInterval -Interval "past day" -StorageTimeSecs 700000
```
- 6 List the available memory metric types for the `MyCluster` cluster:


```
$cluster = Get-Cluster MyCluster1

$statTypes = Get-StatType -Entity $cluster -Interval "past day" -Name mem.*
```
- 7 List the cluster statistics collected for the day:


```
Get-Stat -Entity $cluster -Start ([System.DateTime]::Now.AddDays(-1)) -Finish ([System.DateTime]::Now) -Stat $statTypes
```

Configure the NIC Teaming Policy of a Virtual Switch

This example scenario illustrates how to change the load balancing and failover settings of a virtual switch and determine the unused NICs.

To configure the NIC teaming policy of a virtual switch

- 1 Retrieve the physical NIC objects on the host network and store them in a variable:


```
$pn = Get-VMHost 10.23.123.128 | Get-VMHostNetwork | select -Property physicalnic
```
- 2 Store the physical NIC objects you want to make unused in separate variables:


```
$pn5 = $pn.PhysicalNic[2]

$pn6 = $pn.PhysicalNic[3]

$pn7 = $pn.PhysicalNic[0]
```
- 3 Retrieve the NIC teaming policy of the `VSwitch01` virtual switch:


```
$policy = Get-VirtualSwitch -VMHost ( Get-VMHost 10.23.123.128 ) -Name VSwitch01 | Get-NicTeamingPolicy
```
- 4 Change the policy of the switch to indicate that the `$pn5`, `$pn6`, and `$pn7` network adapters are unused:


```
$policy | Set-NicTeamingPolicy -MakeNicUnused $pn5, $pn6, $pn7
```
- 5 Modify the settings of the virtual switch NIC teaming policy:


```
$policy | Set-NicTeamingPolicy -BeaconInterval 3 -LoadBalancingPolicy 3 -NetworkFailoverDetectionPolicy 1 -NotifySwitches $false -FailbackEnabled $false
```

Manage Virtual Appliances

These examples illustrate how to create and manage virtual appliances using the PowerCLI cmdlets.

To create and start a virtual appliance

- 1 Create a new virtual appliance named `MyVApp` on the specified host:


```
New-VApp -Name MyVApp -CpuLimitMhz 4000 -CpuReservationMhz 1000 -Location ( Get-VMHost MyHost01 )
```
- 2 Start the new virtual appliance:


```
Start-VApp MyVApp
```

To change the properties of a virtual appliance

- 1 Retrieve and stop the MyVApp virtual appliance:

```
Get-VApp MyVApp | Stop-VApp -Confirm:$falseStop-VApp
```
- 2 Change the name and memory reservation of the MyVApp virtual appliance:

```
Get-VApp MyVApp | Set-VApp -Name OldVApp -MemReservationMB 2000
```

To export a virtual appliance

- 1 Retrieve the virtual appliance you want to export:

```
$oldVApp = Get-VApp OldVApp
```
- 2 Export the OldVApp virtual appliance to a local directory and name the exported appliance WebApp:

```
Export-VApp -VApp $oldVApp -Name WebApp -Destination D:\vapps\ -CreateSeparateFolder
```

To import a virtual appliance

- 1 Import the WebApp virtual appliance from the specified location to the Storage2 datastore:

```
Import-VApp -Source D:\vapps\WebApp\WebApp.ovf -VMHost ( Get-VMHost MyHost01 ) -Datastore ( Get-Datastore -VMHost MyHost01 -Name Storage2 )
```
- 2 Remove the WebApp appliance and delete it from the disk:

```
Remove-VApp WebApp -DeleteFromDisk -Confirm:$false
```

Manage Guest Networks

The following examples illustrate how to retrieve and configure guest network interfaces and routes.

To retrieve and configure a network interface

- 1 Retrieve the guest network interface of the MyVM1 virtual machine:

```
$myVM1 = Get-VM -Name MyVM1
```

```
$interface = Get-VMGuestNetworkInterface -VM $myVM1 -HostUser root -HostPassword pass1 -GuestUser user -GuestPassword pass2
```
- 2 Retrieve the network interface of a guest OS:

```
$guest = Get-VMGuest $myVM1
```

```
$interface = Get-VMGuestNetworkInterface -VMGuest $guest -HostUser root -HostPassword pass1 -GuestUser user -GuestPassword pass2 -ToolsWaitSecs 100
```
- 3 Configure the network interface:

```
Set-VMGuestNetworkInterface -VMGuestNetworkInterface $interface -HostUser root -HostPassword pass1 -GuestUser user -GuestPassword pass2 -IPPolicy static -IP 10.23.112.69 -Gateway 10.23.115.253 -DnsPolicy static -Dns (10.23.108.1, 10.23.108.2) -WinsPolicy dhcp
```

To create and configure a guest route

- 1 Retrieve the existing routes of the virtual machine stored in the \$myVM1 variable:

```
Get-VMGuestRoute -VM $myVM1 -HostUser root -HostPassword pass1 -GuestUser user -GuestPassword pass2 -ToolsWaitSecs 50
```
- 2 Retrieve the existing routes of the guest OS stored in the \$guest variable:

```
Get-VMGuestRoute -VMGuest $guest -HostUser root -HostPassword pass1 -GuestUser user -GuestPassword pass2
```
- 3 Create a new guest route:

```
$route = New-VMGuestRoute -VM $myVM1 -HostUser root -HostPassword pass1 -GuestUser user -GuestPassword pass2 -Destination 192.168.100.10 -Netmask 255.255.255.255 -Gateway 10.23.112.58 -Interface $interface.RouteInterfaceId -ToolsWaitSecs 50
```

- 4 Configure the guest route:

```
$route = Set-VMGuestRoute -VMGuestRoute $route -HostUser root -HostPassword pass1 -GuestUser user -GuestPassword pass2 -Netmask 255.255.255.254 -Gateway 10.23.112.57
```

- 5 Remove the guest route:

```
Remove-VMGuestRoute -VMGuestRoute $route -HostUser root -HostPassword pass1 -GuestUser user -GuestPassword pass2 -ToolsWaitSecs 100 -Confirm:$false
```

NOTE Retrieving and configuring guest network interfaces and routes is supported only on servers that are ESX 3.5 and later.

Work with Host Storages and iSCSI HBA Devices

The following example illustrates enabling iSCSI on a host, adding iSCSI targets, and creating host storages.

To create a new iSCSI host storage

- 1 Enable software iSCSI on the host:

```
$myHost = Get-VMHost MyESXHost1
```

```
Get-VMHostStorage $myHost | Set-VMHostStorage -SoftwareIScsiEnabled $true
```

- 2 Retrieve the iSCSI HBA on the host:

```
$iscsiHba = Get-VMHostHba -Type iScsi
```

- 3 Add a new iSCSI target for dynamic discovery (the default port number is 3260):

```
$iscsiHba | New-IScsiHbaTarget -Address 192.168.0.1 -Type Send
```

- 4 Rescan the HBAs on the host system:

```
Get-VMHostStorage $myHost -RescanAllHba
```

- 5 Get the lun path (we need the one who's canonical name starts with the device name of the iSCSI HBA):

```
$lunPath = Get-ScsiLun -VMHost $myHost -CanonicalName ($iscsiHba.Device + "*") | Get-ScsiLunPath
```

- 6 Create the new storage:

```
New-Datastore -Vmfs -VMHost $myHost -Path $lunPath.LunPath -Name iSCSI
```

Manage PCI and SCSI Passthrough Devices

The following example demonstrates working with PCI and SCSI passthrough devices.

To retrieve and add passthrough devices of a host and virtual machine

- 1 Retrieve the PCI passthrough devices of the MyESXHost host:

```
$myHost = Get-VMHost MyESXHost
```

```
Get-PassthroughDevice -VMHost $myHost -Type Pci
```

- 2 Retrieve the SCSI passthrough devices of the MyVM virtual machine:

```
$vm = Get-VM MyVM
```

```
Get-PassthroughDevice -VM $vm -Type Scsi
```

- 3 Add a SCSI passthrough device to the MyVM virtual machine:

```
$scsiDeviceList = Get-PassthroughDevice -VMHost "MyESXHost" -Type Scsi
```

```
Add-PassthroughDevice -VM $vm -PassthroughDevice $scsiDeviceList[0]
```

- 4 Remove all passthrough devices of the MyVM virtual machine:

```
Get-PassthroughDevice -VM $vm | Remove-PassthroughDevice
```

Web Service Access Cmdlets

The vSphere PowerCLI 4.0 Update 1 list of cmdlets includes two Web Service Access cmdlets:

- `Get-View`
- `Get-VIObjectByVIView`

They enable access to the programming model of the vSphere SDK for .NET from PowerShell and can be used to initiate vSphere .NET objects. Each object:

- Is a static copy of a server-side managed object and is not automatically updated when the object on the server changes.
- Includes properties and methods that correspond to the properties and operations of the server-side managed object. For more information about server-side object methods and properties, check the *VMware vSphere API Reference Guide* (http://www.vmware.com/support/pubs/sdk_pubs.html).

Using the Web Service Access cmdlets for low-level VMware vSphere management requires some knowledge of both PowerShell scripting and the VMware vSphere API.

Filter vSphere Objects

This procedure illustrates the use of the `Get-View` cmdlet in combination with a filter. The filter parameter is a `HashTable` containing one or more pairs of filter criteria. Each of the criteria consists of a property path and a value that represents a regular expression pattern used to match the property.

The filter in this procedure gets a list of the powered on virtual machines whose guest OS names contain "Windows XP." The `Get-View` cmdlet then initiates shutdown for each guest OS in the list."

To create and apply a filter

- 1 Create a filter by the power state and the guest operating system name of the virtual machines:


```
$filter = @{"Runtime.PowerState" = "poweredOn"; "Config.GuestFullName" = "Windows XP"}
```
- 2 Get a list of the virtual machines using the created filter and call the `ShutdownGuest` method for each virtual machine in the list:


```
Get-View -ViewType "VirtualMachine" -Filter $filter | foreach{$_}.ShutdownGuest()
```

Populate a View Object

This procedure illustrates how to populate a view object from an already retrieved managed object using the `Get-View` cmdlet.

To populate a view object

- 1 Get the MyVM2 virtual machine using a filter by name and populates the view object.


```
$myVM2 = Get-View -ViewType VirtualMachine -Filter @{"Name" = "MyVM2"}
$hostView = Get-View -Id $myVM2.Runtime.Host
```
- 2 Retrieve runtime information:


```
$hostView.Summary.Runtime
```

Update the State of a Server-Side Object

This procedure illustrates how to update the state of server-side objects.

To update the state of a server-side object

- 1 Get the MyVM2 virtual machine using a filter by name:


```
$myVM2 = Get-View -ViewType VirtualMachine -Filter @{"Name" = "MyVM2"}
$hostView = Get-View -Id $myVM2.Runtime.Host
```
- 2 Print the current power state:


```
$myVM2.Runtime.PowerState
```

- 3 Change the power state of the virtual machine:


```
If ($myVM2.Runtime.PowerState -ne "PoweredOn") {
    $vm.PowerOnVM($myVM2.Runtime.Host)
} else {
    $myVM2.PowerOffVM()
}
```
- 4 Print the value of \$myVM2 power state (the power state is still not updated because the virtual machine property values are not updated automatically):


```
$myVM2.Runtime.PowerState
```
- 5 Update the view:


```
$myVM2.UpdateViewData()
```
- 6 Show the actual power state of the virtual machine:


```
$myVM2.Runtime.PowerState
```

Mixed Usage of vSphere PowerCLI and Web Service Access Cmdlets

To get more advantages of the usability and functionality of the vSphere PowerCLI cmdlets and the Web Service Access cmdlets you can use them together.

To reboot a virtual machine host

- 1 Use the `Get-VMHost` cmdlet to get a virtual machine host by its name, and pass the result to the `Get-View` cmdlet to retrieve the host view:


```
$hostView = Get-VMHost -Name MyHost | Get-View
```
- 2 Call the `RebootHost` method of the host view object to reboot the host:


```
$hostView.RebootHost()
```

To modify the CPU levels of a virtual machine

This example shows how to modify the CPU levels of a virtual machine using combination of the `Get-View` and `Get-VIObjectByVIView` cmdlets.

- 1 Retrieve the `MyVM2` virtual machine, shut down it, and pass the result to the `Get-View` cmdlet to retrieve the virtual machine view object:


```
$vmView = Get-VM MyVM2 | Stop-VM | Get-View
```
- 2 Create a `VirtualMachineConfigSpec` object to modify the virtual machine CPU levels and call the `ReconfigVM` method of the virtual machine view managed object.


```
$spec = New-Object VMware.Vim.VirtualMachineConfigSpec;

$spec.CPUAllocation = New-Object VMware.Vim.ResourceAllocationInfo;

$spec.CpuAllocation.Shares = New-Object VMware.Vim.SharesInfo;

$spec.CpuAllocation.Shares.Level = "normal";

$spec.CpuAllocation.Limit = -1;

$vmView .ReconfigVM_Task($spec)
```
- 3 Get a virtual machine object by using the `Get-VIObjectByVIView` cmdlet and start the virtual machine.


```
$myVM = Get-VIObjectByVIView $vmView | Start-VM
```

The Inventory Provider

The Inventory Provider (`VimInventory`) is designed to expose a raw inventory view of the inventory items from a server. It enables interactive navigation and file-style management of the VMware vSphere inventory. By creating a PowerShell drive based on a managed object (such as a datacenter), you obtain a view of its contents and the relationships between the items. In addition, you are able to manipulate objects (move, rename or delete them) by running commands from the vSphere PowerCLI console.

When you connect to a server with `Connect-VIServer`, the cmdlet builds two default inventory drives: `vi` and `vis`. The `vi` inventory drive shows the inventory on the last connected server. The `vis` drive contains the inventory all vSphere servers connected within the current vSphere PowerCLI session..

You can use the default inventory drives or create custom drives based on the default ones.

Basic Functions of the Inventory Provider

The following procedure illustrates some basic operations with the inventory provider.

To view the content of a default inventory drive

- 1 Access the `vi` inventory drive:


```
cd vi:
```
- 2 List the drive content:


```
dir
```

`dir` is an alias of the `Get-ChildItem` cmdlet.

To create a new custom inventory drive

- 1 Get the root folder of the server:


```
$root = Get-Folder -NoRecursion
```
- 2 Create a PowerShell drive named `myVi` in the server root folder:


```
New-PSDrive -Location $root -Name myVi -PSProvider VimInventory -Root '\'
```

NOTE You can use the `New-InventoryDrive` cmdlet that is an alias of `New-PSDrive`. This cmdlet creates a new inventory drive using the `Name` and `Datastore` parameters. For example:

```
Get-Folder -NoRecursion | New-VIInventoryDrive -Name myVi
```

A different way to create a inventory drive is to map an existing inventory path:

```
New-PSDrive -Name myVi -PSProvider VimInventory -Root "vi:\Folder01\Datacenter01"
```

To manage inventory objects through inventory drives

- 1 Navigate through your server inventory by running the `cd` command with the full path to the host:


```
cd Folder01\DataCenter01\host\Web\LiveHost01
```
- 2 List the content of the host using the `ls` command:


```
ls
```

`ls` is the UNIX style alias of the `Get-ChildItem` cmdlet.

This command returns the virtual machines and the root resource pool of the host.
- 3 View only the virtual machines on the host:


```
Get-VM
```

When called within the inventory drive, `Get-VM` retrieves only the virtual machines on the current drive location.

- 4 Delete a virtual machine named LiveVm01:


```
del LiveVm01
```
- 5 Rename a virtual machine from LiveVm01New to LiveVm01:


```
ren LiveVm01New LiveVm01
```
- 6 Start all virtual machines whose names start with LiveVm:


```
dir LiveVm* | Start-VM
```

The Datastore Provider

The Datastore Provider (VimDatastore) is designed to provide access to the contents of one or more datastores. The items in a datastore are files that contain configuration, virtual disk, and the other data associated with a virtual machine. All file operations are case-sensitive.

When you connect to a server with `Connect-VIServer`, the cmdlet builds two default datastore drives: `vmstores` and `vmstore`. The `vmstore` drive displays the datastores available on the last connected vSphere server. The `vmstores` drive contains all datastores available on all vSphere servers connected within the current vSphere PowerCLI session.

You can use the default inventory drives or create custom drives based on the default ones.

Basic functions of the Datastore Provider

The following procedures illustrate some basic functions of the Datastore Provider.

To browse a default datastore drive

- 1 Access the `vmstore` drive:


```
cd vmstore:
```
- 2 List the drive content:


```
dir
```

To create a new custom datastore drive

- 1 Get a datastore by its name and assign it to the `$datastore` variable:


```
$datastore = Get-Datastore Storage1
```
- 2 Create a new PowerShell drive `ds:` in `$datastore`:


```
New-PSDrive -Location $datastore -Name ds -PSProvider VimDatastore -Root '\'
```

NOTE You can use the `New-PSDrive` cmdlet that is an alias of `New-DatastoreDrive`. It creates a new datastore drive using the `Name` and `Datastore` parameters. For example:

```
Get-Datastore Storage1 | New-DatastoreDrive -Name ds
```

A different way to create a datastore drive is to map an existing datastore path. For example:

```
New-PSDrive -Name ds -PSProvider VimDatastore -Root
vmstore:\Folder01\Datacenter01\Datastore01\Folder01
```

To manage datastores through datastore drives

- 1 Navigate to a specific folder on the `ds:` drive:


```
cd VirtualMachines\XPVirtualMachine
```
- 2 List the files of the folder, using the `ls` command:


```
ls
```

`ls` is the UNIX style alias of the `Get-ChildItem` cmdlet.

- 3 Rename a file, using the `Rename-Item` cmdlet or its alias `ren`. For example, to change the name of the `vmware-3.log` file to `vmware-3old.log`, run the following command:

```
ren vmware-3.log vmware-3old.log
```

All file operations apply only on files in the current folder.
- 4 Delete a file, using the `Remove-Item` cmdlet or its alias `del`. For example, to remove the `vmware-3old.log` file from the `XPVirtualMachine` folder, use the following command:

```
del ds:\VirtualMachines\XPVirtualMachine\vmware-2.log
```
- 5 Copy a file, using the `Copy-Item` cmdlet or its alias `copy`:

```
copy ds:\VirtualMachines\XPVirtualMachine\vmware-3old.log ds:\VirtualMachines\vmware-3.log
```
- 6 Copy a file to another datastore, using the `Copy-Item` cmdlet or its alias `copy`:

```
copy ds:\Datacenter01\Datastore01\XPVirtualMachine\vmware-1.log  
ds:\Datacenter01\Datastore02\XPVirtualMachine02\vmware.log
```
- 7 Create a new folder, using the `New-Item` cmdlet or its alias `mkdir`:

```
mkdir -Path ds:\VirtualMachines -Name Folder01 -Type Folder
```
- 8 Download a file to the local machine using the `Copy-DatastoreItem` cmdlet:

```
Copy-DatastoreItem ds:\VirtualMachines\XPVirtualMachine\vmware-3.log C:\Temp\vmware-3.log
```
- 9 Upload a file from the local machine, using the `Copy-DatastoreItem` cmdlet:

```
Copy-DatastoreItem C:\Temp\vmware-3.log ds:\VirtualMachines\XPVirtualMachine\vmware-3new.log
```