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Windows Server 2025 Command Cheat Sheet

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Tip: Use an elevated terminal (Run as administrator) for system-level commands. Some cmdlets require their feature/role or RSAT module to be installed.

System info & management

Command	Description
`systeminfo`	Show detailed OS, patch, and hardware information.
`hostname`	Display computer name.
`wmic os get caption,version,buildnumber`	Quick OS caption/build (WMIC may be deprecated; use PowerShell alternatives).
`Get-ComputerInfo`	Comprehensive system info (PowerShell).
`slmgr /dlv`	Show detailed licensing status.
`sconfig`	Server Core configuration menu (also available on 2025 for quick setup).
`rename-computer -newname SRV-FILE01 -restart`	Rename server and reboot (PowerShell).
`tzutil /s "South Africa Standard Time"`	Set time zone.
`date /t & time /t`	Show current date and time.
`Get-Uptime`	Display system uptime (PowerShell 7+), or `(get-date) - (gcim win32_operatingsystem).lastbootuptime`.

File & directory

Command	Description
`dir /a`	List directory contents (including hidden/system).
`tree /f`	Display folder structure including files.
`copy file.txt D:\Backup\`	Copy file to destination.
`xcopy C:\Src D:\Dst /E /H /C /I /Y`	Copy directories recursively, keep attributes, continue on errors.
`robocopy C:\Src D:\Dst /MIR /R:1 /W:1 /MT:16 /LOG:rc.log`	Mirror directories with multi-threading and logging.
`del /f /q *.log`	Force delete quietly.
`icacls C:\Data /inheritance:d /grant "Domain Admins":F /t`	Set NTFS permissions (disable inheritance, grant Full control recursively).
`takeown /f C:\Data /r /d y`	Take ownership recursively.
`compact /c /s:C:\Data`	Enable NTFS compression.
`cipher /w:C:\Temp`	Securely wipe free space in folder/volume.
`mklink /d C:\Link D:\Target`	Create directory symbolic link.

Networking

Command	Description
`ipconfig /all`	Full IP configuration.
`Get-NetIPConfiguration`	PowerShell view of adapters.
`New-NetIPAddress -InterfaceAlias "Ethernet" -IPAddress 10.0.0.10 -PrefixLength 24 -DefaultGateway 10.0.0.1`	Assign static IP.
`Set-DnsClientServerAddress -InterfaceAlias "Ethernet" -ServerAddresses 10.0.0.5,10.0.0.6`	Set DNS servers.
`ping 8.8.8.8 -n 5`	Test connectivity.
`tracert microsoft.com`	Trace route to host.
`pathping 10.0.0.1`	Trace + packet loss diagnostics.
`netstat -ano`	Active connections with PIDs.
`Get-NetTCPConnection | Sort-Object -Property State, LocalPort | ft -AutoSize`	PowerShell connections view.
`arp -a`	ARP table.
`route print`	Show routing table.

Firewall

Command	Description
`netsh advfirewall set allprofiles state on`	Enable firewall all profiles.
`New-NetFirewallRule -DisplayName "Allow HTTP" -Direction Inbound -Action Allow -Protocol TCP -LocalPort 80`	Create allow rule (PowerShell).
`netsh advfirewall firewall add rule name="Allow RDP" dir=in action=allow protocol=TCP localport=3389`	Allow RDP inbound.
`Get-NetFirewallProfile | Format-Table Name, Enabled`	List profile states.
`Set-NetFirewallProfile -Profile Domain,Public,Private -DefaultInboundAction Block -DefaultOutboundAction Allow`	Harden defaults.

Users & security

Command	Description
`net user`	List local users.
`net user svc-backup Str0ngP@ss! /add`	Create local user.
`net localgroup administrators svc-backup /add`	Add user to local group.
`secedit /export /cfg C:\secpol.inf`	Export local security policy.
`whoami /groups`	Show current user and group SIDs.
`runas /user:DOMAIN\Admin cmd`	Run a program as another user.
`auditpol /get /category:*`	View audit policy.
`auditpol /set /subcategory:"Logon" /success:enable /failure:enable`	Enable logon auditing.

Active Directory

Requires AD DS role or RSAT tools.

Command	Description
`Install-WindowsFeature AD-Domain-Services -IncludeManagementTools`	Install AD DS role.
`Install-ADDSForest -DomainName corp.local -DomainNetbiosName CORP -SafeModeAdministratorPassword (Read-Host -AsSecureString)`	Create new forest.
`djoin /provision /domain corp.local /machine SRV-APP01 /savefile C:\djoin.blob`	Offline domain join (provision).
`djoin /requestODJ /loadfile C:\djoin.blob /windowspath C:\Windows /localos`	Apply offline domain join.
`netdom join SRV-APP01 /domain:corp.local /userd:admin /passwordd:*`	Join domain online.
`Get-ADUser -Filter "Surname -like 'M*'" | Select Name, SamAccountName`	Query users (PowerShell AD module).
`New-ADUser "Alice Martin" -SamAccountName amartin -Path "OU=Users,DC=corp,DC=local" -Enabled $true -AccountPassword (Read-Host -AsSecureString)`	Create user.
`dsquery computer -name SRV*`	Find computers (legacy DS tools).
`nltest /dsgetdc:corp.local`	Find a domain controller.

Group Policy

Command	Description
`gpupdate /force`	Refresh GPOs immediately.
`gpresult /r /scope computer`	Resultant set of policy (computer).
`gpresult /h C:\gp.html`	Generate HTML report.
`Get-GPO -All | Select DisplayName, Id`	List GPOs (PowerShell GPMC module).
`Get-GPResultantSetOfPolicy -ReportType Html -Path C:\rsop.html`	Create RSOP report.

Roles & features

Command	Description
`Get-WindowsFeature`	List available roles/features.
`Install-WindowsFeature Web-Server -IncludeManagementTools`	Install IIS.
`Uninstall-WindowsFeature Web-Server`	Remove role/feature.
`dism /online /get-features /format:table`	List optional features (DISM).
`dism /online /enable-feature /featurename:NetFx3 /all`	Enable .NET Framework 3.5 (if source available).

Services

Command	Description
`sc query type= service state= all`	List services (SCM).
`Get-Service | Sort Status, Name`	List services (PowerShell).
`sc config Spooler start= disabled`	Change start type.
`Stop-Service -Name W32Time -Force`	Stop service.
`Start-Service -Name W32Time`	Start service.
`Restart-Service -Name dnscache`	Restart service.

Processes & performance

Command	Description
`tasklist`	List running processes.
`taskkill /PID 1234 /F`	Kill process by PID.
`Get-Process | Sort-Object CPU -desc | Select -First 10 Name, CPU, Id`	Top CPU processes.
`typeperf "\Processor(_Total)\% Processor Time" -sc 5`	Sample CPU performance counters.
`Get-Counter '\Memory\Available MBytes'`	Read memory counter.
`resmon`	Open Resource Monitor (GUI).

Storage, volumes & DFS

Command	Description
`diskpart`	Disk partitioning utility.
`Get-Disk`	List disks (PowerShell Storage).
`Initialize-Disk -Number 2 -PartitionStyle GPT`	Initialize new disk.
`New-Partition -DiskNumber 2 -UseMaximumSize -AssignDriveLetter`	Create partition.
`Format-Volume -DriveLetter E -FileSystem NTFS -NewFileSystemLabel Data -Confirm:$false`	Format volume.
`Get-Volume`	List volumes.
`chkdsk E: /scan`	Online scan volume.
`fsutil volume diskfree E:`	Free/total bytes.
`dfsrdiag backlog /rgname:RG1 /rfname:Data /sendingmember:SRV1 /receivingmember:SRV2`	DFS-R backlog (if DFSR installed).

SMB & shares

Command	Description
`New-SmbShare -Name Data -Path C:\Data -FullAccess "CORP\Domain Admins"`	Create SMB share.
`Get-SmbShare`	List shares.
`Set-SmbServerConfiguration -EnableSMB1Protocol $false -Force`	Disable SMBv1 for security.
`net share`	Legacy share listing.

IIS & web

Command	Description
`Install-WindowsFeature Web-Server -IncludeManagementTools`	Install IIS role.
`%SystemRoot%\System32\inetsrv\appcmd list site`	List IIS sites.
`%SystemRoot%\System32\inetsrv\appcmd add site /name:"Site1" /bindings:http/*:80:site1.corp.local /physicalPath:"C:\Sites\Site1"`	Create site.
`iisreset`	Restart IIS services.
`Get-WebBinding`	List bindings (WebAdministration module).

Hyper-V

Command	Description
`Install-WindowsFeature Hyper-V -IncludeManagementTools -Restart`	Install Hyper-V.
`Get-VM`	List VMs.
`New-VM -Name DC01 -MemoryStartupBytes 4GB -Generation 2 -SwitchName "vSwitch"`	Create VM.
`Set-VM -Name DC01 -ProcessorCount 4`	Adjust vCPU.
`Start-VM DC01`	Start VM.
`Checkpoint-VM DC01 -SnapshotName "PrePatch"`	Create checkpoint.
`Export-VM DC01 -Path D:\VMExports`	Export VM.

Backup & recovery

Command	Description
`wbadmin enable backup -addtarget:E: -schedule:21:00 -include:C: -allCritical -quiet`	Enable nightly backup to E:.
`wbadmin start backup -backupTarget:E: -include:C: -allCritical -quiet`	Run backup now.
`wbadmin get versions`	List available backups.
`wbadmin start recovery -version:MM/DD/YYYY-HH:MM -itemType:File -items:C:\Data\report.xlsx -recoveryTarget:C:\Restore -quiet`	File recovery.

Updates

For Server Core, use `sconfig` option 6. PowerShell module PSWindowsUpdate can provide advanced control (install via PowerShell Gallery).

Command	Description
`sconfig`	Interactive updates (Core).
`Install-PackageProvider -Name NuGet -Force`	Prep for PowerShell Gallery.
`Set-PSRepository -Name PSGallery -InstallationPolicy Trusted`	Trust gallery.
`Install-Module PSWindowsUpdate -Force`	Install update module.
`Get-WindowsUpdate`	List available updates (PSWindowsUpdate).
`Install-WindowsUpdate -AcceptAll -AutoReboot`	Install and reboot if needed.

Logs & auditing

Command	Description
`eventvwr.msc`	Open Event Viewer.
`wevtutil qe System /c:20 /rd:true /f:text`	Tail last 20 System events.
`Get-WinEvent -LogName Security -MaxEvents 50 | ft TimeCreated, Id, LevelDisplayName, Message -Auto`	Read Security log (PowerShell).
`auditpol /get /category:*`	View audit config.
`logman query`	List performance data collectors.

Scheduled tasks

Command	Description
`schtasks /query /fo LIST /v`	List tasks verbosely.
`schtasks /create /sc daily /st 23:00 /tn "NightlyBackup" /tr "wbadmin start backup -backupTarget:E: -include:C: -allCritical -quiet" /ru "SYSTEM"`	Create daily backup task.
`Unregister-ScheduledTask -TaskName NightlyBackup -Confirm:$false`	Delete task (PowerShell).
`Get-ScheduledTask | ? TaskName -like "*Update*"`	Filter tasks.

Remote admin

Command	Description
`mstsc /v:SRV-CORE01`	Remote Desktop client.
`Enable-PSRemoting -Force`	Enable WinRM for PowerShell remoting.
`Enter-PSSession -ComputerName SRV-CORE01`	Interactive remote session.
`Invoke-Command -ComputerName SRV-CORE01 -ScriptBlock { Get-Service w32time }`	Run command remotely.
`winrm quickconfig`	Quick-config WinRM service/listener.
`Test-WSMan SRV-CORE01`	Verify WS-Management connectivity.

Certificates

Command	Description
`certlm.msc`	Local machine certificate manager (GUI).
`certutil -store My`	List LocalMachine\My store.
`New-SelfSignedCertificate -DnsName "site.corp.local" -CertStoreLocation "Cert:\LocalMachine\My"`	Create self-signed cert.
`Export-Certificate -Cert (Get-ChildItem Cert:\LocalMachine\My | ? Subject -like "*site.corp.local*") -FilePath C:\site.cer`	Export public certificate.
`pvk2pfx -pvk key.pvk -spc cert.cer -pfx cert.pfx`	Combine to PFX (if tool available).

PowerShell essentials

Command	Description
`Get-Help Get-Process -Online`	Open online help for a cmdlet.
`Get-Command -Module ActiveDirectory`	List cmdlets in a module.
`Find-Module -Name "*WindowsServer*"`	Search PowerShell Gallery.
`Install-Module -Name SomeModule -Scope AllUsers`	Install a module.
`Get-Service | Where Status -eq Running | Sort Name | Out-GridView`	Interactive grid (if GUI available).
`Start-Transcript -Path C:\Logs\ps-transcript.txt`	Record session transcript.