



Table of Contents

Preface ix

1. Introduction 1

 Automated Maintenance 2

 Automated Configuration 3

 Scripting with Perl 4

 A Final Note 5

2. Running a Script Without User Intervention 6

 Using a Scheduler 8

 Using Autologon 9

 Running a Script as a Service 19

 Security Implications 25

 Summary 27

3. Remote Script Management 28

 Self-Updating Scripts 28

 Writing the Script 30

 Using a Stub Script 35

 Writing the Stub 36

 Summary 40

4. System Maintenance 41

 Housekeeping 42

 Reporting 47

 Summary 52



5. Controlling Services and Drivers	53
Controlling Services with net.exe	54
Services Versus Drivers	57
Finding Registry Entries	58
Event Viewer and Beyond	65
Summary	72
6. Machine-Specific Scripting	73
Extracting the Machine Identifier	73
What Is a MAC Address?	78
Retrieving a MAC Address	78
Summary	90
7. Changing Network Identity	91
Retrieving Information from address.mac	93
Changing the NetBIOS Name	96
Setting Up IP Networking	98
Cosmetics	103
The SID Issue	105
Access to an NT Domain	108
Summary	110
8. Script Safety and Security	111
Development and Deployment	111
Security	115
Summary	118
9. A Custom Module	120
The MaintainAndConfigure Module	121
The Module Code	132
Summary	143
Appendix: Perl Module Functions	145
Index	159