

Don Jones' DSC Camp

August 21-23 2015 • Las Vegas, NV

Conquer Microsoft's Desired State Configuration (DSC) technology in this exclusive boot camp-style workshop led by Microsoft MVP Award recipient Don Jones, founder of PowerShell.org and author of dozens of PowerShell books, magazine articles, and ebooks. Located off-Strip in a private training facility South of McCarran Airport, you'll join an extremely small group of experts and enthusiasts for a unique learning experience.

Friday August 21st • from 6pm

Class reception, goal-setting, and brainstorming discussions
Ri Ra Irish Pub at Mandalay Place • Hotel shuttle from/to hotel

Saturday August 22nd • 8am to Noon

DSC resource authoring class
Breakfast included
Hilton Garden Inn

Saturday August 22nd • Noon to 4pm

Open discussion and planning - DSC resource authoring
Lunch included
Don's House • Private shuttle from/to hotel

Saturday August 22nd • 4pm to 8pm

DSC resource hackathon - group authoring exercises
Dinner included
Don's House

Sunday August 23rd • 8am to Noon

DSC infrastructure class & discussion
Breakfast included
Hilton Garden Inn

This is an immersive experience, where we transition from traditional classroom lecturing to group planning and discussion, including meal times. You will need to bring a laptop capable of running PowerShell v5, and ideally running two VMs joined to a domain. We'll provide laptop details closer-in.

Registration will be open only from January 2015 through May 2015, and is \$1500 per person. This rate includes a Friday and Saturday night stay at the Hilton Garden Inn on Las Vegas Blvd South, drinks and food at Ri Ra, and meals as indicated above. We are not offering other hotel options, but you will be able to book additional nights if desired (approx \$109/nt). The hotel offers an airport and Strip shuttle free of charge.

Strictly limited to just 16 people. Strong PowerShell experience recommended. Contact DSCCamp@powershell.org for more information. Additional group discussion opportunity Sunday afternoon/evening if you're staying another night.



MVP Don Jones has been working with PowerShell since 2006, and has authored or co-authored 7 books about the product. He's been working with, and teaching, DSC since the technology's introduction. He's currently a Curriculum Director for Pluralsight.



MVP Jason Helmick has taught DSC since 2013, and has worked on numerous customer mentoring projects to develop their infrastructure and custom resources. He's currently an author with Pluralsight.

MVP Steven Murawski developed the initial DSC architecture and resources for StackExchange, and continues to work with DSC in his new position at Chef Software.



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Payment

Here's how it works: You'll use a credit card to pay via PayPal. If you need to make other payment arrangements, contact Christopher Gannon at 702-706-2874 - we can accept checks made out to "Don Jones," and payment must be received within 15 days in order to hold your spot. The PayPal link is: <http://bit.ly/dsccamp2015>

PayPal should provide a confirmation e-mail that is also your receipt. Forward that to DSCCamp@powershell.org and make sure you tell us the full name and e-mail address of the actual attendee. Otherwise we won't be able to send you the other information you will need.

If you need another receipt, contact DSCCamp@powershell.org and inquire. Registrations are nonrefundable, but may be transferred to someone else at no charge. E-mail us if you need to do that.

Hotel

After you're confirmed, contact the Hilton Garden Inn at 702-453-7830 or go to lasvegasstripouth.stayhgi.com. Make your reservation using group code POWER. We will automatically cover the nights of August 21 and 22 via a master account; any other nights and incidentals will be paid by you directly to the hotel. The hotel offers a complimentary airport and Strip shuttle. We will provide a private shuttle service on Saturday to and from Don's house.

We cannot offer you a credit or discount if you choose to stay elsewhere. Furthermore, you will need to meet the private shuttle at the Hilton Garden Inn on Saturday - we cannot accommodate private cars at Don's.

Special Needs

If you have any food allergies, are a picky eater, or have any other food concerns, please contact DSCCamp@powershell.org immediately after paying your registration fee.

Extra Stuff

We'll have an informal get-together Sunday afternoon/evening if you're staying in town that evening. It'll be a no-host bar/snacks experience with informal discussion, brainstorming, and problem-solving. We'll announce the venue for this on August 21st. If you're arriving earlier on Friday (or on an earlier day), we may also have an informal afternoon meet-up just to say hi. Details will be e-mailed to you directly.

Laptops

We'll e-mail you in June or July about laptop requirements, but in general you need to be able to run a couple of VMs and have PowerShell v5 installed (whatever's out at the time - the latest public CTP if not RTM).

Practical Information

Don't wait to book your airfare. Inventory in and out of Las Vegas can get tight, and prices do not tend to get cheaper except at the last moment.

Bring sunscreen. Bring sunglasses. Wear these things when you are outside. We will be outside a bit.

Bring swim attire. Otherwise, dress casually.

Many of our meals and events will offer adult beverages. That's why we're providing and suggesting shuttle services. We would really prefer if you didn't drive.

Bring a USB flash drive. You're going to be taking home a *lot* of usable code.

Should You Come?

You should only attend if you're the type of person who likes to talk to colleagues about what you're doing, what they're doing, and so on. This is a small group, and it's meant to foster a lot of communication. We're suggesting that attendees have strong PowerShell experience, and either be using DSC at least in a pilot project, or have strong lab-level experience with DSC. This isn't the place to start from scratch.

Wait, Las Vegas in August?

Yeah, well, it's where Don lives. It's inexpensive (off-Strip, at least) in August. And yes, it's traditionally hot, so nobody at work will think you're having a good time. Really, we'll be indoors a lot, and when we're outdoors it'll be in the shade (which makes a huge difference) and/or in a pool (also a big difference).

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Location

We will be located in the Hilton Garden Inn, off-Strip on Las Vegas Blvd South. Your admission fee for the class includes two nights' lodging at the hotel, and all meals.

Class Overview

DSC is a key technology deliverable in Microsoft's strategy for administrative automation and DevOps. It offers declarative, document-driven configuration management and enforcement for server (primarily) and client workloads running Microsoft Windows or supported builds of Linux. DSC is easily one of the most important technologies to come out of Microsoft since Active Directory, and is a key enabler for cloud-scale manageability, helping to ensure continuous delivery of key IT services.

DSC Camp is a unique, one-time opportunity to learn about Microsoft's Desired State Configuration from the industry's leading independent experts. This intensive, hands-on experience (bring your own laptop; specifications provided after registration) will cover everything about the DSC technology in Windows Management Framework v5, including infrastructure, planning, design, resource authoring, debugging and troubleshooting, and more. We will also cover real-world issues like the lack of inbuilt management tooling, GUID tracking approaches, and many other topics.

Class Objectives

Our goal is to cover the complete range of DSC technologies and applications, including:

- Authoring of custom resources as v5 classes
- Design of pull server infrastructure for various use cases
- Testing and troubleshooting techniques (with code)
- Overview of presently available resources (MS and community)
- Valid and invalid use cases
- Integrating DSC as an enabling technology for process-oriented IT management, such as ITIL

Much of the class will involve group discussion around scenarios and solutions, which is one reason this class is strictly limited to 16 students. We will run from Friday evening through Sunday lunchtime, with optional (no extra charge) instruction and discussion Sunday afternoon.

After completing class, students **will** be able to begin immediately implementing pilot and production DSC deployments, including authoring in-house custom DSC resources and modifying both Microsoft- and community-provided general-purpose resources.

Instructors

Your instructors will be PowerShell MVPs Don Jones, Jason Helmick, and Steven Murawski, possibly the three most experienced teachers and practioners of DSC in the world today.

Cost

\$1200 through 28th February 2015

\$1500 through 30th May 2015

Includes class, two nights' hotel, all meals, and ground transportation. Airfare is not included. Extra nights may be booked and paid directly to the hotel.

Laptop

Bring your own laptop. It should be capable of running PowerShell v5, and should ideally be running two virtual machines. One VM should be a Win2012R2 domain controller, and the other should be either a Win2012R2 member server or a Win8.1 client. All VMs should have WMF 5.0 installed and running (latest CTP code is fine if RTM is not available by class time).

To Register

Pay via PayPal at <http://bit.ly/dsccamp2015>.

Or, to pay by check, contact DSCCamp@powershell.org. Seats can be held for 15 days while awaiting receipt of your payment.

