



PROFESSIONAL SERVICES TECH NOTE #047

Source command

The Concept

UNIX and Windows operating systems have a batch file processor to execute commands in a text file commonly referred to as a script. Script files are used to automate repetitive tasks or complicated tasks which occur infrequently and are hard to remember how to perform. Data ONTAP has a limited capability to process batch files using the **source** command. A prime example of a script is the /etc/rc file which contains a list of Data ONTAP commands and data values which are 'sourced' on boot-up.

Examples

```
fas1> source /etc/my_scripts/vol_create.txt
```

Note: The script or 'source' file only has to be ASCII text (created with your favorite text editor) and can be stored anywhere on the system as long as you provide the full pathname. A filename extension is not required.

What It Means To You

The **source** command is handy for repetitive tasks like creating or modifying dozens of volumes or qtrees. A popular source files to create is one to quiesce all SnapMirror relationships before doing maintenance. Manually doing these tasks with FilerView or the command line takes a long time and is boring and thus susceptible to typos. If you are already familiar with Unix or Windows batch files, there are some limitations to be aware of:

- Execution does not halt on errors so be careful not to create scripts in which any line depends on successful execution of the previous line. Proofread carefully for typos and the correct syntax before running.
- The **source** command cannot pipe or redirect output to a log file.
- No support for wildcards (?, *, %).
- No support for conditional statements (IF this condition THEN do THAT command).
- No built-in pause functionality so commands reliant on a previous command finishing instantly may fail (e.g., vol create after an aggr create). Running sysstat in between commands is a common workaround.

You can document your source file with comments, or disable specific command lines, by starting the line with a pound sign (#) like you do in Unix batch files.

More Information

Refer to the Data ONTAP Manual Pages:

http://now.netapp.com/NOW/knowledge/docs/ontap/rel727/html/ontap/cmdref/man1/na_source.1.htm

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