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Windows PowerShell Get-Help on Cmdlet 'Format-Wide'

PS:\>Get-HELP Format-Wide -Full

NAME

Format-Wide

SYNOPSIS

Formats objects as a wide table that displays only one property of each object.

SYNTAX

Format-Wide [[-Property] <System.Object>] [-AutoSize] [-Column <System.Int32>] [-DisplayError] [-Expand {CoreOnly | EnumOnly | Both}] [-Force] [-GroupBy

<System.Object>] [-InputObject <System.Management.Automation.PSObject>] [-ShowError] [-View <System.String>] [<CommonParameters>]

DESCRIPTION

The `Format-Wide` cmdlet formats objects as a wide table that displays only one property of each object. You can use the Property parameter to determine which

property is displayed.

PARAMETERS

-AutoSize <System.Management.Automation.SwitchParameter>

Adjusts the column size and number of columns based on the width of the data. By default, the column size and number are determined by the view. You cannot use

the AutoSize and Column parameters in the same command.

Required?   false

Position?   named

Default value   False

Accept pipeline input?   False

Accept wildcard characters? false

-Column <System.Int32>

Specifies the number of columns in the display. You cannot use the AutoSize and Column parameters in the same command.

Required?   false

Position?   named

Default value   None

Accept pipeline input?   False

Accept wildcard characters? false

-DisplayError <System.Management.Automation.SwitchParameter>

Displays errors at the command line. This parameter is rarely used, but can be used as a debugging aid when you are formatting expressions in a `Format-Wide`

command, and the expressions do not appear to be working.

Required?   false

Position?   named

Default value   False

Accept pipeline input?   False

Accept wildcard characters? false

-Expand <System.String>

Formats the collection object, as well as the objects in the collection. This parameter is designed to format objects that support the

System.Collections.ICollection interface. The default value is `EnumOnly`.

Valid values are:

- `EnumOnly`: Displays the properties of the objects in the collection.

- `CoreOnly`: Displays the properties of the collection object.

- `Both`: Displays the properties of the collection object and the properties of objects in the

collection.

Required?   false

Position?   named

Default value   EnumOnly

Accept pipeline input?   False

Accept wildcard characters? false

-Force <System.Management.Automation.SwitchParameter>

Indicates that this cmdlet overrides restrictions that prevent the command from succeeding, just so the changes do not compromise security. For example, Force

will override the read-only attribute or create directories to complete a file path, but it will not attempt to change file permissions.

Required?   false

Position?   named

Default value   False

Accept pipeline input?   False

Accept wildcard characters? false

-GroupBy <System.Object>

Formats the output in groups based on a shared property or value. Enter an expression or a property of the output.

The value of the GroupBy parameter can be a new calculated property. The calculated property can be a script block or a hash table. Valid key-value pairs are:

- `Name` (or `Label`) - `<string>`

- `Expression` - `<string>` or `<script block>`

- `FormatString` - `<string>`

For more information, see about_Calculated_Properties (../Microsoft.PowerShell.Core/About/about_Calculated_Properties.md).

```
Required?                    false
Position?                    named
Default value                None
Accept pipeline input?       False
Accept wildcard characters?  false
```

-InputObject <System.Management.Automation.PSObject>

Specifies the objects to format. Enter a variable that contains the objects, or type a command or expression that gets the objects.

```
Required?                    false
Position?                    named
Default value                None
Accept pipeline input?       True (ByValue)
Accept wildcard characters?  false
```

-Property <System.Object>

Specifies the object property that appears in the display. Wildcards are permitted.

If you omit this parameter, the properties that appear in the display depend on the object being displayed. The parameter name Property is optional. You cannot

use the Property and View parameters in the same command.

The value of the Property parameter can be a new calculated property. The calculated property can be a script block or a hash table. Valid key-value pairs are:

- `Expression` - `<string>` or `<script block>`

- `FormatString` - `<string>`

For more information, see about_Calculated_Properties (../Microsoft.PowerShell.Core/About/about_Calculated_Properties.md).

```
Required?                    false
Position?                    0
Default value                None
Accept pipeline input?       False
Accept wildcard characters?  true
```

-ShowError <System.Management.Automation.SwitchParameter>

Sends errors through the pipeline. This parameter is rarely used, but can be used as a debugging aid when you are formatting expressions in a `Format-Wide`

command, and the expressions do not appear to be working.

```
Required?                    false
Position?                    named
Default value                False
```

Accept pipeline input?   False

Accept wildcard characters? false

-View <System.String>

Specifies the name of an alternate table format or view. You cannot use the Property and View parameters in the same command.

Required?   false

Position?   named

Default value   None

Accept pipeline input?   False

Accept wildcard characters? false

<CommonParameters>

This cmdlet supports the common parameters: Verbose, Debug,

ErrorAction, ErrorVariable, WarningAction, WarningVariable,

OutBuffer, PipelineVariable, and OutVariable. For more information, see

about_CommonParameters (https:/go.microsoft.com/fwlink/?LinkID=113216).

INPUTS

System.Management.Automation.PSObject

You can pipe any object to this cmdlet.

OUTPUTS

Microsoft.PowerShell.Commands.Internal.Format

This cmdlet returns format objects that represent the table.

NOTES

Windows PowerShell includes the following aliases for `Format-Wide`:

- `fw`

The GroupBy parameter assumes that the objects are sorted. Use `Sort-Object` before using `Format-Custom` to group the objects.

The View parameter lets you specify an alternate format for the table. You can use the views defined in the `*.format.PS1XML` files in the PowerShell directory or

you can create your own views in new PS1XML files and use the `Update-FormatData` cmdlet to include them in PowerShell.

The alternate view for the View parameter must use table format; if it does not, the command fails. If the alternate view is a list, use `Format-List`. If the

alternate view is neither a list nor a table, use `Format-Custom`.

-- Example 1: Format names of files in the current directory --

```
Get-ChildItem | Format-Wide -Column 3
```

The `Get-ChildItem` cmdlet gets objects representing each file in the directory. The pipeline operator (`|`) passes the file objects through the pipeline to

`Format-Wide`, which formats them for output. The Column parameter specifies the number of columns.

----------- Example 2: Format names of registry keys -----------

```
Get-ChildItem HKCU:\software\microsoft | Format-Wide -Property pschildname -AutoSize
```

The `Get-ChildItem` cmdlet gets objects representing the keys. The path is specified as `HKCU:`, one of the drives exposed by the PowerShell Registry provider,

followed by the key path. The pipeline operator (`|`) passes the registry key objects through the pipeline to `Format-Wide`, which formats them for output. The

Property parameter specifies the name of the property, and the AutoSize parameter adjusts the columns for readability.

----------- Example 3: Troubleshooting format errors -----------

```
    PS /> Get-Date | Format-Wide { $_ / $null } -DisplayError



    #ERR


    PS /> Get-Date | Format-Wide { $_ / $null } -ShowError



    Failed to evaluate expression " $_ / $null ".
    + CategoryInfo          : InvalidArgument: (12/21/2018 8:18:01 AM:PSObject) [], RuntimeException
    + FullyQualifiedErrorId : PSPropertyExpressionError
```

RELATED LINKS

Online Version: https://learn.microsoft.com/powershell/module/microsoft.powershell.utility/format-wide?view=powershell-5.1&WT.mc_id=ps-gethelp

about_Calculated_Properties

Format-Custom

Format-Hex

Format-List

Format-Table