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# Windows PowerShell Get-Help on Cmdlet 'Get-Unique'

PS:\>Get-HELP Get-Unique -Full

NAME

Get-Unique

# SYNOPSIS

Returns unique items from a sorted list.

# SYNTAX

Get-Unique [-AsString] [-InputObject <System.Management.Automation.PSObject>] [<CommonParameters>]

Get-Unique [-InputObject <System.Management.Automation.PSObject>] [-OnType] [<CommonParameters>]

# DESCRIPTION

The `Get-Unique` cmdlet compares each item in a sorted list to the next item, eliminates duplicates, and returns only one instance of each item. The list must be

sorted for the cmdlet to work properly.

`Get-Unique` is case-sensitive. As a result, strings that differ only in character casing are considered to be unique.

#### PARAMETERS

-AsString <System.Management.Automation.SwitchParameter>

Indicates that this cmdlet uses the data as a string. Without this parameter, data is treated as an object, so when you submit a collection of objects of the same

type to `Get-Unique`, such as a collection of files, it returns just one (the first). You can use this parameter to find the unique values of object properties,

such as the file names.

Required?falsePosition?namedDefault valueFalseAccept pipeline input?FalseAccept wildcard characters?false

-InputObject <System.Management.Automation.PSObject>

Specifies input for `Get-Unique`. Enter a variable that contains the objects or type a command or expression that gets the objects.

This cmdlet treats the input submitted by using InputObject as a collection. it does not enumerate individual items in the collection. Because the collection is a

single item, input submitted by using InputObject is always returned unchanged.

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

-OnType <System.Management.Automation.SwitchParameter>

false

Indicates that this cmdlet returns only one object of each type.

Position? named Default value False 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 type of object to this cmdlet.

# OUTPUTS

System.Management.Automation.PSObject

This cmdlet returns its input objects without duplicates.

# NOTES

Windows PowerShell includes the following aliases for `Get-Unique`:

# - `gu`

For more information, see about\_Aliases (../Microsoft.PowerShell.Core/About/about\_Aliases.md).

To sort a list, use `Sort-Object`. You can also use the Unique parameter of `Sort-Object` to find the unique items in a

list.

----- Example 1: Get unique words in a text file ------

```
$A = $( foreach ($line in Get-Content C:\Test1\File1.txt) {
```

\$line.tolower().split(" ")

}) | Sort-Object | Get-Unique

\$A.count

The first command gets the content of the `File.txt` file. It converts each line of text to lowercase letters and then splits each word onto a separate line at the

space (`" "`). Then, it sorts the resulting list alphabetically (the default) and uses the `Get-Unique` cmdlet to eliminate any duplicate words. The results are

stored in the `\$A` variable.

The second command uses the Count property of the collection of strings in `\$A` to determine how many items are in

`\$A`.

----- Example 2: Get unique integers in an array ------

1,1,1,1,12,23,4,5,4643,5,3,3,3,3,3,3,3,3 | Sort-Object | Get-Unique

1

23

4643

The first command takes an array of integers typed at the command line, pipes them to the `Sort-Object` cmdlet to be sorted, and then pipes them to `Get-Unique`,

which eliminates duplicate entries.

----- Example 3: Get unique object types in a directory -----

Get-ChildItem | Sort-Object {\$\_.GetType()} | Get-Unique -OnType

The pipeline operator (`|`) sends the results to the `Sort-Object` cmdlet. The `\$\_.GetType()` statement applies the GetType method to each file or directory. Then,

`Sort-Object` sorts the items by type. Another pipeline operator sends the results to `Get-Unique`. The OnType parameter directs `Get-Unique` to return only one

object of each type.

----- Example 4: Get unique processes ------

Get-Process | Sort-Object | Select-Object processname | Get-Unique -AsString

The `Get-Process` command gets all of the processes on the computer. The pipeline operator (`|`) passes the result to `Sort-Object`, which, by default, sorts the

processes alphabetically by ProcessName . The results are piped to the `Select-Object` cmdlet, which selects only the values of the ProcessName property of each

object. The results are then piped to `Get-Unique` to eliminate duplicates.

The AsString parameter tells `Get-Unique` to treat the ProcessName values as strings. Without this parameter, `Get-Unique` treats the ProcessName values as objects

and returns only one instance of the object, that is, the first process name in the list.

#### RELATED LINKS

Online Version:

https://learn.microsoft.com/powershell/module/microsoft.powershell.utility/get-unique?view=powershell-5.1&WT.mc\_id=ps-g ethelp

Select-Object

Sort-Object