



Sea IT achieves efficiency of IT service to the maritime industry with FastTrack Scripting Host

For companies providing IT and communication services to sea-based operations the challenges can be many and varied. Vessels at sea require the same connectivity, reliability and IT services as land-based operations, be they a service-based ship, cargo or passenger ship or government vessels.

One company serving this industry is [Sea IT](#), based in Sweden. They operate and manage turnkey IT solutions for the maritime community around the world. Like all such companies, Sea IT face ongoing challenges with ensuring their service provision is the best it can be.

The need

In 2012 they identified the need to find an efficient, reliable and cost-effective means to **migrate onboard servers to a virtual environment**.

"We have a standard IT-platform called HVIP. All servers on board our vessels are identical and we wanted a tool that would allow us to automate our processes" stated Sea IT, CTO, Mr. Karl Linder. More specifically, he wanted to automate the process of changing the IP addresses on the Virtual host machines, on switches, and on the APC UPS. In addition he needed an efficient way to create folders and files and to delete files on the host machines, while having the ability to create shares and user/password info to facilitate the migration process.

The solution

After exploring a range of software solutions to address this requirement, they settled on purchasing [FastTrack Scripting Host](#) to accomplish the task.

FastTrack is a scripting language designed for automation within Windows networks without the need to write a single line of code. It is essentially a gigantic toolbox and the paradigm upon which it is built is: *one operation - one script line*. Users are given the option of using the "Code-less mode" to create scripts without typing any part of the script themselves - scripts are built solely by the Script Builder. Or more experienced users can use the "Source mode" creating their own script but with the help of 1,000 high-level commands and the context helper, scripts are shorter, faster and simpler. FastTrack includes a range of built-in solutions for tasks such as network inventory, creation of .exe and .MSI files, OS and application deployment, creation of Thin clients and backups.

"With FastTrack we have been able to save significant time and resources on tasks that were once done manually – and we have the added bonus of knowing that all vessels now have the same infrastructure." commented Karl.

Other needs addressed with FastTrack

Having addressed the migration task, Karl went back to the FastTrack development team with another challenge.

He needed to enhance their method of daily sync'ing of data and documents from vessels to a land-based head office and, more specifically, he needed a **SyncDir for FTP**. He saw this as a reliable way to ensure records were transmitted to shore in a timely manner whilst eliminating the need for personnel on board vessels to remember to send documents by e-mail. Automating the transmission process would remove the potential for human error or forgetfulness. But the process came with a problem.

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Because Sea IT use a satellite connection to do the sync'ing he needed to find a tool that would limit the sync process to only working with changed files. Their research provided them with a number of options but with a price tag in the region of 10,000 euros plus the solutions required a very complicated set-up process.

The development team at FastTrack came back with exactly what he needed – they built SyncFTPDir functionality into the software within a matter of a few weeks. ([Click here](#) to read about SyncFTPDir)

After using the FastTrack SyncFTPDir functionality, Karl reported: *“With SyncFTPDir the solution is simple – there is no need of configure any server or client. Just run or schedule the command to start the sync.”*

Since implementation of the SyncFTPDir, Sea IT have found a further use for FastTrack with the simplicity and power of the **Logon scripts** which they have implemented across their environment.

“If we didn't have FastTrack we would have to use other tools but I doubt we could come near the same level as with FastTrack. Not only have we found FastTrack very good and simple to use, with very few lines (of script) amazing things happen! And the Support is outstanding and very fast” Karl concluded.

About FastTrack Scripting Host

FastTrack Scripting Host is developed by FastTrack Software out of Denmark. It is distributed worldwide by the US-based Binary Research and Binary Resource (UK) Ltd. Binary is best known as being part of the company that originally developed Ghost – the world's first software cloning utility. To learn more about FastTrack, go to: www.fasttrackscript.com

A 21-day free trial is available at: www.fasttrackscript.com