

# Connecting to hosts recently used using ...



[c\\_shanklin](#) 762 posts since

Dec 3, 2007 If you have a lot of hosts that you connect to it can be frustrating to remember them all. Since I have this problem I wrote this function to help deal with it. If you use the VI Client, connections are stored in the registry. This function reads these entries and presents you with a menu where you can select the host you want to connect to. Hopefully the forum doesn't mangle the code too much. I copied this into my Initialize-VIToolkitEnvironment.ps1 file so I get it automatically on startup.

```
function Connect-Recent {
    $local:ErrorActionPreference = "SilentlyContinue"
    $recent = (Get-Itemproperty "hkcu:\software\vmware\VMware
Infrastructure Client\Preferences").RecentConnections
    if ($recent -eq $null) {
        $recent = (Get-Itemproperty
"hkcu:\software\vmware\Virtual Infrastructure
Client\Preferences").RecentConnections
    }
    if ($recent -eq $null) {
        write-host -fore red "No recent hosts defined."
        return
    }

    $recent = $recent.split(",")

    write-host -fore yellow "Your recently visited hosts are:"
    $max = 10
    if ($recent.length -lt $max) {
        $max = $recent.length
    }
    for ($i = 1; $i -lt $max+1; $i++) {
        write-host -n "["
        write-host -n -f yellow "$i"
        write-host -n "]", $recent[$i-1]
    }

    $selection = 0
    while ($selection -gt $max -or $selection -lt 1) {
        $selection = [int](read-host "Select a host to
connect to")
    }
    write-host -fore yellow "Connecting to",
$recent[$selection-1]
    connect-viserver $recent[$selection-1]
    $global:defaultVIServer = $defaultVIServer
}
```

Here's what it looks like in action:

```
PS C:\> connect-recent
```

Connecting to hosts recently used using ...

```
[1] 10.16.83.242
[2] 10.21.10.80
[3] 10.16.83.241
[4] 192.168.217.130
[5] 192.168.217.135
[6] pmstaff-esx1.eng.vmware.com
[7] 10.17.25.73
[8] 192.168.217.131
[9] 192.168.217.129
[10] 10.16.83.240
Select a host: 1
Connecting to 10.16.83.242
There were one or more problems with the server certificate:

* The certificate
's CN name does not match the passed
value.
```



[halr9000](#) 814 posts since

Jun 7, 2007 1. **Re: Connecting to hosts recently use using a menu interface.** Aug 14, 2008 12:49 PM

Hey, that is sweet. I may have to set an upper bound on it for me, it pulled up 33 hosts. 😊

Author of the upcoming book: [Managing VMware Infrastructure with PowerShell](#)

Co-Host, PowerScripting Podcast ( <http://powerscripting.net> )



[c\\_shanklin](#) 762 posts since

Dec 3, 2007 2. **Re: Connecting to hosts recently use using a menu interface.** Aug 15, 2008 11:10 AM

Edited: See the first message, there were too many versions floating around.



[mcorry](#) 5 posts since

Dec 11, 2007 3. **Re: Connecting to hosts recently use using a menu interface.** Aug 15, 2008 6:43 AM

The line:

```
while ($selection -gt $recent.length+1 -or $selection -lt 1) {
```

Should be

```
while ($selection -gt $recent .s.length+1 -or $selection -lt 1) {
```

Otherwise it will only select the first host.



[c\\_shanklin](#) 762 posts since

Dec 3, 2007 4. **Re: Connecting to hosts recently use using a menu interface.** Aug 15, 2008 9:46 AM

👤 in response to: [mcorry](#) The original code was broken in a few ways, so I've updated the original post.

Connecting to hosts recently used using ...



[sanmad](#) 3 posts since

Feb 3, 2006 5. **Re: Connecting to hosts recently use using a menu interface.** Aug 15, 2008 10:47 AM

↑ in response to: [c\\_shanklin](#) the registry key is hkcu:\software\vmware\Virtual Infrastructure Client\Preferences



[c\\_shanklin](#) 762 posts since

Dec 3, 2007 6. **Re: Connecting to hosts recently use using a menu interface.** Aug 15, 2008 10:52 AM

↑ in response to: [sanmad](#) sanmad wrote:the registry key is hkcu:\software\vmware\Virtual Infrastructure Client\PreferencesThat's strange, I have both. What client version do you run?



[sanmad](#) 3 posts since

Feb 3, 2006 7. **Re: Connecting to hosts recently use using a menu interface.** Aug 15, 2008 11:07 AM

↑ in response to: [c\\_shanklin](#) I have Version 2.0.1 build 32042.on one of the machines I use and this one has the key hkcu:\software\vmware\Virtual Infrastructure Client\Preferences.



[c\\_shanklin](#) 762 posts since

Dec 3, 2007 8. **Re: Connecting to hosts recently use using a menu interface.** Aug 15, 2008 11:11 AM

↑ in response to: [sanmad](#) Can you try the latest version I posted (I edited the first message)? I think it will support both 2.5 and 2.0 clients.



[sanmad](#) 3 posts since

Feb 3, 2006 9. **Re: Connecting to hosts recently use using a menu interface.** Aug 15, 2008 11:27 AM

↑ in response to: [c\\_shanklin](#) This one works on both 2.0 and 2.5 clients

Thanks