

# Input requested: Should Get-\* cmdlets ...

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[c\\_shanklin](#) 755 posts since

Dec 3, 2007 Currently Get-VM will return all VMs.

On the other hand, Get-VirtualSwitch does not return all virtual switches. Instead you must specify a VMHost or VM argument that causes a subset to be returned. Does anyone prefer this behavior? Would it cause problems if Get-VirtualSwitch returned all virtual switches, even given the fact that you may have a lot of virtual switches with different names across different hosts?

To take it even farther, should Get-HardDisk return all hard disks, along with a pointer to the VM that owns them?

Thoughts?



[LucD](#) 2,435 posts since

Oct 31, 2005 **1. Re: Input requested: Should Get-\* cmdlets ever require arguments?** Sep 30, 2008 9:18 AM

Could the 'uniqueness' of the object be a good criteria ?

In other words, which is the highest parent object on which I can not create a 2nd object with the same name ?

For a VM that would be the VC.

For a vswitch that would be the host.

For a harddisk that would be the VM.

If there is no 'default' parent object (host, VM...) the parent has to be passed to the Get- cmdlet.

So no returning all objects for Get-VirtualSwitch and Get-Harddisk for me.



[halr9000](#) 814 posts since

Jun 7, 2007 **2. Re: Input requested: Should Get-\* cmdlets ever require arguments?** Sep 30, 2008 9:23 AM

On the other hand, Get-VirtualSwitch does not return all virtual switches. Instead you must specify a VMHost or VM argument that causes a subset to be returned. Does anyone prefer this behavior? Would it cause problems if Get-VirtualSwitch returned all virtual switches, even given the fact that you may have a lot of virtual switches with different names across different hosts?


Currently, this is how Get-Folder works. You will often have dupe folder names in a virtual center (especially the built-in "vm" folder). I've never had the thought, "I wish Get-Folder gave me fewer results". But I do think it can be difficult to match the folders to their parents which is an area I think you guys could improve by adding reference (parent) properties.

To take it even farther, should Get-HardDisk return all hard disks, along with a pointer to the VM that owns them?

I'm leaning towards being all-inclusive with filterning being optional based on a Name (or other parameter). However, every time you do this

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you (virtually) create a new flat namespace which can add confusion.

I don't have the right answer. 



[c\\_shanklin](#) 755 posts since

Dec 3, 2007 3. **Re: Input requested: Should Get-\* cmdlets ever require arguments?** Sep 30, 2008 10:10 AM

 in response to: [LucD](#) We're not consistent on uniqueness as Hal points out.

Some other examples, it's pretty easy to have Resource Pools with identical names, and it is even possible to have duplicate VM names under some circumstances.

The key to making this work would be to always include a reference to the "parent object" (there are some tricky issues with that but I think they can be dealt with).

Suppose I wanted to change all port groups named App Group to VLAN 100. When I consider:

```
Get-VirtualPortGroup "App Group"  
| Set-VirtualPortGroup -vlan 100
```

versus


```
Get-VMHost | %{  
Get-VirtualPortgroup "App Group" | Set-VirtualPortGroup -vlan 100 }
```

I really like the first one a lot better. Also I don't think this change would break backwards compatibility. Today you have to say something like Get-VMHost X | Get-VirtualPortGroup, and this would still work the same under the proposed change.



[halr9000](#) 814 posts since

Jun 7, 2007 4. **Re: Input requested: Should Get-\* cmdlets ever require arguments?** Sep 30, 2008 10:30 AM

 in response to: [c\\_shanklin](#) Some other examples, it's pretty easy to have Resource Pools with identical names, and it is even possible to have duplicate VM names under some circumstances.

VM names are unique only per datacenter IIRC? You can certainly have multiple datacenters per VirtualCenter. And it could go even larger--you can stack VCs with the Server parameter.

```
Get-VirtualPortGroup "App Group" | Set-VirtualPortGroup -vlan 100
```

I'm sold by this one example. You will often have duplicate network (portgroup) names on purpose in multi-homed environments. Think of how huge that command is. The guys with physical servers and switches will be SOOO jealous.

+1

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

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



LucD 2,435 posts since

Oct 31, 2005 5. **Re: Input requested: Should Get-\* cmdlets ever require arguments?** Sep 30, 2008 11:33 AM

👤 in response to: [halr9000](#) I thought one of the nice features of PowerShell was that you could 'read' a line practically as plain English (wasn't that the purpose of the verb-noun format ?).

In the example I would need to 'know' how large the default scope of the cmdlet was to understand what was being done.

I prefer something like this

```
Get-Cluster MyCluster |  
Get-VirtualPortGroup "App Group" | Set-VirtualPortGroup -vlan 100
```

That way I 'see' that I'm doing this against all port groups, called "App Group", in the cluster, irrespective of the number of hosts in the cluster

And my network admins will still be jealous 😊

Hence my remark to have no default scope for the Get-VirtualSwitch, Get-Harddisk... type cmdlets.