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**Article:** IsConnectible, a ping method

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# **VBScript – IsConnectible, a Ping Method**

**SCENARIO**

Whenever I am doing large sweeps of the network that require connecting to a large number of workstations (e.g. file copy, wmi query, etc.), I prefer to check to see if I can even see the system. This avoids waiting for (***WMI***) timeouts and also aids in troubleshooting failures. If the file copy failed, why? Well, if I can’t ping it or it can’t be resolved, I would like to know right away and move on to the next host.

Of course, there are a couple downsides to this method.

It does add overhead to the script because it too has a timeout. However, depending on the purpose of the script, this may be acceptable for the flexibility you gain. The other caveat is that the systems you run this against must allow ***ICMP*** on their local firewall or the script will just ignore them and move on to the next host.

There are [several methods](http://www.robvanderwoude.com/vbstech_network_ping.php) for pinging hosts but I’ve found this to be the most reliable since it works against any system that allows **ICMP**, even **Linux** or **Macs**. This is adapted from [Richard Mueller’s ping script](http://www.rlmueller.net/Programs/Ping1.txt).

This method will return three possible values: “**Online**”, “**No Ping Reply**”, or “**No DNS/WINS Entry**”. You can also tweak the ping command options to your liking.

**SOLUTION**

Here is an example of how to call the function:

Dim computers(2), computer, pingable

computers(0) = "pc-100.domain.local"

computers(1) = "pc-200.domain.local"

comptuers(2) = "pc-300.domain.local"

For Each computer In computers

 Select Case IsConnectible(computer)

 Case "Online"

 wscript.echo computer & " is online"

 Case "No Ping Reply"

 wscript.echo computer & " is offline or firewall blocks ICMP"

 Case "No DNS/WINS Entry"

 wscript.echo computer & " cannot be found in DNS/WINS"

 Case "Host Unreachable"

 wscript.echo computer & " is unreachable"

 End Select

Next

Here is the function:

Private Function IsConnectible(ByVal strComputer)

 ' Uses ping.exe to check if computer is online and connectible.

 ' Adapted from http://www.rlmueller.net/Programs/Ping1.txt

 Dim objShell, objExecObject, strText

 Set objShell = CreateObject("Wscript.Shell") ' use ping /? to find additional values for ping command; see -n and -w

 Set objExecObject = objShell.Exec("%comspec% /c ping -n 2 -w 750 " & strComputer)

 Do While Not objExecObject.StdOut.AtEndOfStream

 strText = strText & objExecObject.StdOut.ReadLine()

 Loop If InStr(strText,"could not find host") > 0 Then

 IsConnectible = "No DNS/WINS Entry"

 ElseIf (InStr(strText,"Reply from ") > 0) And (InStr(strText,": bytes=") > 0) Then

 IsConnectible = "Online"

 ElseIf InStr(strText,"Destination host unreachable") > 0 Then

 IsConnectible = "Host Unreachable"

 Else

 IsConnectible = "No Ping Reply"

 End If

End Function