

Run WSUS cleanup as a scheduled task

<https://4sysops.com/archives/run-wsus-cleanup-as-a-scheduled-task/>

Removing updates that are no longer needed or that have been replaced is important to keep WSUS in a healthy state. However, in the daily routine, admins often forget to execute the wizard for WSUS cleanup manually. Hence, it is more reliable if you set up a scheduled task for it.

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If you neglect the maintenance of a WSUS server, then at some point, the update files not only take up all the disk space but also database operations, such as filtering updates, become very slow. Above all, it becomes difficult to [successfully run the Server Cleanup Wizard](#) at all.

Use the PowerShell cmdlet for the scheduled task

While you cannot automate the GUI-based wizard to clean up WSUS, you can easily run the PowerShell counterpart, [Invoke-WsusServerCleanup](#), on a regular basis via a scheduled task.

The cmdlet supports five parameters:

- CleanupObsoleteComputers
- CleanupObsoleteUpdates
- CleanupUnneededContentFiles
- DeclineExpiredUpdates
- DeclineSupersededUpdates

Consider whether you want to start it with all switches at once or split the individual tasks for the cleanup among several commands.

Create a task using PowerShell

In order to be able to set up the scheduled task under Server Core as well, I recommend using PowerShell.

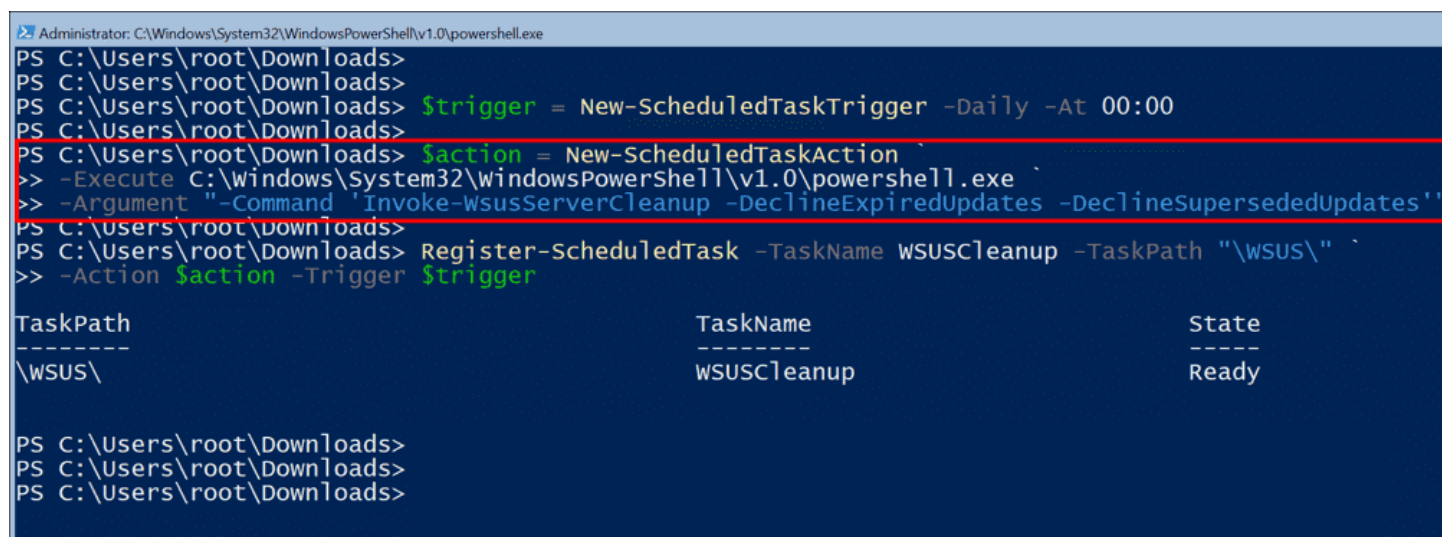
The first step is to define a trigger for the task, which in our case is fired when a certain time is reached (00:00 in this example):

```
$trigger = New-ScheduledTaskTrigger -Daily -At 00:00
```

Now you create the action for the scheduled task:

```
$action = New-ScheduledTaskAction `
-Execute C:\Windows\System32\WindowsPowerShell\v1.0\powershell.exe `
-Argument "-Command 'Invoke-WsusServerCleanup -DeclineExpiredUpdates -DeclineSupersededUpdates'"
```

This command is limited to declining expired and superseded updates.



```
Administrator: C:\Windows\System32\WindowsPowerShell\v1.0\powershell.exe
PS C:\Users\root\Downloads>
PS C:\Users\root\Downloads>
PS C:\Users\root\Downloads> $trigger = New-ScheduledTaskTrigger -Daily -At 00:00
PS C:\Users\root\Downloads>
PS C:\Users\root\Downloads> $action = New-ScheduledTaskAction
>> -Execute C:\Windows\System32\windowsPowerShell\v1.0\powershell.exe `
>> -Argument "-Command 'Invoke-WsusServerCleanup -DeclineExpiredUpdates -DeclineSupersededUpdates'"
PS C:\Users\root\Downloads>
PS C:\Users\root\Downloads> Register-ScheduledTask -TaskName WSUSCleanup -TaskPath "\WSUS\" `
>> -Action $action -Trigger $trigger

TaskPath          TaskName          State
-----
\WSUS\            WSUSCleanup       Ready

PS C:\Users\root\Downloads>
PS C:\Users\root\Downloads>
PS C:\Users\root\Downloads>
```

Create a scheduled WSUS cleanup task using PowerShell

To delete files or unused updates, invoke the cmdlet separately (in its own task) with the appropriate parameters. The definition of the action looks like this:

```
$action = New-ScheduledTaskAction `
-Execute C:\Windows\System32\WindowsPowerShell\v1.0\powershell.exe `
-Argument "-Command 'Invoke-WsusServerCleanup -CleanupObsoleteUpdates -
CleanupUnneededContentFiles'"
```

The *UpdateServer* parameter can be omitted if the task runs on the local server. Finally, enter the new task into the scheduler:

```
Register-ScheduledTask -TaskName WSUSCleanup -TaskPath "\WSUS\" `
-Action $action -Trigger $trigger
```

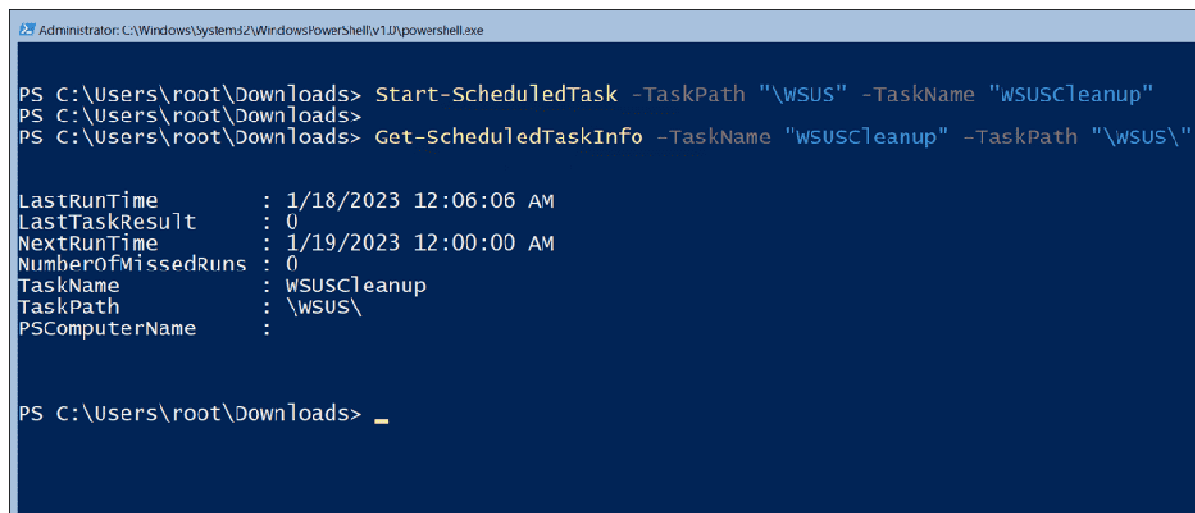
Test the scheduled task

It is a good idea to start the new task manually and check whether it is running correctly. To do so:

```
Start-ScheduledTask -TaskPath "\WSUS" -TaskName "WSUSCleanup"
```

Then display the result of the scheduled task with:

```
Get-ScheduledTaskInfo -TaskName "WSUSCleanup" -TaskPath "\WSUS\"
```



```
Administrator: C:\Windows\System32\WindowsPowerShell\v1.0\powershell.exe
PS C:\Users\root\Downloads> Start-ScheduledTask -TaskPath "\WSUS" -TaskName "WSUSCleanup"
PS C:\Users\root\Downloads>
PS C:\Users\root\Downloads> Get-ScheduledTaskInfo -TaskName "WSUSCleanup" -TaskPath "\WSUS\"

LastRunTime       : 1/18/2023 12:06:06 AM
LastTaskResult    : 0
NextRunTime       : 1/19/2023 12:00:00 AM
NumberOfMissedRuns : 0
TaskName          : WSUSCleanup
TaskPath          : \WSUS\
PSComputerName    :
```

Testing the new scheduled task to clean up a WSUS server

Here, look for a value of 0 under *LastTaskResult*. Any other value indicates an error. An overview of various error codes can be found on [Microsoft's Website](#).

Summary

To ensure that a WSUS server is regularly cleaned of updates that are no longer required, you can set up a scheduled task by running *Invoke-WsusServerCleanup*. This can be done with PowerShell, and therefore also works on Server Core.