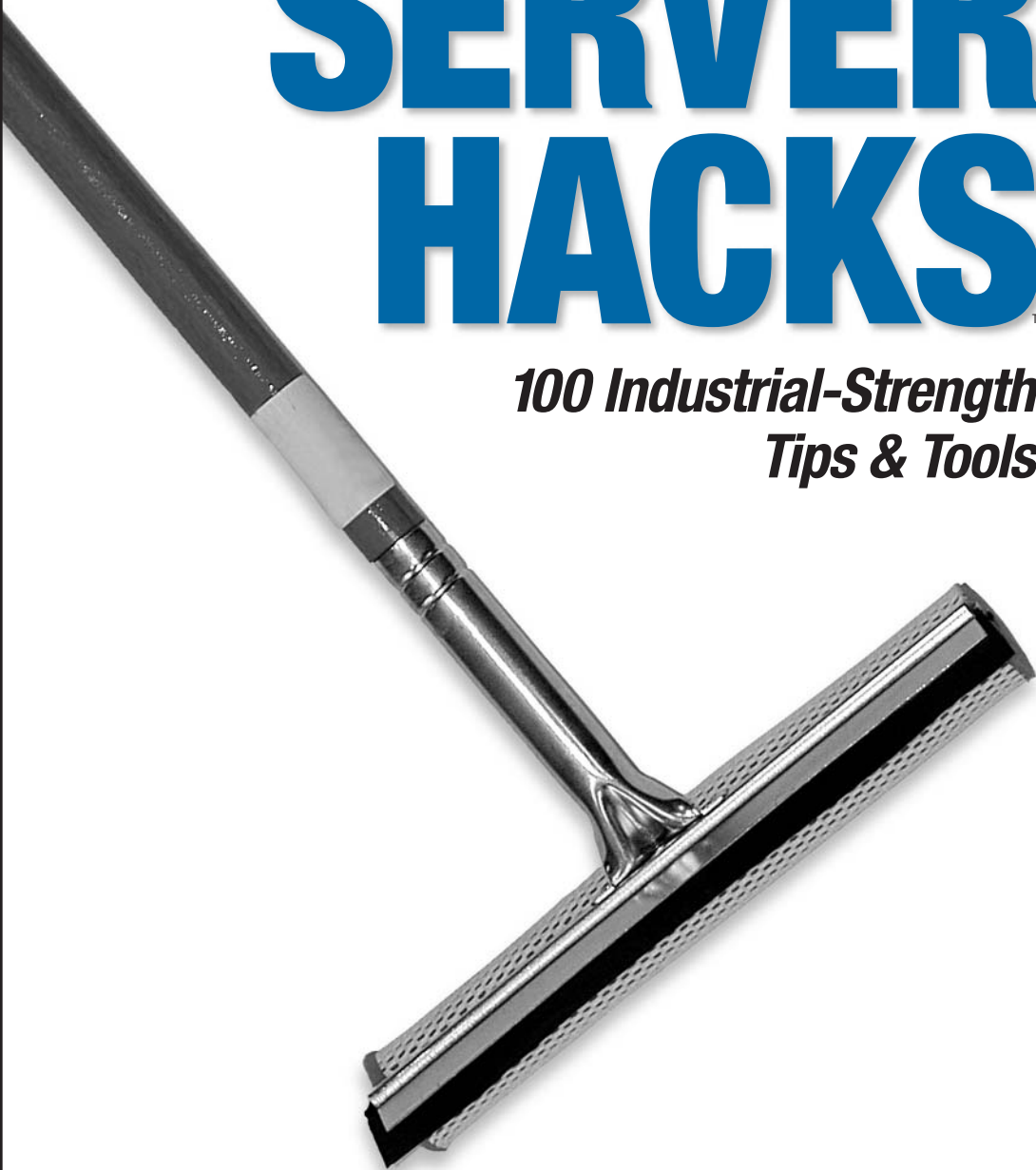


# WINDOWS SERVER HACKS™

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#7

## Rename Mapped Drives

Renaming drive mappings can be done in several ways, but automating the process is most efficient using a script.

Occasionally, an administrator might need to change drive-mapping names to hide share paths or to make the drive name user-friendly. This is an easy operation when done manually through a console, but when you try to automate this task, it becomes a little more difficult. Because mapped drives are not partitions on the local hard disk, common DOS commands, such as `label`, can't be used. Most drive-mapping commands, such as `net use`, don't have a way to customize the name of the mapped drive either.

One common way to perform this task is to hack the following Registry key and add the `_LabelFromReg` string value:

```
HKCU\Software\Microsoft\Windows\CurrentVersion\Explorer\MountPoints2\%key%
```

Here, the `%key%` variable is the drive letter to be changed.

There is a whole host of ways to make this method work, either by editing the Registry directly, via script, or by importing a `.reg` file using `regedit /c`. All of these methods require many steps and some require external files, so they might not fit into every administrative scheme. But there's an easier approach.

### The Code

As it turns out, our old friend VBScript can be used to make this task a little more seamless. This simple script can be used on mapped drives as well as local partitions:

```
mDrive = "drive letter"  
Set oShell = CreateObject("Shell.Application")  
oShell.NameSpace(mDrive).Self.Name = "AnyName"
```

### Running the Hack

To use this hack, simply edit the script to change the drive letter and drive name as desired. For example, if `E:` is a mapped drive that has the label `Budgets` on `172.16.33.14`, and you want to change the label on the mapped drive to simply `Budgets`, change this line:

```
mDrive = "drive letter"
```

to this:

```
mDrive = "e:\"
```

Then, change this line:

## Rename Mapped Drives

```
oShell.Namespace(mDrive).Self.Name = "AnyName"
```

to this:

```
oShell.Namespace(mDrive).Self.Name = "Budgets"
```

Finally, run the script by creating a shortcut to it and double-clicking on the shortcut, by calling it from a logon script, or by any other method suitable for your environment.

—*Michael Brainard*