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Foreword

At the time of starting this book, I've been involved with the world of MikroTik products for around 12 months. After many years of consultancy engagements using some of the higher-end Enterprise networking vendor kit, I landed a gig within the hospitality sector and was introduced to the world of MikroTik networking kit.

I must admit that it's a slightly different world than I am used to. In the land of MikroTik, there is consistency of OS commands and functionality across products, massive flexibility, extremely low cost, and none of the complexities around licensing that I know (and dislike) in the Enterprise world.

However, I'm also used to a world of vendor-recommended design patterns, reams of documentation and access to vendor-provided product information through multiple channels.

MikroTik has an active user community and is a well-loved vendor among its user base, but information often feels a little harder to find. Don't get me wrong, I am astounded by the functionality and performance provided by MikroTik, and I enjoy working on their kit, but I find it a bit trickier to find the answers I need at times.

I recently had a need to delve into the scripting side of MikroTik devices. RouterOS provides a powerful scripting capability that allows end users to add their own incredibly useful functions and custom features.

Although MikroTik does provide *some* online documentation about the scripting language, I found it a little tricky to find *all* the information I needed. The online MikroTik documentation is very concise, and I had to resort to browsing through many forum posts to find what I needed. I also found that many of the user supplied code examples I discovered were light on documentation and were often quite obfuscated through poor coding style rather than being written for readability and ease of future support.

I've been playing with scripting languages such as Python, Perl and Bash for the past few years and have created many scripts as part of my network consultancy gigs. I've picked up a few tricks along the way and thought it might be a good idea to put together a book with all the information to start scripting for MikroTik devices in one place. I thought it would also be good to focus on workflow and style to help people create supportable code efficiently.

I'm still a long way from being a "MikroTik expert". But, as the learning experience around MikroTik scripting is relatively fresh in my mind, I can share what I discovered from a newbie's perspective. If you're also new to MikroTik scripting, I hope to pitch this material at the correct level for you.

Well, that's enough of my story. Let's dive in! Good luck with your own journey of discovering more about scripting on MikroTik.

Nigel Bowden
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