



THE WINDOWS HOUSE OF MIRRORS: A ROLLER COASTER TOUR OF THE SUBSYSTEMS YOU USE EVERY DAY.

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▶ IOT Fan



▶ PowerShell is ♡



▶ Kids in college before age 5

▶ 15 Years



▶ 10 ish years



▶ Forgotten so much

▶ Beer, Coffee and Chocolate



▶ Game of Thrones tinfoil



▶ Alfresco and local

OUTLINE

- ▶ Registry
- ▶ COM/DCOM
- ▶ WMI
- ▶ Component based servicing - SXS
- ▶ Telemetry
- ▶ DPAPI

THE REGISTRY



WHERE DID THIS ALL BEGIN

- ▶ In windows 3.1, to organize the COM configuration info.
- ▶ In win 95 and NT, Replaced the perfusion of ini files.
- ▶ For better performance, the registry was read into memory on boot.
- ▶ Allows for permissions to be granularly delegated and give users access.
- ▶ Using standard Types (strings, dword, qword, etc)

Hive - Files where the registry data is stored.

Key - sub paths to different settings

Values - the Values

HOW THE REGISTRY WORKS

- ▶ HKLM - Used to store system level settings and configurations.
 - ▶ SOFTWARE - Application settings
 - ▶ %Systemroot%\system32\config\Software
 - ▶ SAM - Security Account manager
 - ▶ %Systemroot%\system32\config\SAM
 - ▶ SYSTEM - Protocol, services, Drivers
 - ▶ %Systemroot%\system32\config\System
 - ▶ ControlSet Current - generated for this current boot
 - ▶ Set1 - Backups for recovery
 - ▶ HARDWARE - Generated on the fly
 - ▶ SECURITY - policies and stored secrets
 - ▶ %Systemroot%\system32\config\Security

HOW THE REGISTRY WORKS

- ▶ HKCU - User profile, application and environment settings
 - ▶ %userprofile%\NTUser.dat - Kind of
 - ▶ This is a session based alias for HKU.
- ▶ HKU - All user profiles loaded
 - ▶ <SID> - The permanent mounting HKCU for all users
 - ▶ %userprofile%\NTUser.dat
 - ▶ <SID>_classes - HKCR Permanent mounting location
 - ▶ DLL, File Extensions, Defaults
 - ▶ %userprofile%\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\usrclass.dat

HOW THE REGISTRY WORKS

- ▶ HKCR - Melding of the user and system settings
 - ▶ User settings - HKEY_USERS\<>SID>_Classes
 - ▶ System settings - HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE\SOFTWARE\Classes
 - ▶ COM object and other DLL registration (CLSID)
 - ▶ APPX Registration
 - ▶ File extension defaults
 - ▶ Shell DLL defaults
 - ▶ File icon paths.
 - ▶ If there is the same key but different value, the user key wins.
- ▶ HKCC
 - ▶ Loaded on startup
 - ▶ Alias for HKLM\System\CurrentControlSet\HardwareProfiles\Current

COM/DCOM



COMPONENT OBJECT MODEL

- ▶ This was a way to more easily allow software to interact with each other.
- ▶ Mostly for local software interactions, DCOM was added to allow for remote software interactions.
 - ▶ Just a COM object with remote access build added.
- ▶ COM+ is just the COM but with more bells and whistles (V2)
- ▶ Two types:
 - ▶ In process – Uses the DLL directly.
 - ▶ Out of process – launches and EXE.

HOW IT WORKS

- ▶ Com objects are binary interfaces that are registered in HKR (User or machine)
- ▶ DLLs register as a com name and version
 - ▶ Com object Interface name
 - ▶ Hkey_Classes_root\\CLSID
 - ▶ CLSID is located
 - ▶ Hkey_Classes_Root\CLSID\
- ▶ This will locate the binary that can manage the interface.

PRACTICAL

- ▶ There are several applications that can have useful com interfaces like
 - ▶ MSI installer
 - ▶ windows updates
 - ▶ Office
 - ▶ RSA soft token
- ▶ If you have to troubleshoot errors, The application event log can capture some of the more severe errors.

WMI

 The skeleton key to basically everything 

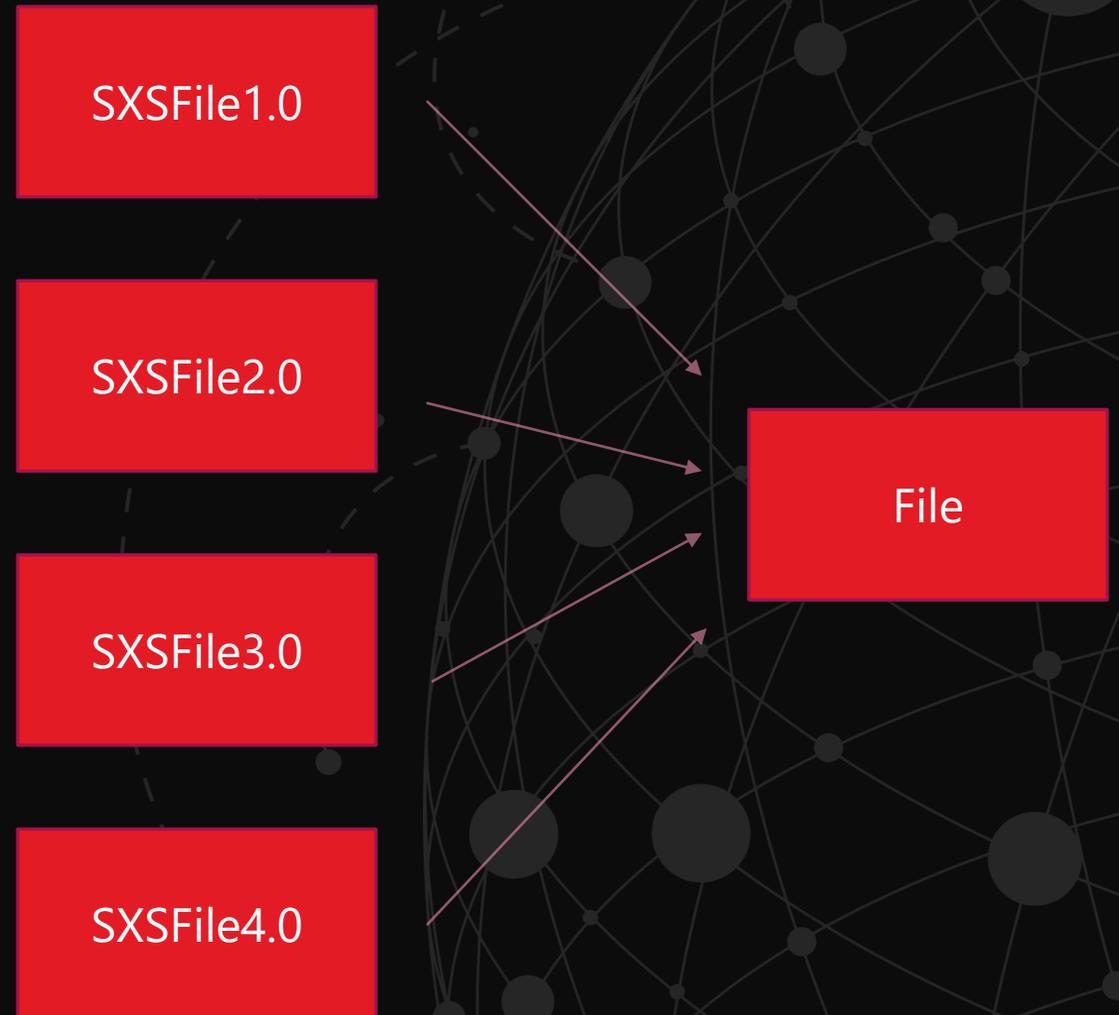


COMPONENT BASED SERVICING



WHAT IS THE WINDOWS COMPONENT BASED SERVICING

- ▶ The subsystem that manages the files for windows.
 - ▶ Windows patches
 - ▶ MSIs
- ▶ Attempts to resolve
 - ▶ Missing DLLs
 - ▶ DLL Versions
 - ▶ Duplicate DLLs
- ▶ Where
 - ▶ C:\Windows\winsxs
 - ▶ HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE\SOFTWARE\Microsoft\Windows\CurrentVersion\Component Based Servicing



TRACING

wow64_microsoft-windows-npiv.resources_31bf3856ad364e35_10.0.17134.1_en-us_ccd5be3cero10ad	4/12/2018 4:15 AM	File folder
wow64_microsoft-windows-notepad_31bf3856ad364e35_10.0.17134.131_none_5b205564fa6ebcec	9/25/2018 4:34 PM	File folder
wow64_microsoft-windows-notepad_31bf3856ad364e35_10.0.17134.1_none_5eefc4250d8ae358	10/9/2018 9:20 AM	File folder
wow64_microsoft-windows-notepad.resources_31bf3856ad364e35_10.0.17134.1_en-us_0dbb0ebb6c854775	4/12/2018 4:15 AM	File folder

Computer\HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE\SOFTWARE\Microsoft\Windows\CurrentVersion\Component Based Servicing\ComponentDetect\wow64_microsoft-windows-notepad_31bf3856ad364e35_0.0.0.0_none_f967c8fea4e82ada

Name	Type	Data
(Default)	REG_SZ	(value not set)
Package_9_for_KB4230204~31bf3856ad364e35~amd64~~10.0.1.0.4230204-9_neutral	REG_SZ	10.0.17134.131@2

Registry Editor

File Edit View Favorites Help

Computer\HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE\SOFTWARE\Microsoft\Windows\CurrentVersion\Component Based Servicing\Packages\Package_9_for_KB4230204~31bf3856ad364e35~amd64~~10.0.1.0

Name	Type	Data
(Default)	REG_SZ	(value not set)
CurrentState	REG_DWORD	0x00000070 (112)
InstallClient	REG_SZ	DISM Package Manager Provider
InstallLocation	REG_SZ	\\?\C:\\$WINDOWS.~BT\Criticals\DU\F8882b23-81a8-4144-8548-0aaf79c0d67d\
InstallName	REG_SZ	Package_9_for_KB4230204~31bf3856ad364e35~amd64~~10.0.1.0.mum
InstallTimeHigh	REG_DWORD	0x01d45517 (30692631)
InstallTimeLow	REG_DWORD	0x83750c80 (2205486208)
InstallUser	REG_SZ	S-1-5-18
SelfUpdate	REG_DWORD	0x00000000 (0)
Visibility	REG_DWORD	0x00000002 (2)

WHY DOES IT TAKE UP SO MUCH SPACE?

- ▶ This allows for easy rollback of patches and software.
- ▶ You can clean up the old files, but it prevents uninstalls
 - ▶ Cleanup wizard
 - ▶ Schedule task
 - ▶ \Microsoft\Windows\Servicing – StartComponentCleanup
 - ▶ DISM
 - ▶ Dism.exe /online /Cleanup-Image /StartComponentcleanup /ResetBase
 - ▶ Dism.exe /online /Cleanup-Image /SPSuperseded
- ▶ DO NOT DELETE THESE MANUALLY!

HOW DO I TROUBLESHOOT IT?

- ▶ This allows for easy rollback of patches and software.
- ▶ You can clean up the old files, but it prevents uninstalls
 - ▶ Sxstrace – Exports logging for sxs
 - ▶ CheckSur – Win 7 - Integrate checks for sxs
 - ▶ Dism – Win 10 - Integrate checks for sxs
- ▶ DO NOT DELETE THESE MANUALLY!

WINDOWS TELEMETRY

Good data leads to good decisions

Windows Analytics session - <https://sched.co/N6fy>



TELEMETRY – HUH WHAT IS IT GOOD FOR?

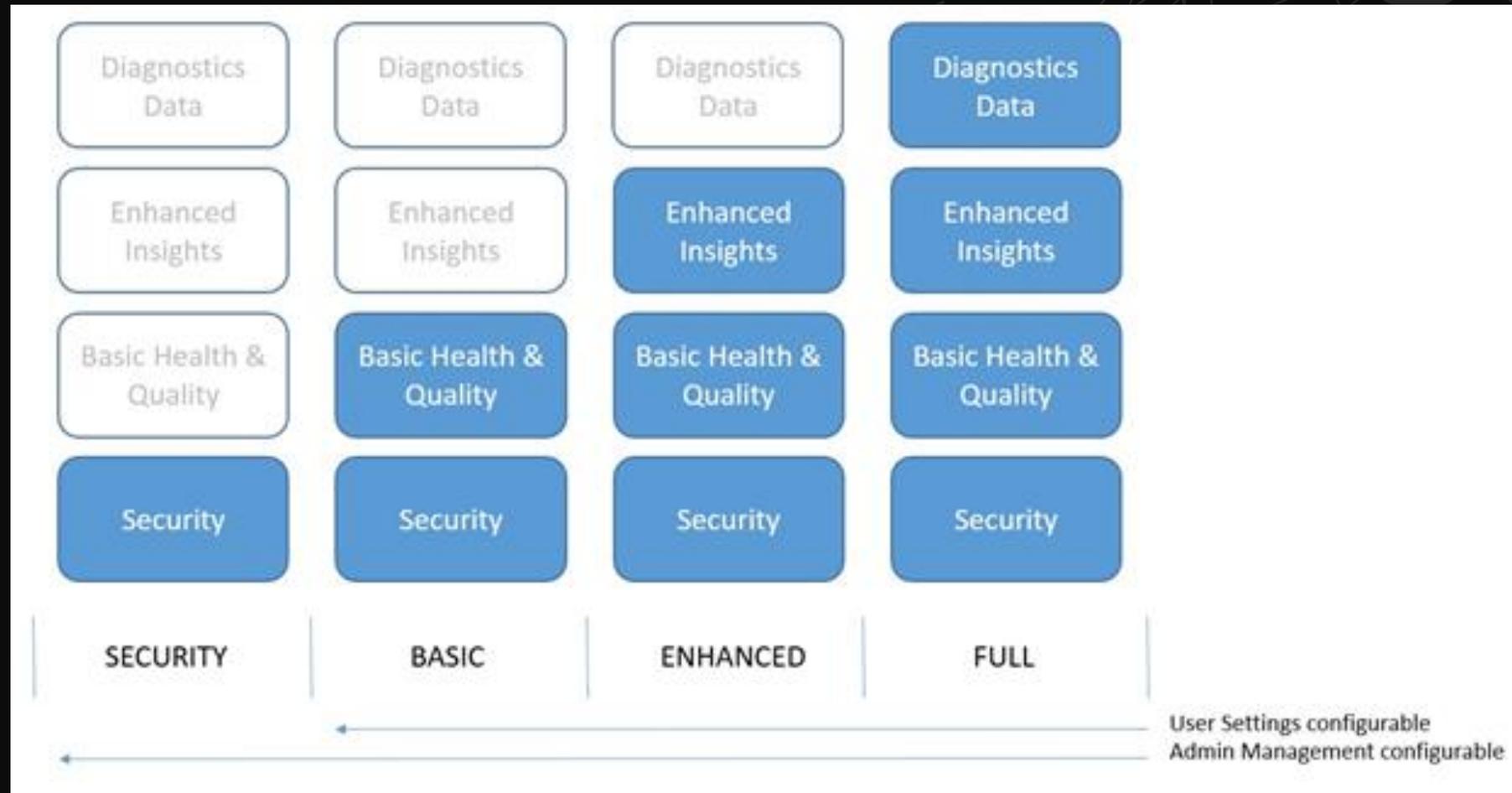
Absolutely EVERYTHING!

What is it?

- ▶ Telemetry
- ▶ What do I get out of the deal?



WINDOWS TELEMETRY

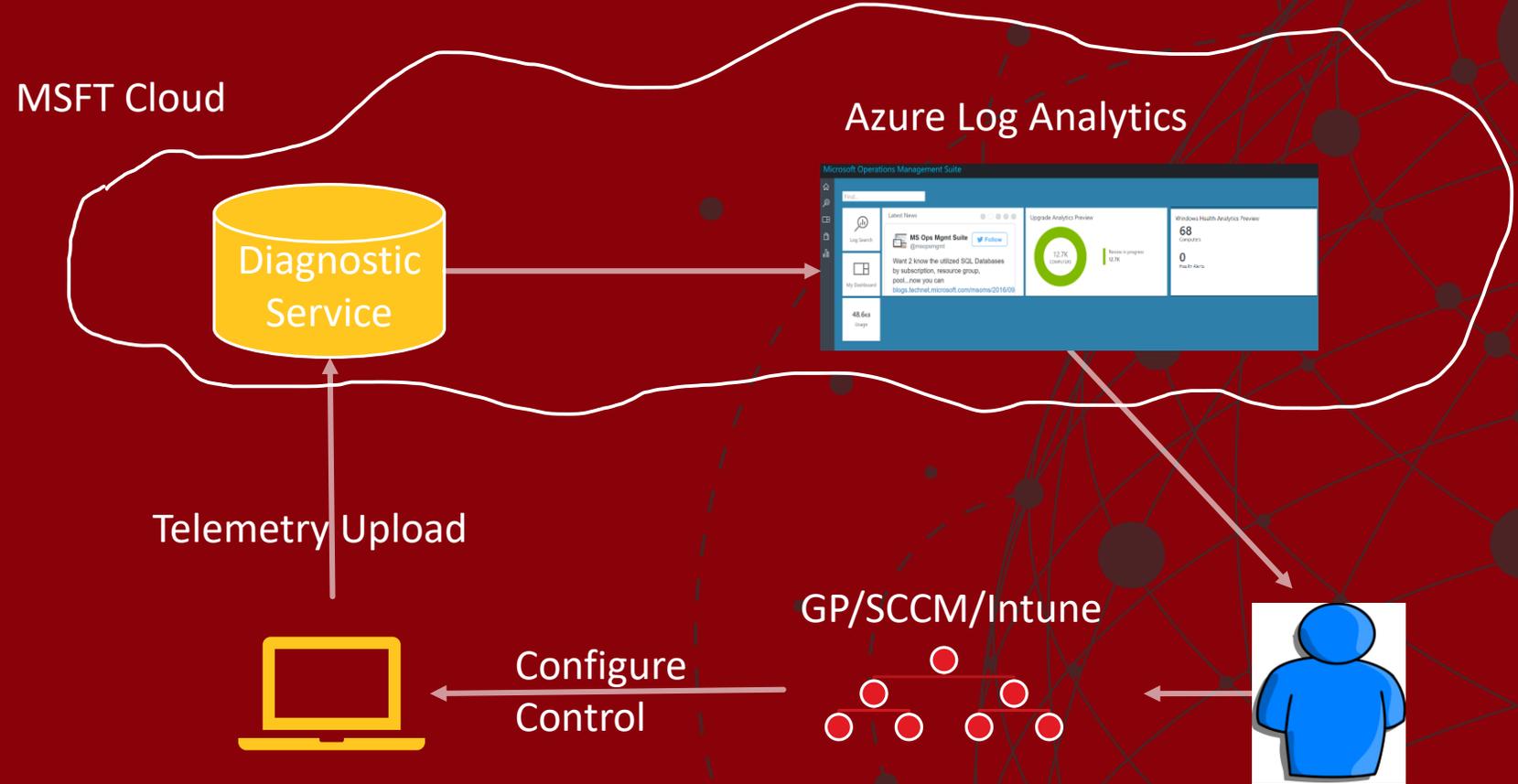


Windows Analytics Data Flow

MSFT, as "IT admin" for consumers, uses diagnostic data to ensure OS, app and driver releases land with the right level of quality/health/compat

Windows Analytics gives IT diagnostic-based insights to their devices, exposed via Azure log analytics

IT controls the level of diagnostic data collected, which impacts Analytics availability



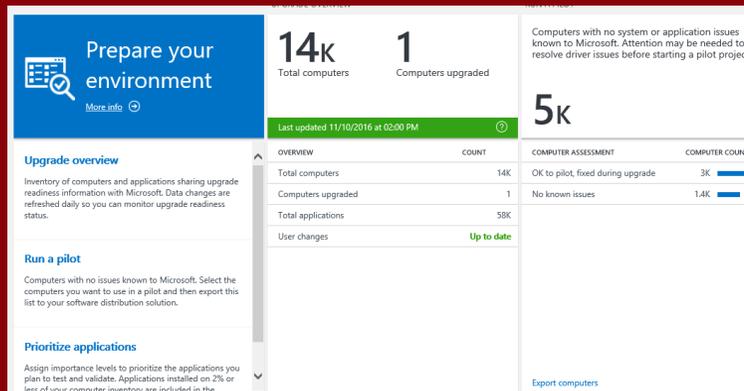
Value to customer: Reduce TCO via proactive insights

Value to MSFT: Diagnostic data helps us improve the product, staying current helps our ecosystem

WINDOWS ANALYTICS

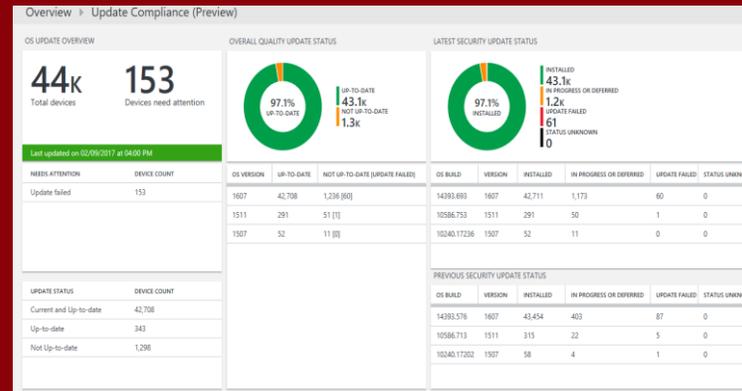
Data-driven insights to reduce the cost of deploying, servicing, and supporting Windows 10

Upgrade Readiness



Plan upgrades by identifying devices that are ready, identify and resolve app and driver compatibility blockers

Update Compliance



Ensure update and antimalware compliance with timely reports for all your devices (even those on the road)

Device Health



Reduce support costs by proactively identifying and remediating top end-user impacting issues

No agents to deploy

Works with your existing infra; AAD or AD, SCCM or Intune, win32 or store apps, ...

No additional cost beyond existing Windows licenses



WHAT CAN I SEE?

- ▶ DDV – Diagnostic Data Viewer
- ▶ Windows Feedback Hub – Things that are broken
- ▶ Wire Shark - Comms
- ▶ Postman - APIs

TELEMETRY – HUH WHAT IS IT GOOD FOR?

Absolutely EVERYTHING!

Cloud

- ▶ Telemetry
- ▶ I get benefits
- ▶ I touched it

Can I Gather my own?

The Tale of the Slow Registry

Windows Performance tool Kit



WHAT IS WPT AND WHERE DO I GET IT?

- ▶ Windows Performance Recorder (WPR)
 - ▶ Allows you to capture a trace for the problem you want to investigate
 - ▶ Get it from the ADK – aka.ms/adk
- ▶ Windows Performance Analyzer (WPA)
 - ▶ Exposes information about the system and allows you to do performance analysis
 - ▶ Get it in the Microsoft STORE!

WINDOWS PERFORMANCE TOOLKIT

Windows Assessment and Deployment Kit - Windows 10

Select the features you want to install

Click a feature name for more information.

- Application Compatibility Toolkit (ACT)
- Deployment Tools
- Windows Preinstallation Environment (Windows PE)
- Imaging And Configuration Designer (ICD)
- User State Migration Tool (USMT)
- Volume Activation Management Tool (VAMT)
- Windows Performance Toolkit**
- Windows Assessment Toolkit
- Windows Assessment Services - Client
- Microsoft SQL Server 2012 Express

Windows Performance Toolkit

Size: 125.6 MB

Tools to record system events by using Event Tracing for Windows, and a tool to analyze performance data in a graphical user interface.

Includes:

- Windows Performance Recorder
- Windows Performance Analyzer
- Xperf

Estimated disk space required: 2.5 GB
Disk space available: 70.0 GB

[Back](#) [Install](#) [Cancel](#)

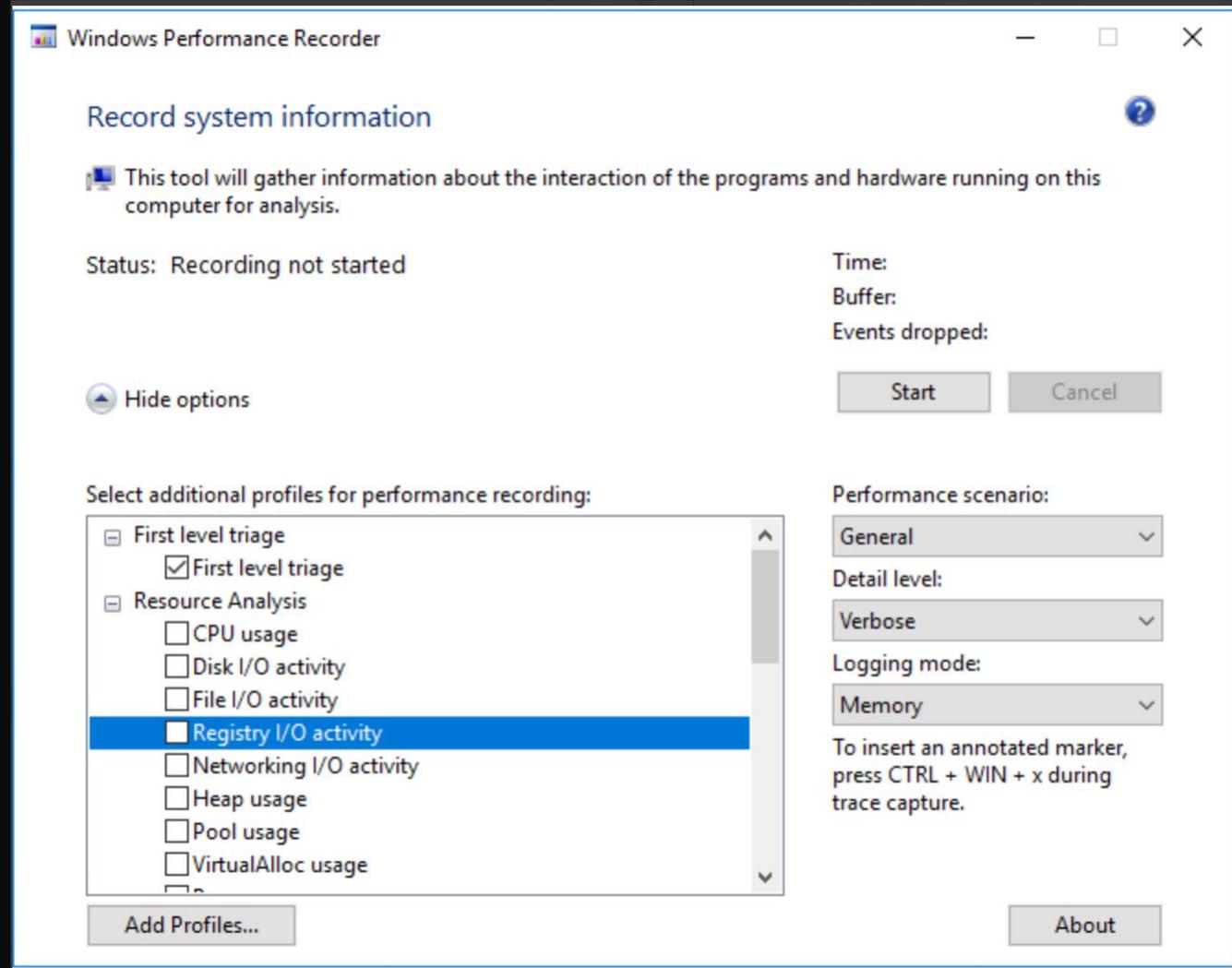
HOW DO I CAPTURE A TRACE?

- ▶ Start Windows Performance Recorder
 - ▶ Prior to 1903 index service won't find it ☹️
- ▶ Once you start **SHOW HIDE OPTIONS**

Replication!

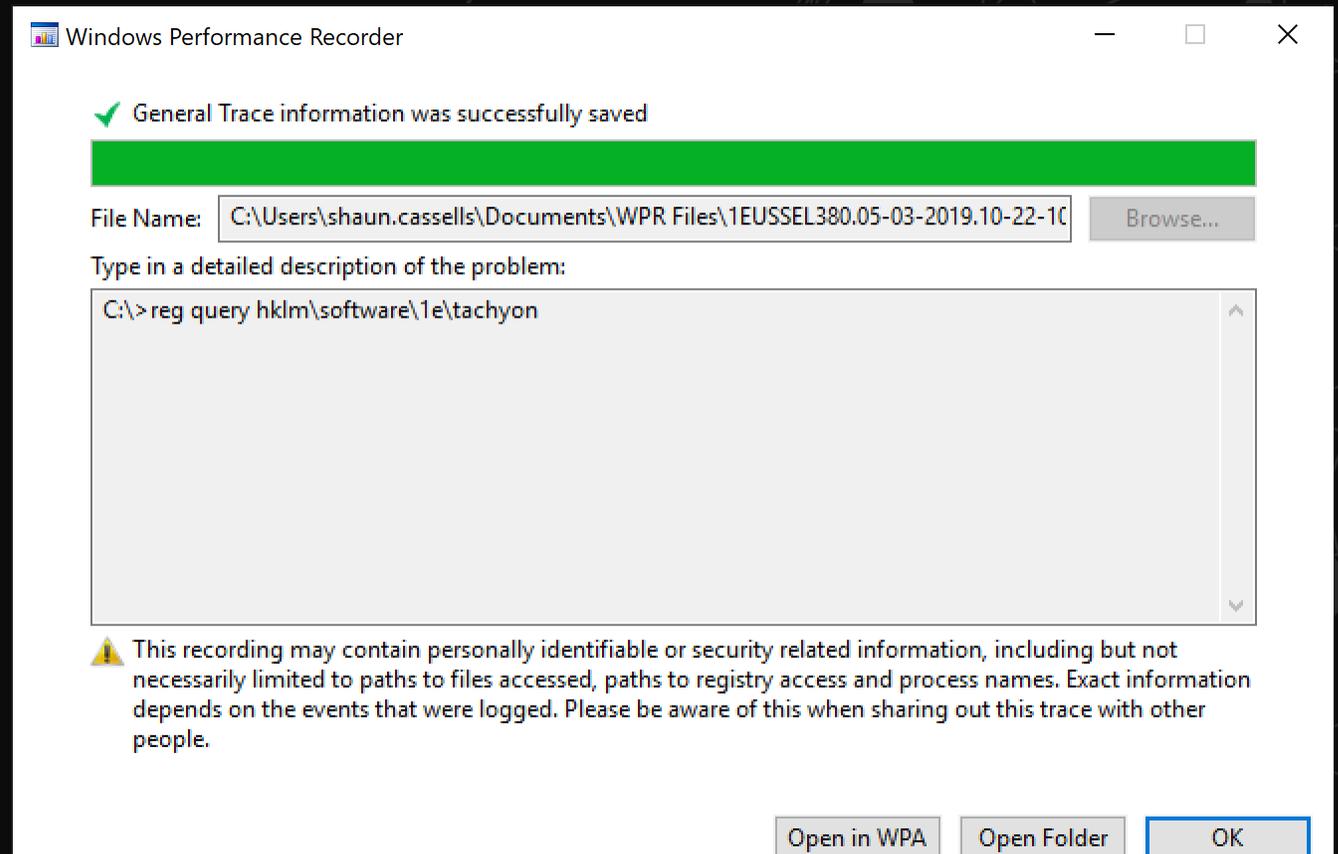
- ▶ **Windows Metrics Tool kit**

metrics emptyapp64 RegWriteHKLM -t



SAVING

- ▶ Get a cuppa this is going to take a minute
- ▶ Saves to local Document\WPR Files\ -> If your documents are redirected expect to take longer
- ▶ Yea for **Open in WPA**



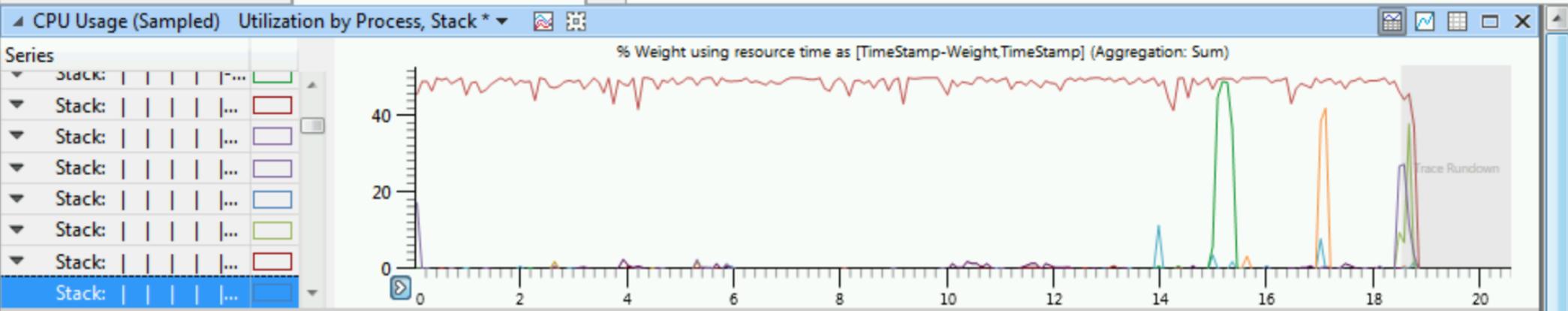
OVERVIEW OF WPA

- ▶ Load Symbols may take a while
 - ▶ More Tea!



1 Symbols have finished loading.

Apply Profile 1 Analysis



Line #	Pro...	Stack	Count ¹	Weight (in view)	TimeStamp	% Weight ⁰	Legend
10		Metrics.exe!?	18,167	18,057.243900		43.92	
11	▼	- advapi32.dll!RegSetValueExWStub	17,965	17,858.215800		43.43	
12		kernel32.dll!RegSetValueExW	17,965	17,858.215800		43.43	
13	▼	- kernel32.dll!LocalBaseRegSetValue	17,960	17,853.215800		43.42	
14	▼	- ntdll.dll!NtSetValueKey	17,954	17,847.215200		43.40	
15	▼	- ntoskrnl.exe!KiSystemServiceCopyEnd	17,949	17,842.211700		43.39	
16	▼	- ntoskrnl.exe!NtSetValueKey	17,944	17,839.071600		43.38	
17	▼	- ntoskrnl.exe!CmSetValueKey	17,897	17,792.818000		43.27	
18	▼	- ntoskrnl.exe!CmpSetValueKeyNew	17,840	17,735.731100		43.13	
19	▼	- ntoskrnl.exe!CmpAddValueKeyNew	17,702	17,600.000600		42.80	
20	▼	- ntoskrnl.exe!HvAllocateCell	17,464	17,363.406000		42.23	
21		ntoskrnl.exe!HvpDoAllocateCell	17,464	17,363.406000		42.23	
22	▼	- ntoskrnl.exe!HvpFindFreeCell	17,459	17,358.405700		42.22	
23	▼	- ntoskrnl.exe!RtlAreBitsClear	11,469	11,402.981000		27.73	
24	▼	- ntoskrnl.exe!RtlAreBitsClear<itself>	11,464	11,398.970400		27.72	
25			1	1.099100	8.847011500	0.00	
26			1	1.098000	15.363987900	0.00	
27			1	1.096700	14.829907000	0.00	

SLOW REGISTRY WRITE

Registry Write was slow on Windows 7

1. Installed the Windows Performance Toolkit and Windows Performance Analyzer
2. Recorded the action
3. Reviewed the action
4. Found the step with the most delay
5. Bingle FTW!

Summary: Fixed in windows 10!

DTRACE FOR WINDOWS

What is the future?

ETW is so static

DTRACE!!!

Open Source as of 2016

Used in all Insider Builds

▶ <https://techcommunity.microsoft.com/t5/Windows-Kernel-Internals/DTrace-on-Windows/ba-p/362902>

▶ Download <https://www.microsoft.com/en-us/download/details.aspx?id=58091>

DPAPI



DATA PROTECTION API

- ▶ A set of Win32 APIs that allow you to encrypt data with great ease.
- ▶ The user's password hash encrypts:
 - ▶ Old user password hash
 - ▶ Current key – refreshed every 90 days
- ▶ Used in:
 - ▶ IE saved passwords
 - ▶ Picture, fingerprint ect authentication
 - ▶ ConvertFrom-SecureString
 - ▶ Credential manager

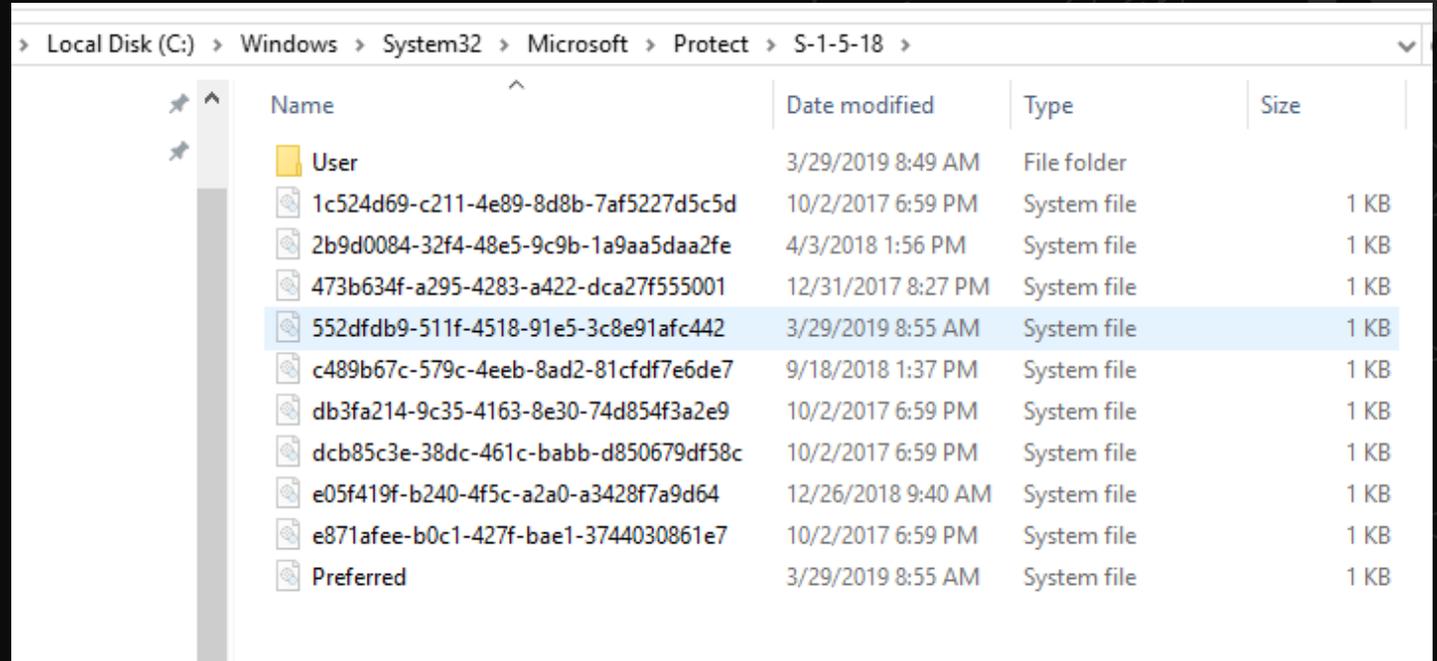
DPAPI ENCRYPTION - SUBSYSTEM

- ▶ Local system

%WINDIR%/System32/Microsoft/Protect

- ▶ Current User – Semi Portable

%appdata%\Microsoft\Protect



Name	Date modified	Type	Size
User	3/29/2019 8:49 AM	File folder	
1c524d69-c211-4e89-8d8b-7af5227d5c5d	10/2/2017 6:59 PM	System file	1 KB
2b9d0084-32f4-48e5-9c9b-1a9aa5daa2fe	4/3/2018 1:56 PM	System file	1 KB
473b634f-a295-4283-a422-dca27f555001	12/31/2017 8:27 PM	System file	1 KB
552dfdb9-511f-4518-91e5-3c8e91afc442	3/29/2019 8:55 AM	System file	1 KB
c489b67c-579c-4eeb-8ad2-81cfd7e6de7	9/18/2018 1:37 PM	System file	1 KB
db3fa214-9c35-4163-8e30-74d854f3a2e9	10/2/2017 6:59 PM	System file	1 KB
dcb85c3e-38dc-461c-babb-d850679df58c	10/2/2017 6:59 PM	System file	1 KB
e05f419f-b240-4f5c-a2a0-a3428f7a9d64	12/26/2018 9:40 AM	System file	1 KB
e871afee-b0c1-427f-bae1-3744030861e7	10/2/2017 6:59 PM	System file	1 KB
Preferred	3/29/2019 8:55 AM	System file	1 KB

DPAPI ENCRYPTION – CREDENTIAL MANAGER

- ▶ Is the Credential Manager a good place for Passwords:
 - ▶ It depends
 - ▶ The API for Credential manager is standard and easy to use and an obvious spot for hackers
 - ▶ Most implementation skip adding entropy

https://github.com/davotronic5000/PowerShell_Credential_Manager

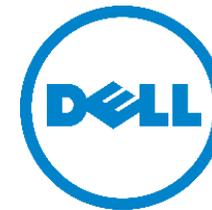
OTHER CRAZY TOPICS

- ▶ What part of windows surprised you when you learned how it worked?
- ▶ Any suggestions for future topics?

Extended Q&A

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RESOURCES / LINKS

- ▶ Comprehensive guide to WMI – LogicMonitor
- ▶ There's something about WMI – SANS DFIR
- ▶ PowerShell History – Snover

<http://bit.ly/wmiguide>

<http://bit.ly/wmi4evil>

<http://bit.ly/poshhistory>

TELEMETRY RESOURCES

- ▶ Windows Analytics - <http://aka.ms/WAGetStarted>
- ▶ Diagnostic Data Viewer - <https://bit.ly/2Y6CV13>
- ▶ Windows Insider Flight Hub - <https://docs.microsoft.com/en-us/windows-insider/flight-hub/>
- ▶ Windows ADK - <https://aka.ms/adk>
- ▶ Windows Performance Toolkit - <https://docs.microsoft.com/en-us/windows-hardware/test/wpt/>
- ▶ Windows Performance Analyzer - <https://bit.ly/2vANA7Q>
- ▶ DTrace For Windows - <https://www.microsoft.com/en-us/download/details.aspx?id=58091>



