

EUC Score

Deep Dive: Collecting, analyzing and understanding Windows performance counters

E2EVC 2023, Rome

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Benny Tritsch

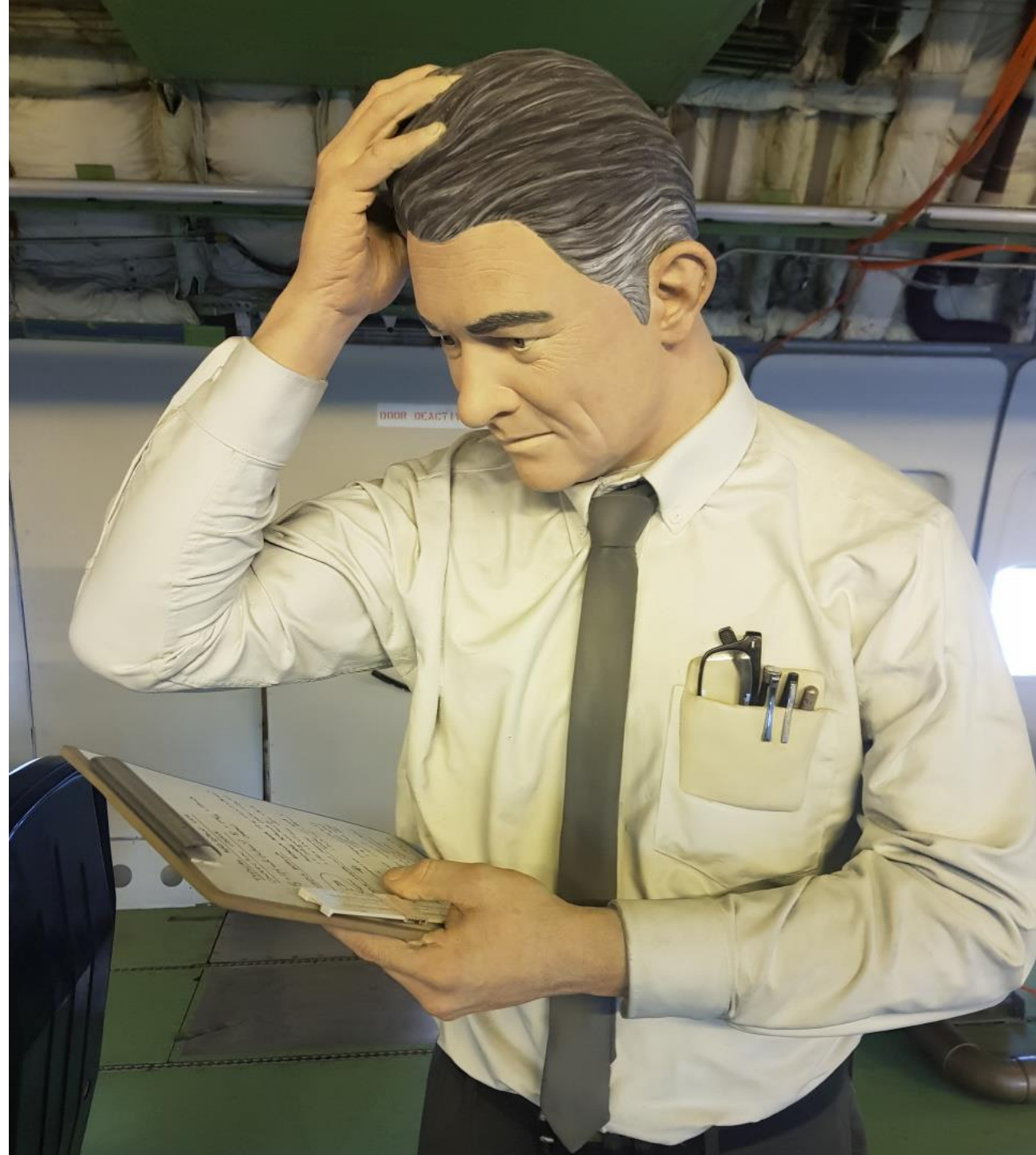
Dr. Tritsch IT Consulting



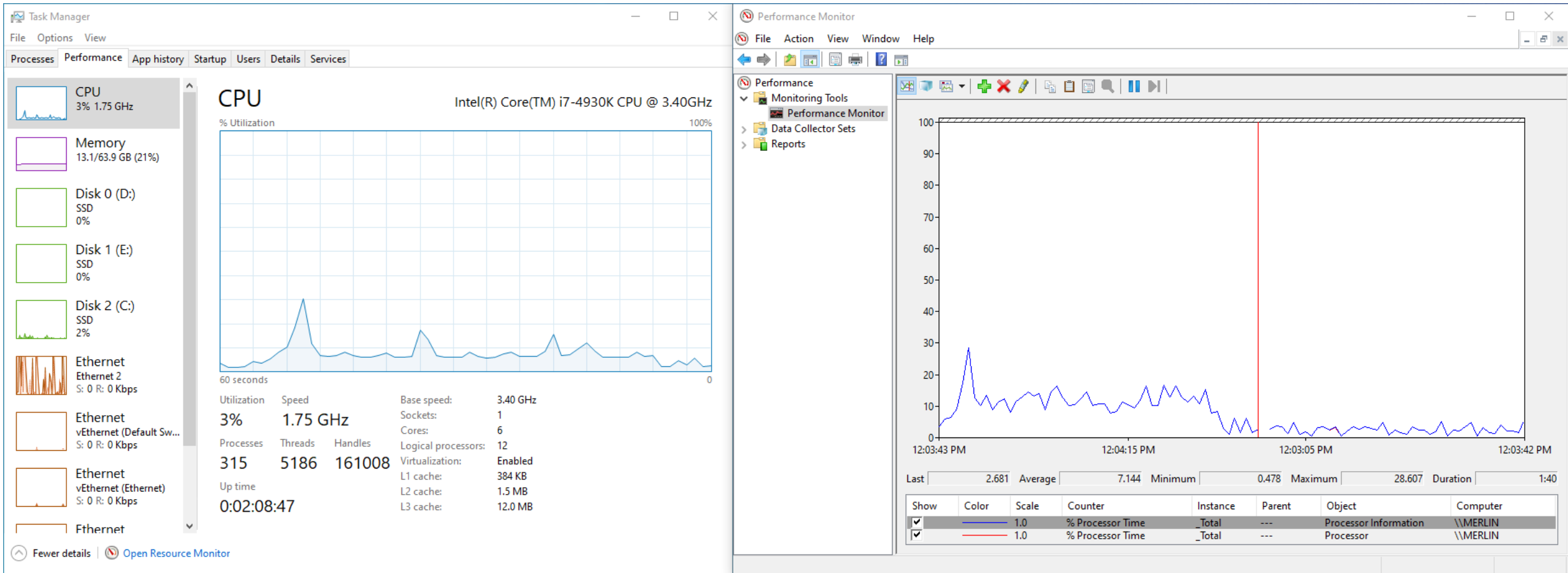
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Task Manager versus Performance Monitor



Windows 10 Task Manager ‘% CPU’ skew – A Tale of Two Metrics by Jeff Stokes

<https://illuminati.services/2021/03/17/windows-10-task-manager-cpu-inaccurate-a-tale-of-two-metrics/>

Task Manager’s CPU numbers are all but meaningless by Aaron Margosis

<https://aaron-margosis.medium.com/task-managers-cpu-numbers-are-all-but-meaningless-2d165b421e43>

Windows Performance Counters

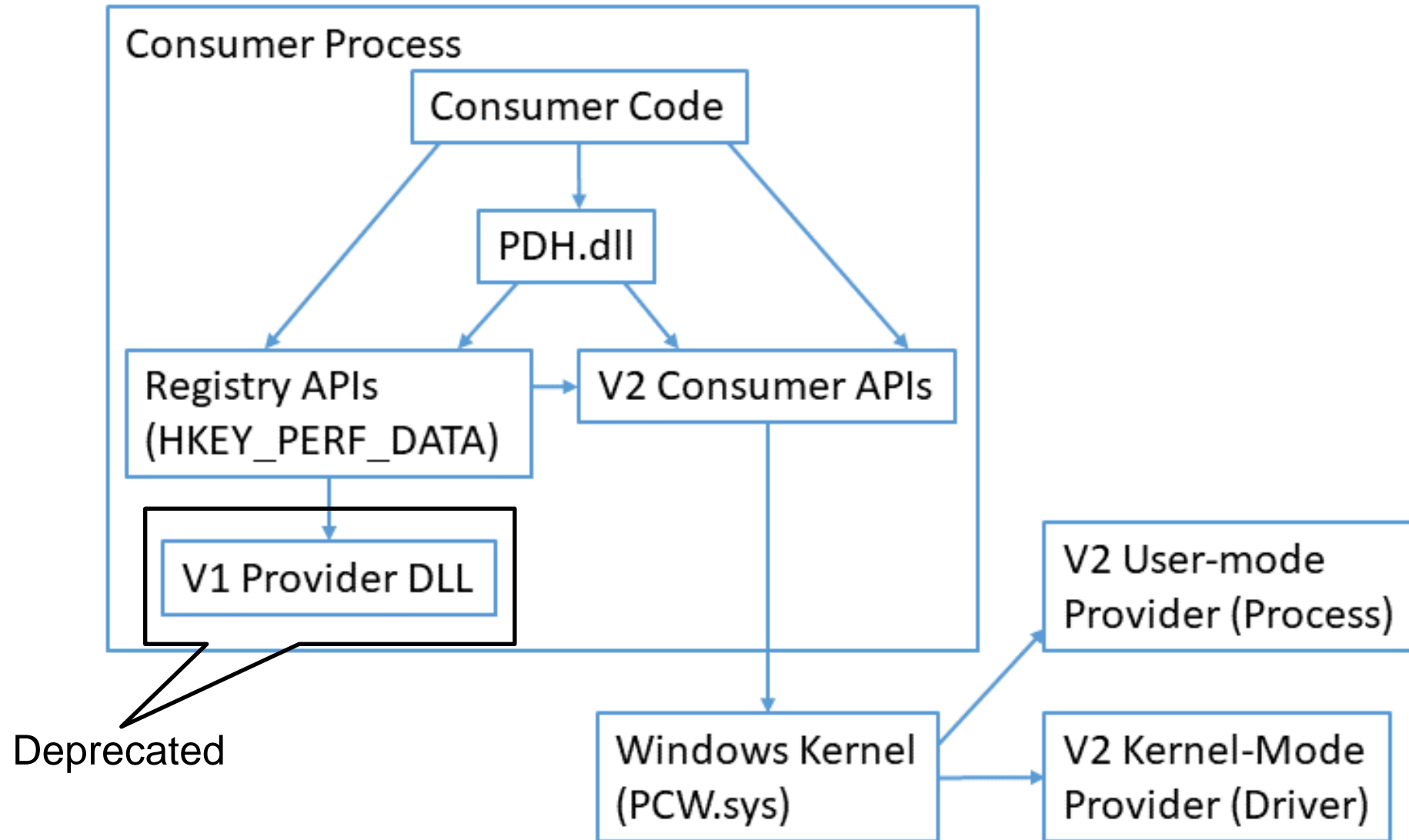
Consistent interface for collecting various kinds of system data

- A **provider** is a software component that generates and publishes performance data
- A **counterset** (or **object**) is a grouping of performance data within a provider
- A **counter** is the definition of single piece of performance data
- An **instance** is an entity about which performance data is reported
- A **counter value** is the value of a single piece of performance counter data
- The **counter type** indicates the type of the counter's raw value and indicates what the counter's raw value represents

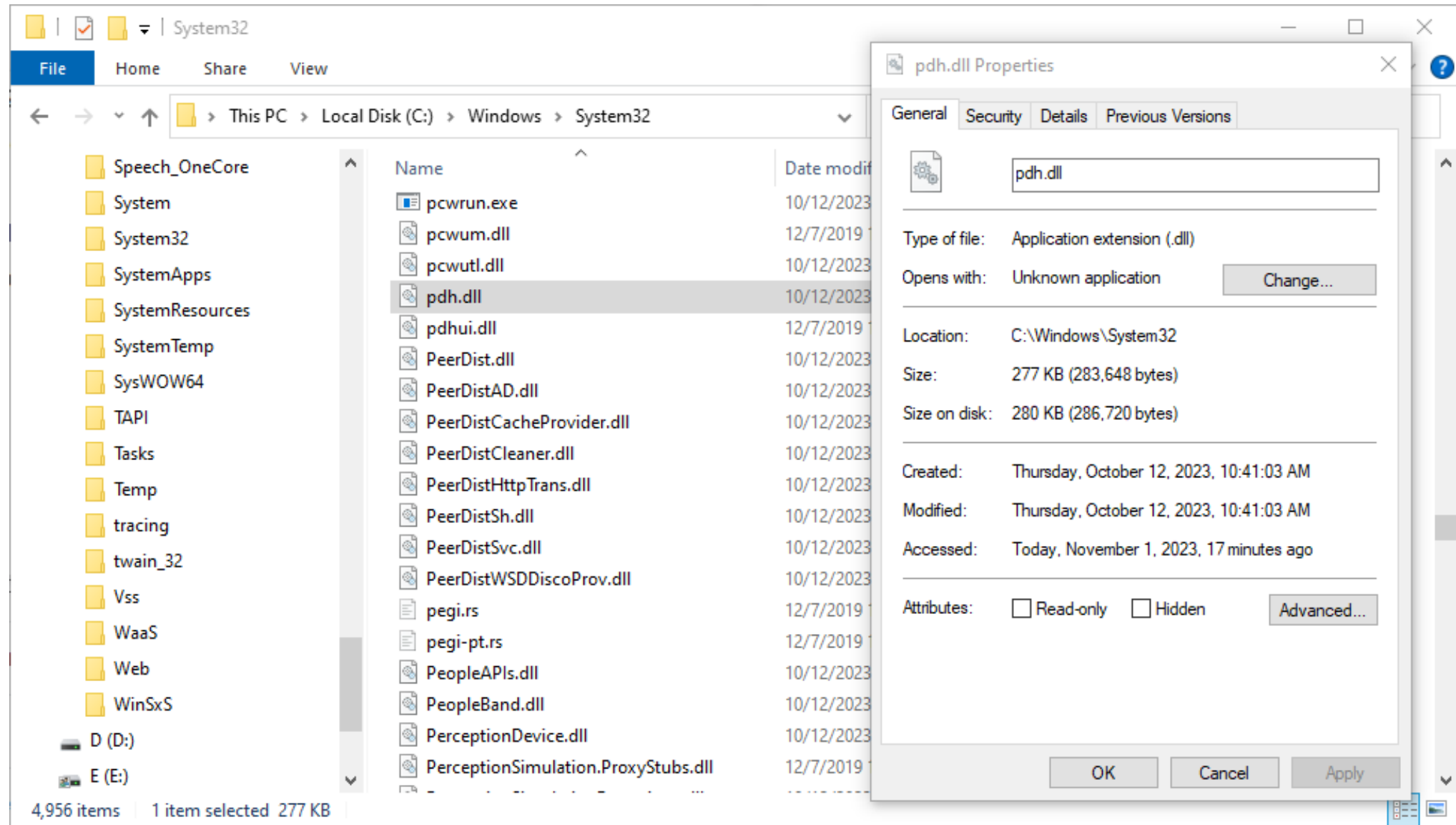
Windows Performance Counters

- **Single-instance countersets** always contain data for exactly one instance
- **Multi-instance countersets** contain data for a variable number of instances
- A **consumer** is a software component that makes use of performance data. It periodically collects and records the data from a provider's counterset:
 - GUI: Task Manager, Resource Monitor, Performance Monitor, and Sysinternals Process Explorer
 - CMD: Typeperf.exe, Logman.exe, and Relog.exe
 - EUC Score: Simload Base Counters, Telemetry Collector, Data Miner

Performance API Architecture



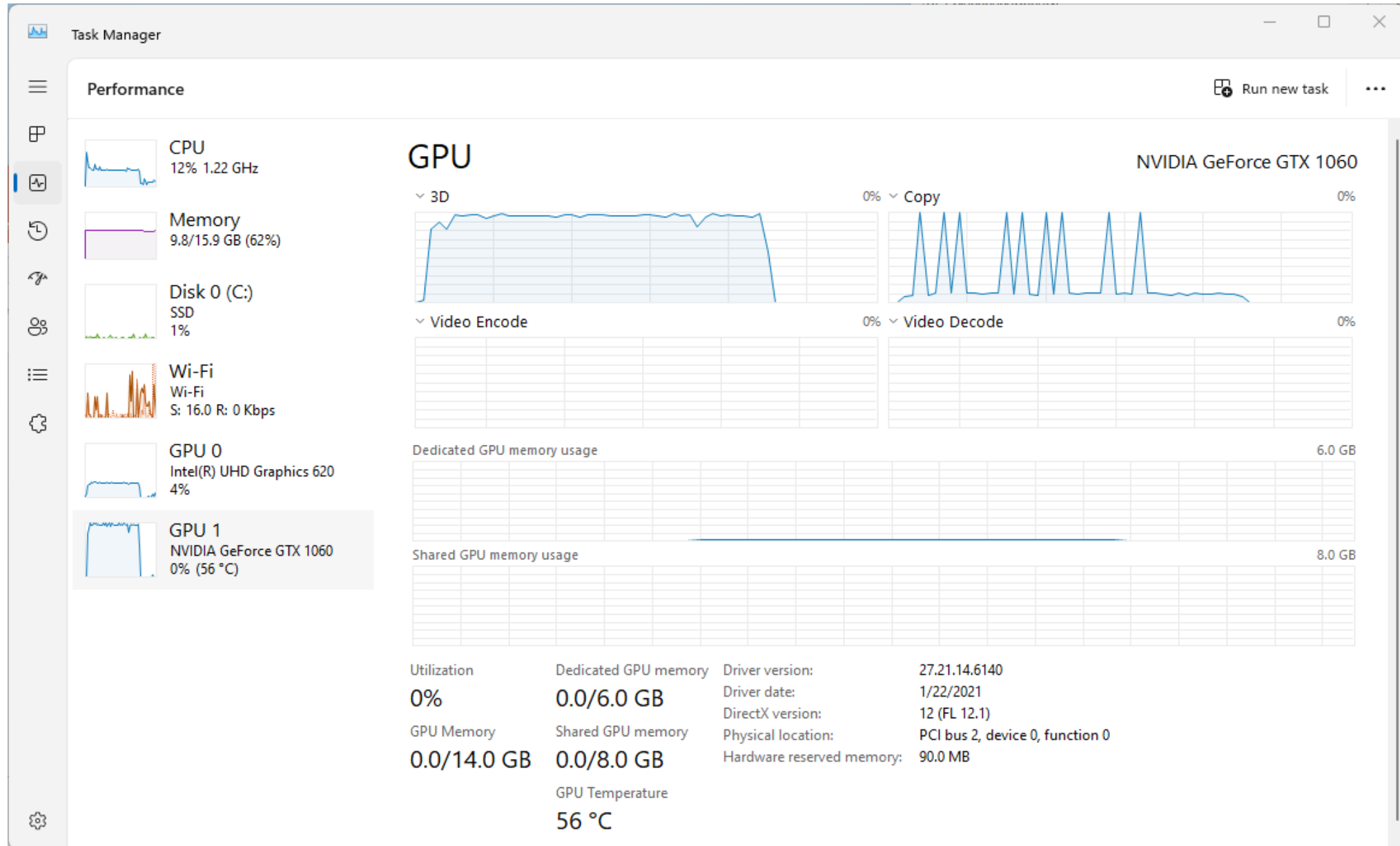
Windows Performance Data Helper DLL – PDH.dll



HKEY_PERFORMANCE_DATA & PDH API

- This key provides runtime information into performance data provided by either the NT kernel itself, or running system drivers, programs and services that provide performance data
- This key is not stored in any hive and **not displayed in the Registry Editor**, but it is visible through the registry functions in the Windows API, or in a simplified view via the **Performance tab of the Task Manager**
- For details about the API, check out <https://learn.microsoft.com/en-us/windows/win32/api/pdh/>

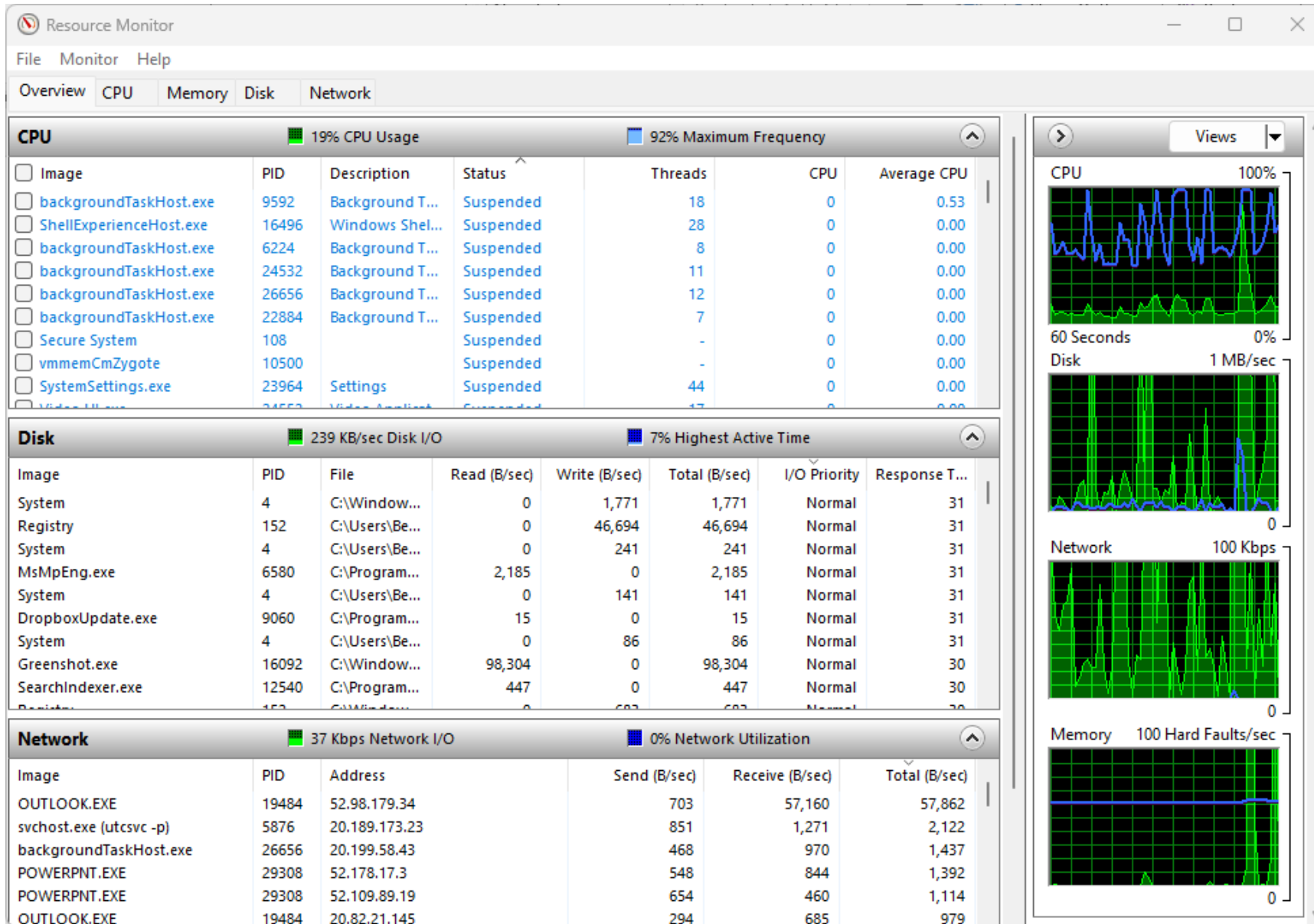
Task Manager – Performance Tab



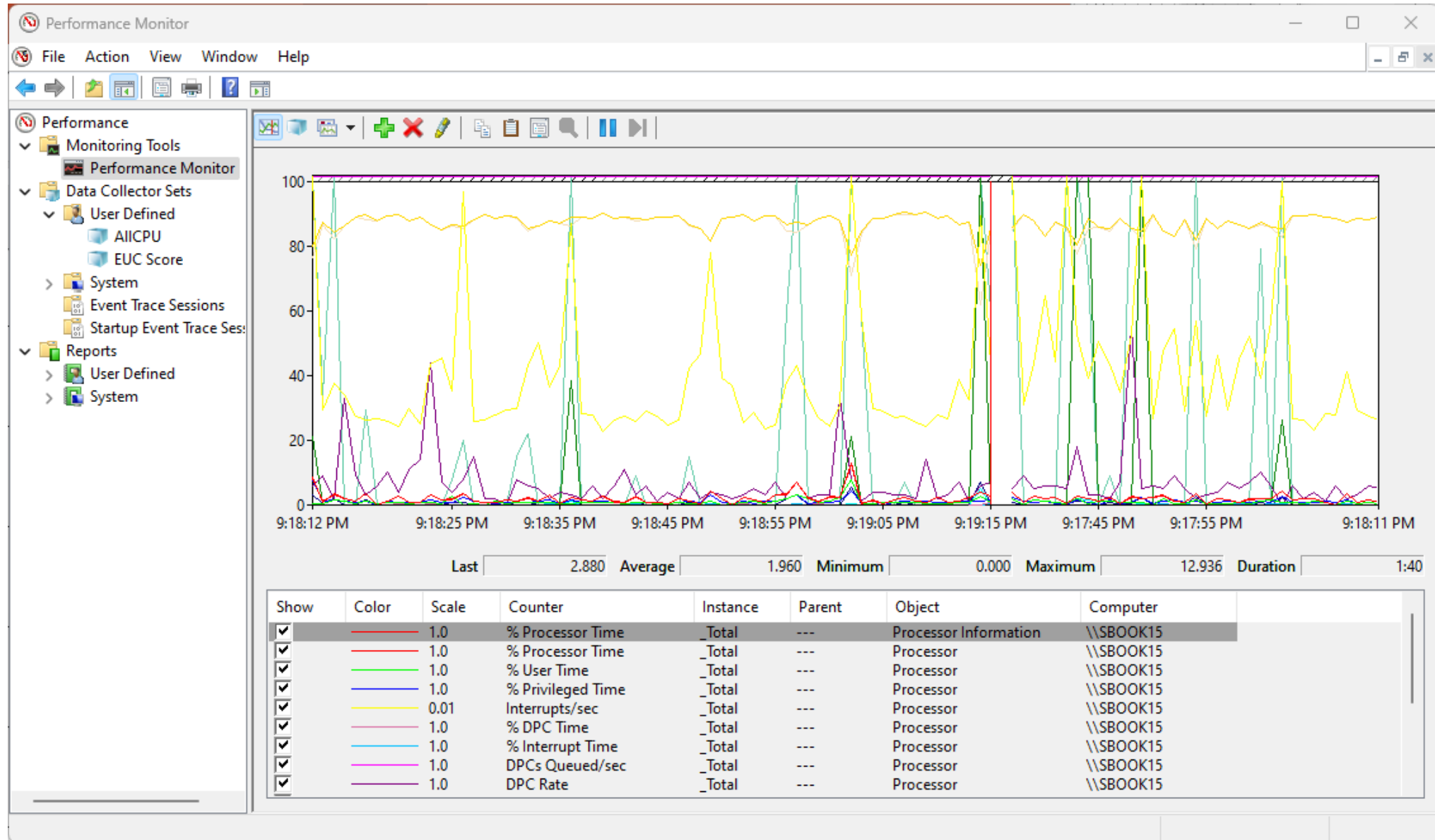
Task Manager – Detail Tab

| Name | PID | Status | User name | CPU | Memory (a... | UAC virtualizat... | GPU | GPU engine |
|-----------------------|-------|---------|------------|-----|--------------|--------------------|-----|------------|
| System Idle Process | 0 | Running | SYSTEM | 97 | 8 K | | 00 | |
| Taskmgr.exe | 17940 | Running | Benny | 01 | 19,232 K | Not allowed | 00 | |
| Greenshot.exe | 13732 | Running | Benny | 01 | 40,016 K | Disabled | 00 | |
| dwm.exe | 1852 | Running | DWM-1 | 00 | 79,524 K | Disabled | 00 | |
| chrome.exe | 12008 | Running | Benny | 00 | 89,148 K | Disabled | 00 | |
| svchost.exe | 1860 | Running | NETWORK... | 00 | 3,620 K | Not allowed | 00 | |
| csrss.exe | 1012 | Running | SYSTEM | 00 | 1,480 K | Not allowed | 00 | |
| chrome.exe | 16080 | Running | Benny | 00 | 120,872 K | Disabled | 00 | |
| POWERPNT.EXE | 10020 | Running | Benny | 00 | 360,752 K | Disabled | 00 | |
| OUTLOOK.EXE | 21672 | Running | Benny | 00 | 186,696 K | Disabled | 00 | |
| g2mlauncher.exe | 14868 | Running | Benny | 00 | 17,144 K | Disabled | 00 | |
| PowerToys.exe | 10764 | Running | Benny | 00 | 2,896 K | Disabled | 00 | |
| StreamDeck.exe | 1612 | Running | Benny | 00 | 69,428 K | Disabled | 00 | |
| System interrupts | - | Running | SYSTEM | 00 | 0 K | | 00 | |
| PowerToys.Peek.UI.exe | 13408 | Running | Benny | 00 | 12,972 K | Disabled | 00 | |
| ctfmon.exe | 5024 | Running | Benny | 00 | 3,920 K | Disabled | 00 | |
| ControlCenter.exe | 11940 | Running | Benny | 00 | 52,388 K | Disabled | 00 | |
| msedge.exe | 7464 | Running | Benny | 00 | 173,968 K | Disabled | 00 | |
| explorer.exe | 2232 | Running | Benny | 00 | 57,292 K | Disabled | 00 | |
| Skype.exe | 10256 | Running | Benny | 00 | 69,572 K | Disabled | 00 | |
| ElgatoAudioControl... | 15472 | Running | Benny | 00 | 824 K | Disabled | 00 | |
| slack.exe | 17296 | Running | Benny | 00 | 167,384 K | Disabled | 00 | |
| chrome.exe | 5540 | Running | Benny | 00 | 94,548 K | Disabled | 00 | |
| chrome.exe | 8684 | Running | Benny | 00 | 14,828 K | Disabled | 00 | |
| mmc.exe | 12184 | Running | Benny | 00 | 18,144 K | Not allowed | 00 | |
| Skype.exe | 17704 | Running | Benny | 00 | 159,664 K | Disabled | 00 | |
| svchost.exe | 9924 | Running | Benny | 00 | 10,588 K | Disabled | 00 | |

Resource Monitor



Performance Monitor



Sysinternals Process Explorer

The screenshot displays the Sysinternals Process Explorer interface. The main window shows a list of processes with columns for CPU, Private Bytes, Working Set, PID, Description, and Company Name. The 'System' folder is expanded, showing various system processes like 'svchost.exe' and 'RuntimeBroker.exe'. A 'System Information' window is overlaid on the right, showing a CPU usage graph and system statistics.

Process Explorer - Sysinternals: www.sysinternals.com [DARCOLABS\Benny]

File Options View Process Find Users Help

Process Explorer Columns: CPU, Private Bytes, Working Set, PID, Description, Company Name

System Information Window:

- Summary CPU Memory I/O GPU
- CPU Usage: 3.20%
- Totals: Handles (164,327), Threads (5,326), Processes (323)
- CPU: Context Switch Delta (15,329), Interrupt Delta (8,579), DPC Delta (678)
- Topology: Cores (6), Sockets (1), Logical Processors (12)

System Information Window Buttons: OK

Command-Line Consumers

- **Typeperf** writes performance data to the command window or to a log file
- **Logman** creates and manages Event Trace Session and Performance logs and supports many functions of Performance Monitor from the command line
- **Relog** extracts performance counters from performance counter logs into other formats, such as text-TSV (for tab-delimited text), text-CSV (for comma-delimited text), binary-BIN (BLG), or SQL

Performance Data Provider Tools

- **CtrPP** is a command-line build tool from the Windows SDK that validates and compiles a Performance Counters V2 provider manifest. This tool generates the .h headers and .rc resource scripts needed to build a V2 provider
- **LodCtr** is the command-line tool used to install a provider onto a system
- **UnlodCtr** is the command-line tool used to uninstall a provider from a system

PerfMon: Add Counters and Save Settings

The image shows the Windows Performance Monitor interface. The 'Add Counters' dialog is open, showing the 'Available counters' list with 'Processor' selected. The 'Instances of selected object' list shows 'Total' selected. The 'Added counters' list is currently empty. A Notepad window titled 'E2EVC.tsv' is open, displaying the following text:

```
File Edit Format View Help
Reported on \\MERLIN
Date: 10/30/2023
Time: 12:45:57 PM
Time: Default
Data: Current Activity
Interval: 1.00 seconds

Computer: \\MERLIN

Object: Processor

        _Total
    % Processor Time      3.956

Object: Processor Information

        _Total
    % Processor Time      3.956
```

The main Performance Monitor window shows a list of counters at the bottom:

| Counter | Parent | Inst... |
|------------------------|--------|---------|
| ✓ 1.0 % Processor Time | _Total | --- |
| ✓ 1.0 % Processor Time | _Total | --- |

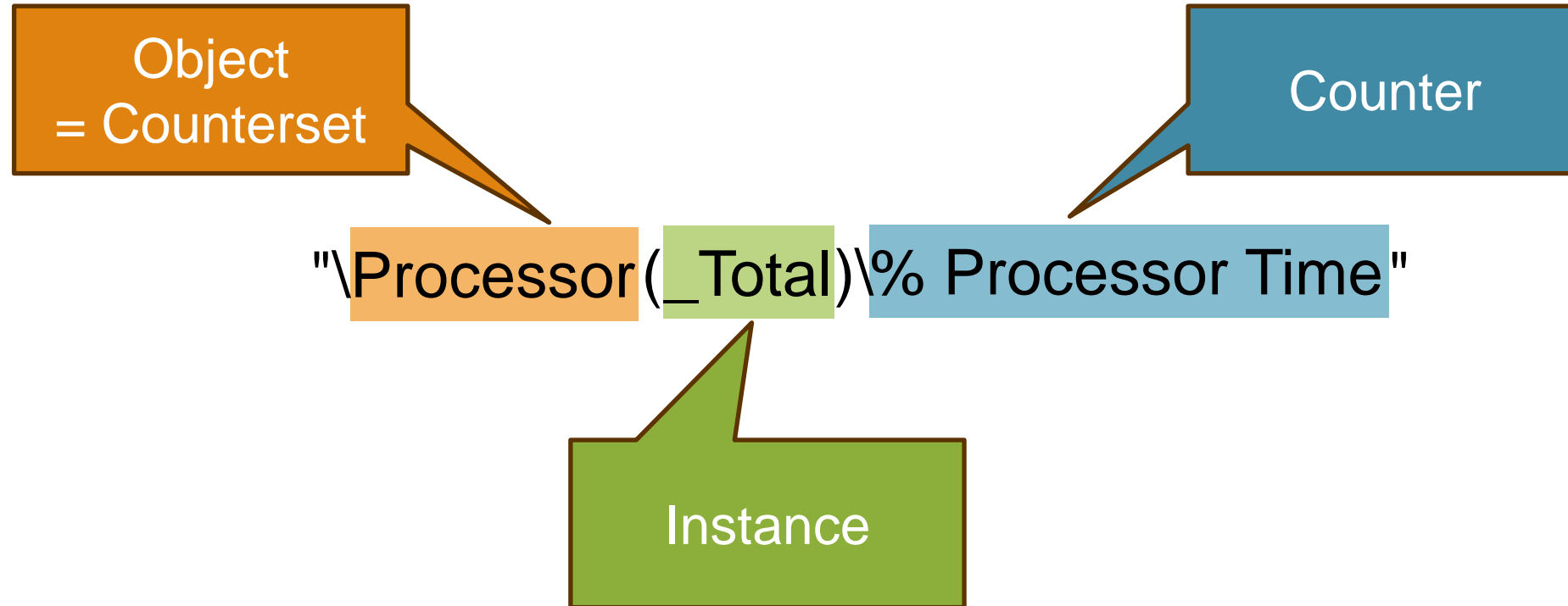
The Performance Monitor window also shows a 'Performance' tree on the left with 'Monitoring Tools' expanded, and a 'Performance Monitor' window in the background.

Some Important EUC Counters

| Counter | Instance | Object |
|--------------------------------|----------|------------------------------|
| Available MBytes | | Memory |
| Free System Page Table Entries | | Memory |
| Page Faults/sec | | Memory |
| Pages/sec | | Memory |
| Pool Nonpaged Bytes | | Memory |
| Pool Paged Bytes | | Memory |
| Bytes Total/sec | * | Network Adapter |
| Avg. Disk Queue Length | _Total | PhysicalDisk |
| Working Set | _Total | Process |
| % Processor Time | _Total | Processor |
| % Interrupt Time | _Total | Processor |
| Interrupts/sec | _Total | Processor |
| Context Switches/sec | | System |
| Processes | | System |
| Processor Queue Length | | System |
| Active Sessions | | Terminal Services |
| [A range of counters] | * | RemoteFX Network |
| [A range of counters] | * | RemoteFX Graphics |
| Max Input Delay | Max | User Input Delay per Session |

Performance Counter Path Syntax

\\ComputerName\ObjectName(ObjectInstance)\ObjectCounter



IMPORTANT: Believe it or not, but counter names are localized, so above example works only on English systems!

Performance Logs and Alerts (PLA)

- Provides application programmers the ability to generate alert notifications based on performance counter thresholds
 - Create new Data Collector Set
 - Create manually (Advanced)
 - Create data logs - performance counter, event trace data, system configuration information
- In Performance Monitor
 - Add performance counters and sample interval
 - Go to existing data collector set and change log format to create CSV files in the PerfLog folder
 - In case Binary format was selected, the BLG file can be converted to CSV by the relog command located in WINDOWS\System32
 - `relog -f csv "C:\location\blg\file.blg" -o "C:\location\output\file.csv"`

PerfMon Data Collector Sets

- The Logman command can start and stop a PerfMon Data Collector Set
 - Logman start "EUC Score"
 - Logman stop "EUC Score"
- Logman query shows all scheduled tasks created by Performance Monitor
- Logman import "EUC Score" -xml c:\windows\perf_log.xml
- In Data Collector Set properties, use Stop Conditions and Schedule to trigger by Task Scheduler. In Task Scheduler, the scheduled task is visible under the "Task Scheduler Library" > "Microsoft" > "Windows" > "PLA" folder.
- HINT: In case Task Scheduler is not running, start it with "net start task scheduler"
- HINT: Schtasks.exe enables an administrator to create, delete, query, change, run and end scheduled tasks on a local or remote system.

Windows Management Interface

- WMI has preinstalled providers that monitor system performance on both the local system and remotely
- WMI can be used from scripts or from C/C++ applications
- The WmiPerfClass provider creates the classes derived from Win32_PerfRawData and from Win32_PerfFormattedData
- The WmiPerfInst provider supplies data dynamically to both raw and formatted classes
- **Example:** `Get-CimInstance -Query "select Name, PercentProcessorTime from Win32_PerfFormattedData_PerfOS_Processor" | Select Name, PercentProcessorTime`

CAUTION: WMI overhead can be significant!

PowerShell

Performance Counters

- `Get-Counter -ListSet "Processor"`
- `(Get-Counter -ListSet "Processor").Paths`
- `(Get-Counter -ListSet "Processor").PathsWithInstances`
- `Get-Counter -Counter "\Processor(_Total)\% Processor Time" -
SampleInterval 2 -MaxSamples 3`

Dealing With Localized Counter Names

- The most severe limitation of Get-Counter are the localized counter names
- There are two API functions you can use to convert localized counter names to id numbers and vice versa
 - Get-PerformanceCounterId takes a localized performance counter name and translates it to a language-agnostic id number
 - Get-PerformanceCounterLocalName does the opposite and translates the id number to the appropriate local name

<https://powershell.one/tricks/performance/performance-counters>

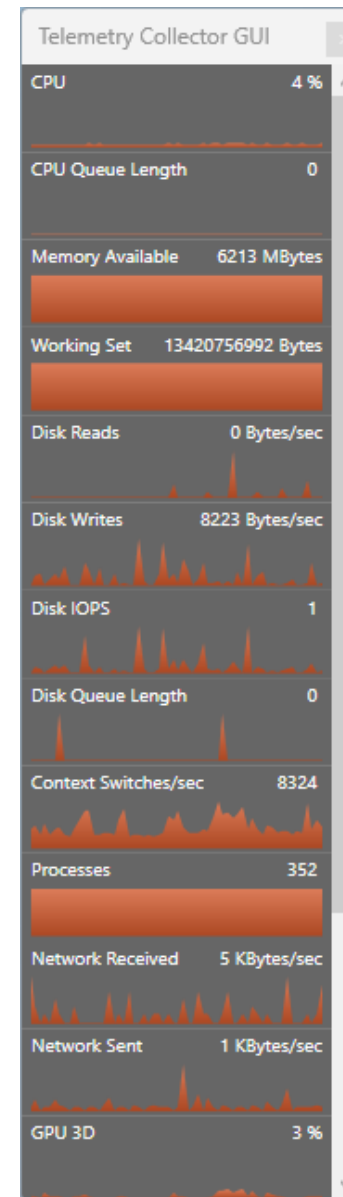
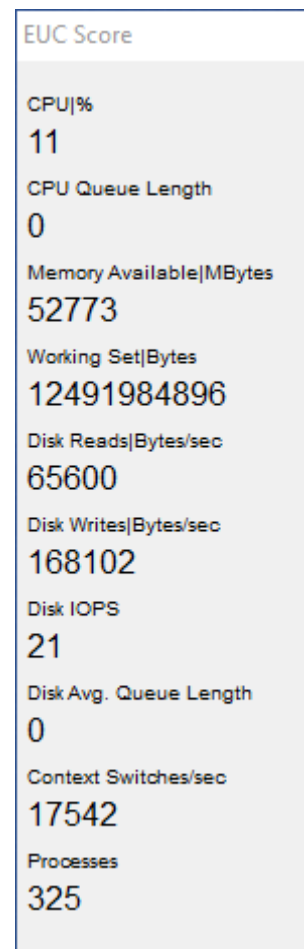
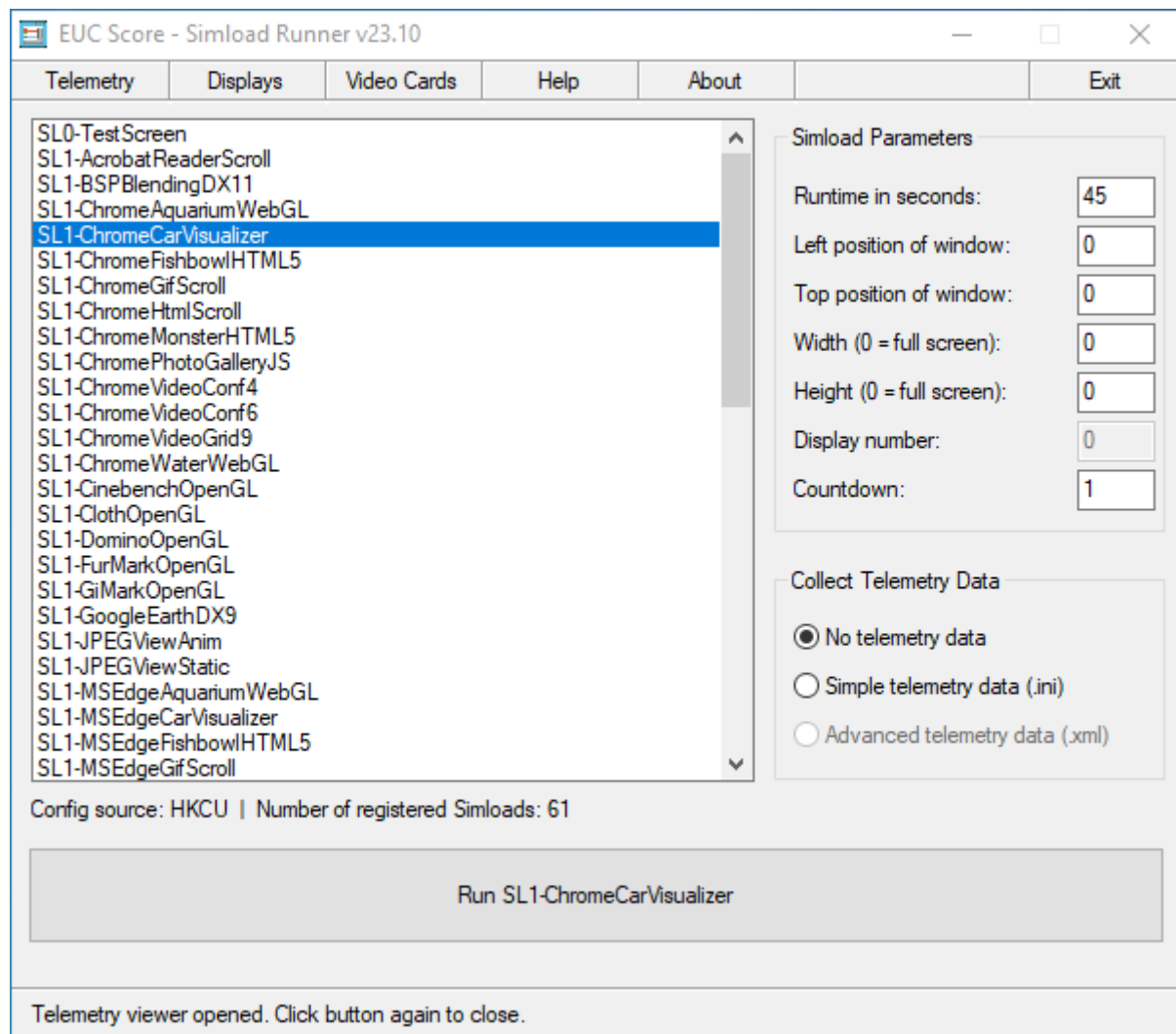
3rd Party Monitoring Solutions

For example, ControlUp Management Console visualizing performance data collected by the ControlUp Real-Time Agent (a consumer)

| Machine 'AZTEST-0' | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|-----------------------|----------|--------------------------|------------------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------|-----------------|----------------------|-----------------------|------------------|---------------------|--------------------|-----------|--------------------|
| Name | Status | Operating System | OS Version | CPU Logical Processors (OS) | Memory | Uptime | Memory Utilization | Disk Queue | Disk Transfers / sec | Net Total | User Sessions | Avg. Logon Duration | Avg. App Load Time | | |
| ▶ AZTEST-0 | Ready | Windows 11 Enterprise... | Version 2009 (OS Build 22621.2428) | 8 | 32 (GB) | 2:08 hours | 28% | 9.1 | 63.2 | 0.08 Mbps | 1 | 15 sec | N/A | | |
| Sessions | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Sessions: 1 Items | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| User | Machine | CPU | Memory (Private Bytes) | Memory (Working Set) | I/O Read Operations/sec | I/O Write Operations/sec | Disk Read KB/s | Disk Write KB/s | Network Sent KB/s | Network Received KB/s | User Input Delay | Logon Duration | State | Idle Time | Active Application |
| JUPITERLAB\ambtritsch | AZTEST-0 | 0% | 637 (MB) | 1.7 (GB) | 75.7 | 0.7 | 0 | 30.27 | 0.01 | 0 | 47 ms | 15 sec | Active | | simloadr |

| Name | Status | Operating System | OS Version | CPU Logical Processors (OS) | Memory | Uptime | Memory Utilization | Disk Queue | Disk Transfers / sec | Net Total | User Sessions | Avg. Logon Duration | Avg. App Load Time | Avg. User Input Delay | Max User Input Delay | Free Space on System Drive |
|-----------------------|----------|--------------------------|------------------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------|-----------------|----------------------|-----------------------|------------------|---------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|----------------------------|
| ▶ AZTEST-0 | Ready | Windows 11 Enterprise... | Version 2009 (OS Build 22621.2428) | 8 | 32 (GB) | 2:23 hours | 17% | 10.1 | 107.5 | 0.07 Mbps | 1 | 15 sec | N/A | 0 ms | 0 ms | 88.5 (GB) (C:) |
| Sessions | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Sessions: 1 Items | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| User | Machine | CPU | Memory (Private Bytes) | Memory (Working Set) | I/O Read Operations/sec | I/O Write Operations/sec | Disk Read KB/s | Disk Write KB/s | Network Sent KB/s | Network Received KB/s | User Input Delay | Logon Duration | State | Idle Time | Active Application | Active Application Title |
| JUPITERLAB\ambtritsch | AZTEST-0 | 0% | 623 (MB) | 1.7 (GB) | 0.3 | 1 | 0 | 168 | 0.01 | 0 | 0 ms | 15 sec | Active | 2 minutes | sl3-iops.exe | Watermark |

EUC Score Telemetry Collectors



Simload Base Counters – Simloads.ini

[Telemetry]

Name1=CPU|%

Counter1=\Processor(_Total)\% Processor Time

Name2=CPU Queue Length

Counter2=\System\Processor Queue Length

Name3=Memory Available|MBytes

Counter3=\Memory\Available MBytes

Name4=Working Set|Bytes

Counter4=\Process(_Total)\Working Set

Name5=Disk Reads|Bytes/sec

Counter5=\PhysicalDisk(_Total)\Disk Read Bytes/sec

Name6=Disk Writes|Bytes/sec

Counter6=\PhysicalDisk(_Total)\Disk Write Bytes/sec

Name7=Disk IOPS

Counter7=\PhysicalDisk(_Total)\Disk Transfers/sec

Name8=Disk Avg. Queue Length

Counter8=\PhysicalDisk(_Total)\Avg. Disk Queue Length

Name9=Context Switches/sec

Counter9=\System\Context Switches/sec

Name10=Processes

Counter10=\System\Processes

Autolt Code Base

Only single-instance counters

Autolt – _PDH_PerformanceCounters

```
Func _PDH_GetCounterList($sCounterWildcardPath,$bReturnAsString=False)
    Local $aRet,$stExpandedPathList
    Local $hPDHDLL,$iBufSize,$sCounterList,$aCounterList[1]=[0]

    If Not IsString($sCounterWildcardPath) Then Return SetError(1,0,$aCounterList)

    ; Unlike other functions, getting a counter list doesn't require initialization,
    ; though it doesn't hurt (especially if Disable Performance Counters is set)
    If Not $_PDH_bInit Then
        $hPDHDLL="pdh.dll"
    Else
        $hPDHDLL=$_PDH_hDLLHandle
    EndIf

    _PDH_DebugWrite("_PDH_GetCounterList() call, $sCounterWildcardPath=''" & $sCounterWildcardPath & _
        "'', PDH DLL 'handle' (or just 'pdh.dll'):" & $hPDHDLL)

    ; Non-localized string? Create localized string and add it.
    If StringLeft($sCounterWildcardPath,1)=':' Then
        $sCounterWildcardPath=__PDH_LocalizeCounter($sCounterWildcardPath)
        If @error Then Return SetError(@error,0,"")
        _PDH_DebugWrite("Localized *wildcard* counter (from non-localized string):"&$sCounterWildcardPath)
    EndIf

    ; 1st call to PdhExpandWildCardPathW - get required buffer size
    $aRet=DllCall($hPDHDLL,"long","PdhExpandWildCardPathW","ptr",ChrW(0), _
        "wstr",$sCounterWildcardPath,"ptr",ChrW(0),"dword*",$iBufSize,"dword",0)
    If @error Then Return SetError(2,@error,$aCounterList) ; DLL Call error
```

CSV Result Files

TimeStamp|1000,CPU|%,CPU Queue Length,Available Memory|MB,Working Set|Bytes,Disk|Writes/sec,Disk|Reads/sec,IOPS,Disk Queue Length,Context Switches,Processes

2023.10.29 22:13:34.192,10,0,5993,13830582272,7,8,16,0,15232,367
2023.10.29 22:13:35.197,9,0,5995,13776322560,41,1,43,0,15390,364
2023.10.29 22:13:36.187,8,0,6013,13709582336,43,2,45,0,20534,362
2023.10.29 22:13:37.192,10,0,6008,13709668352,32,0,33,0,13920,362
2023.10.29 22:13:38.181,9,0,6019,13700558848,33,1,34,0,13950,362
2023.10.29 22:13:39.185,8,0,6017,13701595136,33,0,34,0,15660,362
2023.10.29 22:13:40.190,11,0,6019,13704974336,80,1,82,0,17593,362
2023.10.29 22:13:41.194,10,0,6064,13619404800,46,0,47,0,13589,361
2023.10.29 22:13:42.198,10,0,6063,13616513024,112,1,114,0,12734,361
2023.10.29 22:13:43.203,9,0,6067,13614186496,21,0,21,0,13642,361
2023.10.29 22:13:44.208,10,0,6066,13613527040,28,4,33,0,12419,361
2023.10.29 22:13:45.198,9,0,6068,13613506560,29,2,31,0,12968,361
2023.10.29 22:13:46.188,8,0,6067,13612544000,22,1,23,0,13148,361
2023.10.29 22:13:47.193,10,0,6069,13612376064,27,0,28,0,14813,361
2023.10.29 22:13:48.197,10,0,6070,13613633536,26,0,27,0,14568,361
2023.10.29 22:13:49.202,9,0,6069,13613637632,24,0,25,0,12665,361
2023.10.29 22:13:50.192,11,1,6068,13614481408,10,1,11,0,24493,361
2023.10.29 22:13:51.182,11,0,6071,13613842432,42,3,45,0,19295,361
2023.10.29 22:13:52.187,6,0,6069,13614387200,38,1,40,0,20770,361
2023.10.29 22:13:53.177,10,0,6068,13615935488,31,1,32,0,17654,361
2023.10.29 22:13:54.169,8,0,6068,13617676288,22,33,55,0,15473,361

Telemetry Collector – TelemetryDataConfig.xml

```
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="utf-8" ?>
<TelemetryDataConfig>
  <RefreshRate>1000</RefreshRate>
  <CounterDefinitions>
    <!-- Standard Counters -->
    <Counter Name="CPU" Unit="%">
      <CategoryName>Processor</CategoryName>
      <CounterName>% Processor Time</CounterName>
      <InstanceName>_Total</InstanceName>
    </Counter>
    <Counter Name="CPU Queue Length">
      <CategoryName>System</CategoryName>
      <CounterName>Processor Queue Length</CounterName>
    </Counter>
    <Counter Name="Memory Available" Unit="MBytes">
      <CategoryName>Memory</CategoryName>
      <CounterName>Available Mbytes</CounterName>
    </Counter>
  </CounterDefinitions>
</TelemetryDataConfig>
```

C++ Code Base
Single-instance counters
plus additional metrics

TC-specific Metrics

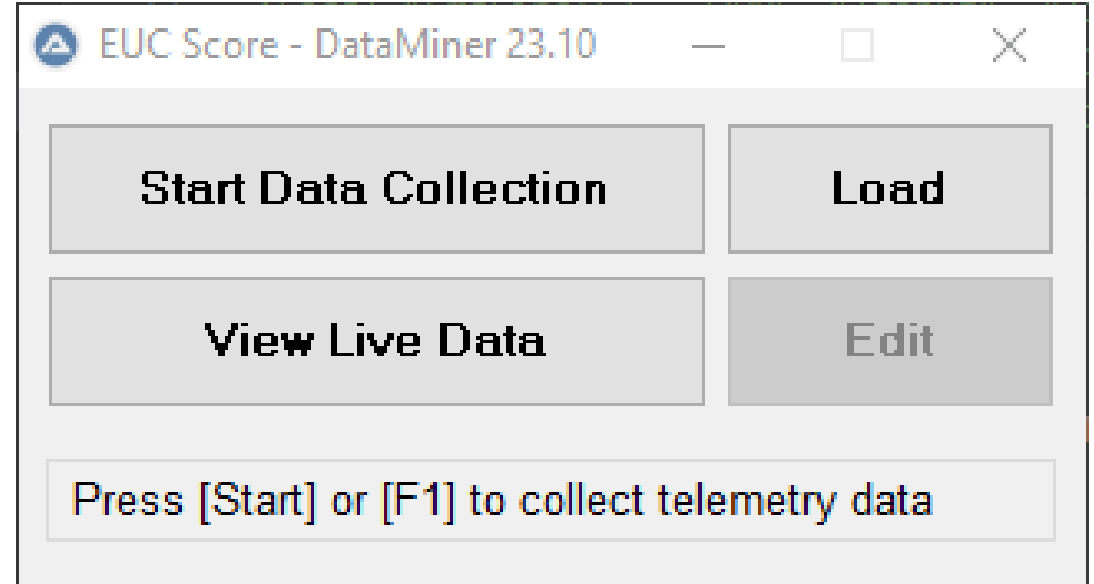
```
<Counter Name="Network Received" Unit="KBytes/sec">
  <CategoryName>TC::network received</CategoryName>
  <InstanceName>_Total</InstanceName>
</Counter>
<Counter Name="Network Sent" Unit="KBytes/sec">
  <CategoryName>TC::network sent</CategoryName>
  <InstanceName>_Total</InstanceName>
</Counter>
<Counter Name="GPU 3D" Unit="%">
  <CategoryName>TC::GPU load</CategoryName>
  <CounterName>3D</CounterName>
  <InstanceName>_Total</InstanceName>
</Counter>
<Counter Name="GPU Video Decode" Unit="%">
  <CategoryName>TC::GPU load</CategoryName>
  <CounterName>Video Decode</CounterName>
  <InstanceName>_Total</InstanceName>
</Counter>
```

```
<Counter Name="GPU Video Processing" Unit="%">
  <CategoryName>TC::GPU load</CategoryName>
  <CounterName>Video Processing</CounterName>
  <InstanceName>_Total</InstanceName>
</Counter>
<Counter Name="GPU Memory" Unit="MBytes">
  <CategoryName>TC::GPU frame buffer</CategoryName>
  <InstanceName>_Total</InstanceName>
</Counter>
<Counter Name="Session CPU" Unit="%">
  <CategoryName>Terminal Services Session</CategoryName>
  <CounterName>% Processor Time</CounterName>
  <InstanceName>TC::current RDP session</InstanceName>
</Counter>
```

What's Next (Part 1)

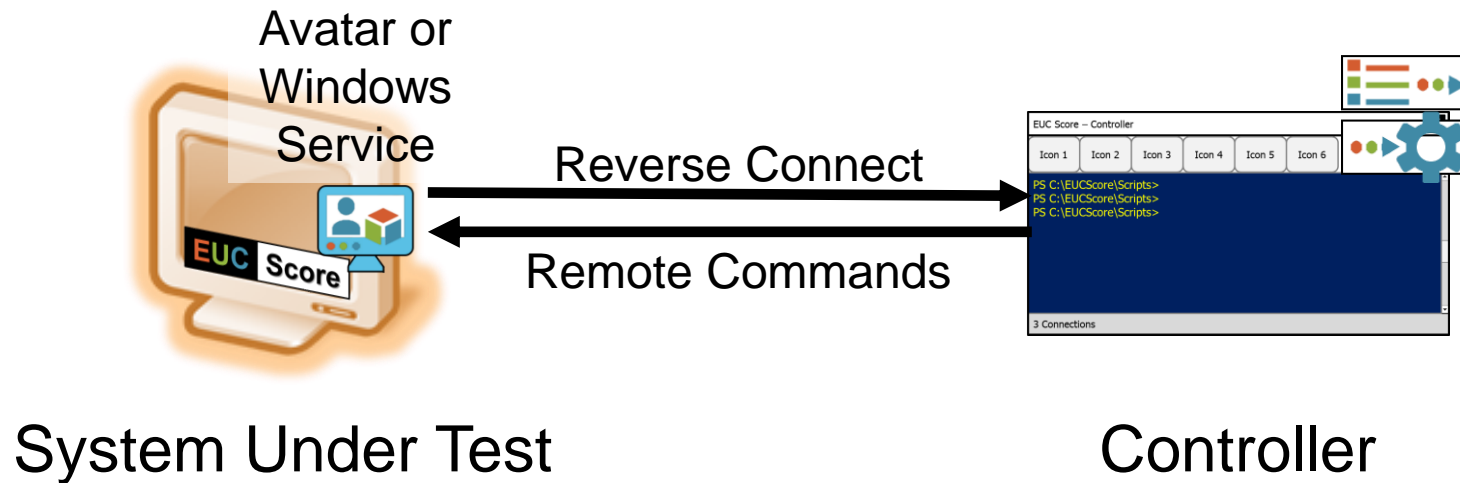
EUC Score Data Miner

- Stand-alone performance counter consumer
- Configurable by INI file
- CSV output file
- 1 second sample intervals
- Pre-launch countdown



What's Next (Part 2)

- EUC Score Avatar or EUC Score Windows Service reverse connect to an EUC Score Controller
- The EUC Score Controller can send PowerShell commands to launch Simloads or to collect performance data





Perf Counters look scary at night...



...not so much when viewed under light

Call to Action

If you want to learn more about
EUC Score, send me an email

info@eucscore.com



<https://eucscore.com>

NOTE: The EUC Score toolset is free for
community benchmarking tests when the
results are made publicly available



Thank You

Benny Tritsch | info@eucscore.com | [@drtritsch](https://twitter.com/drtritsch)
