EUC Score

Deep Dive: Collecting, analyzing and understanding Windows performance counters

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EUC Score

control UP

GO-EUC

VC 2 GO

E2EVC Virtualization Conference
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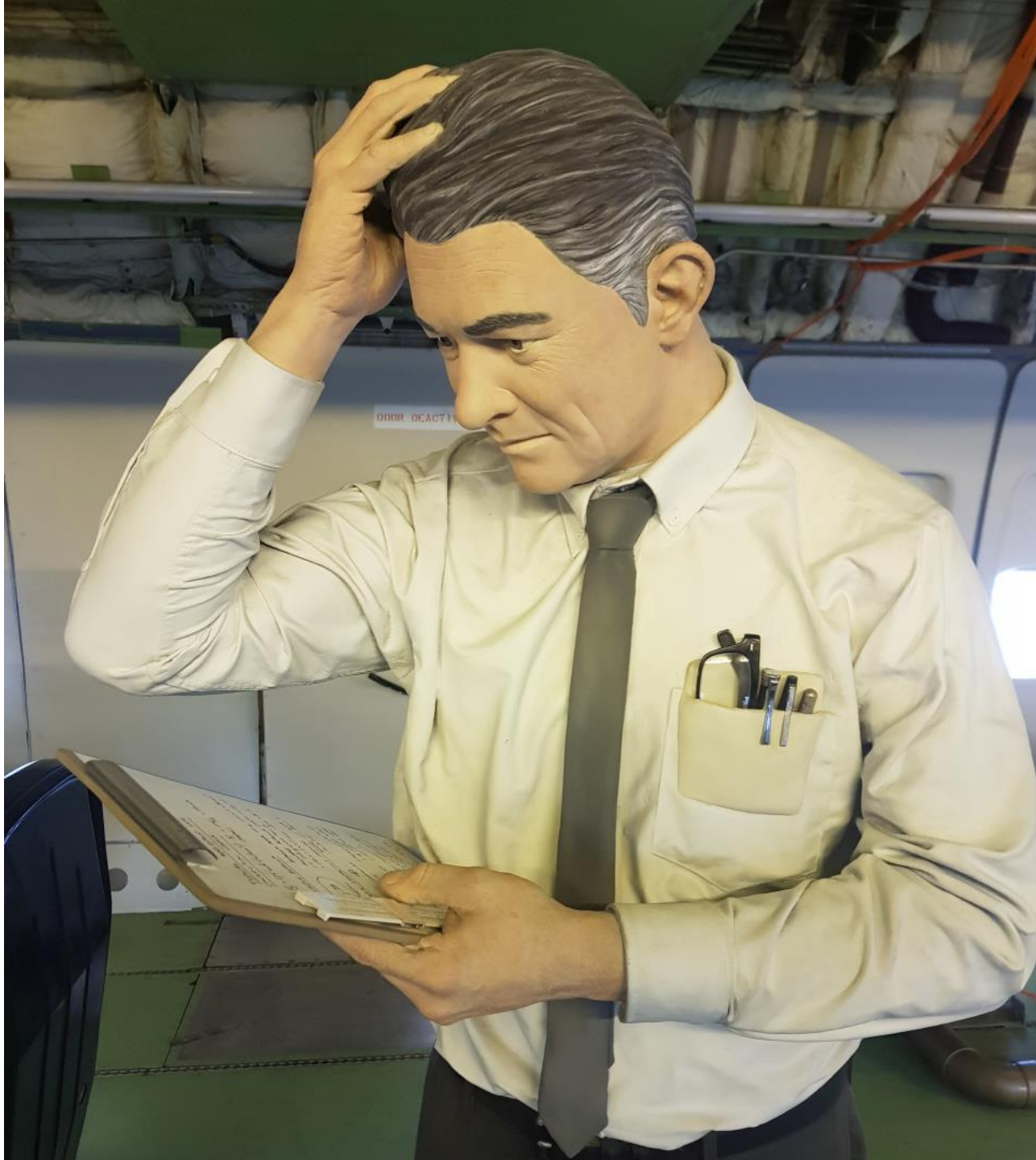
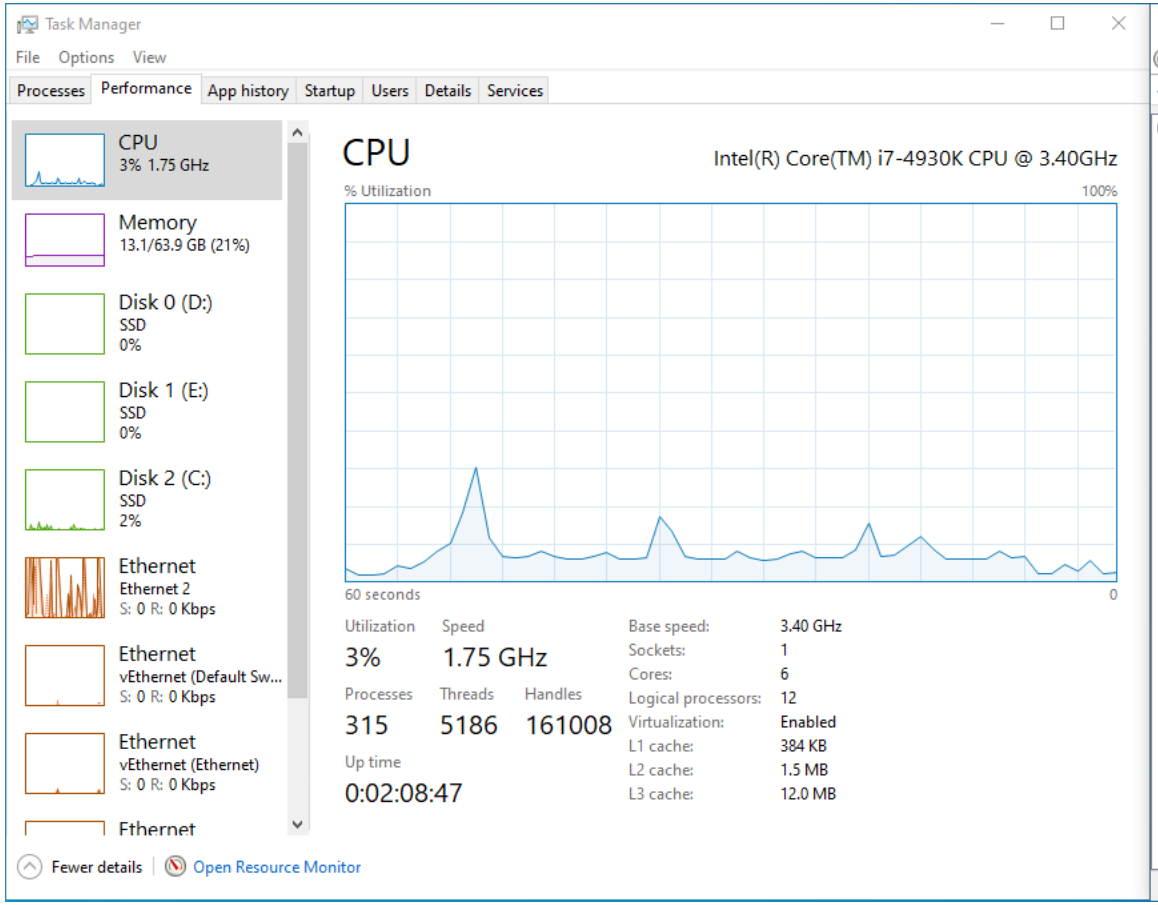
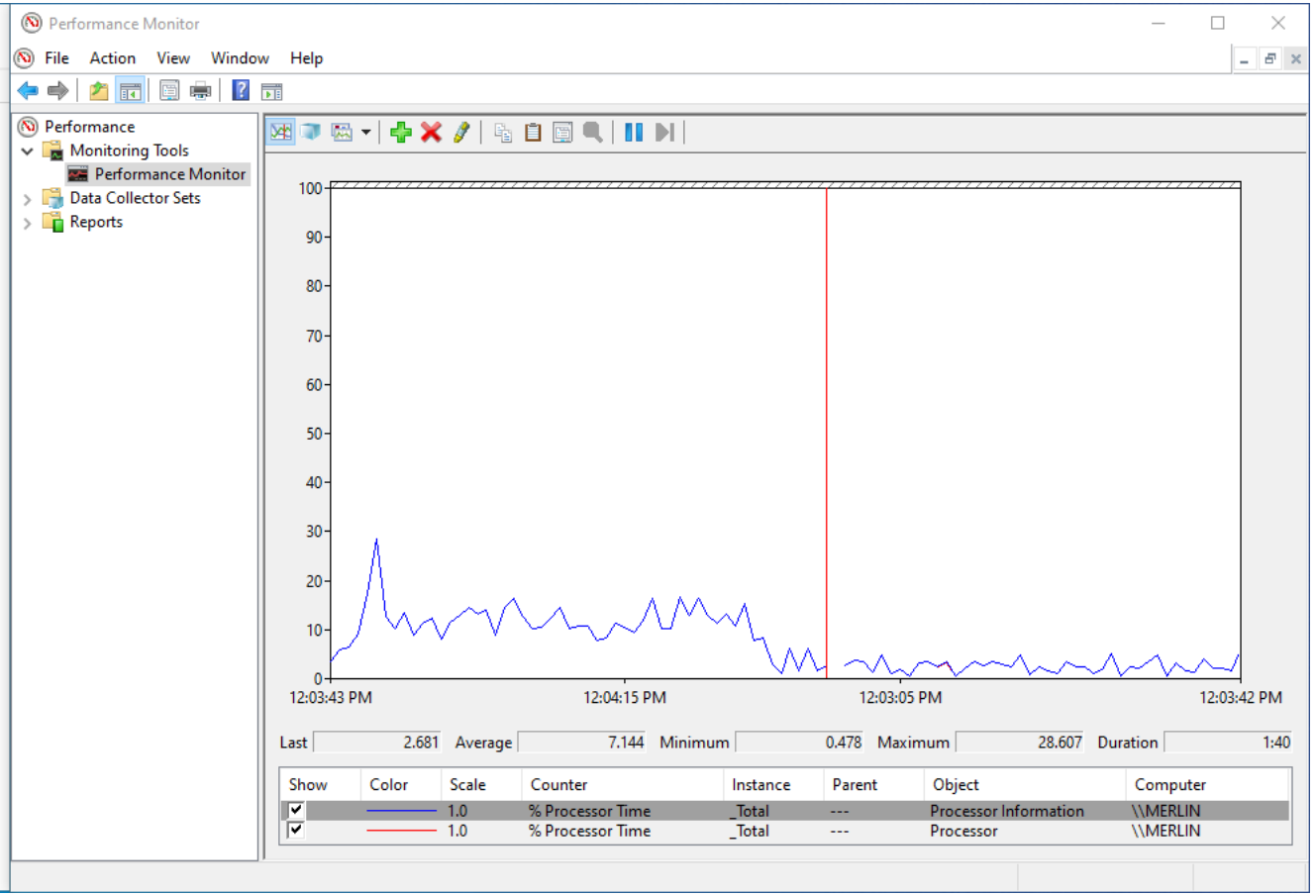


Task Manager versus Performance Monitor





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

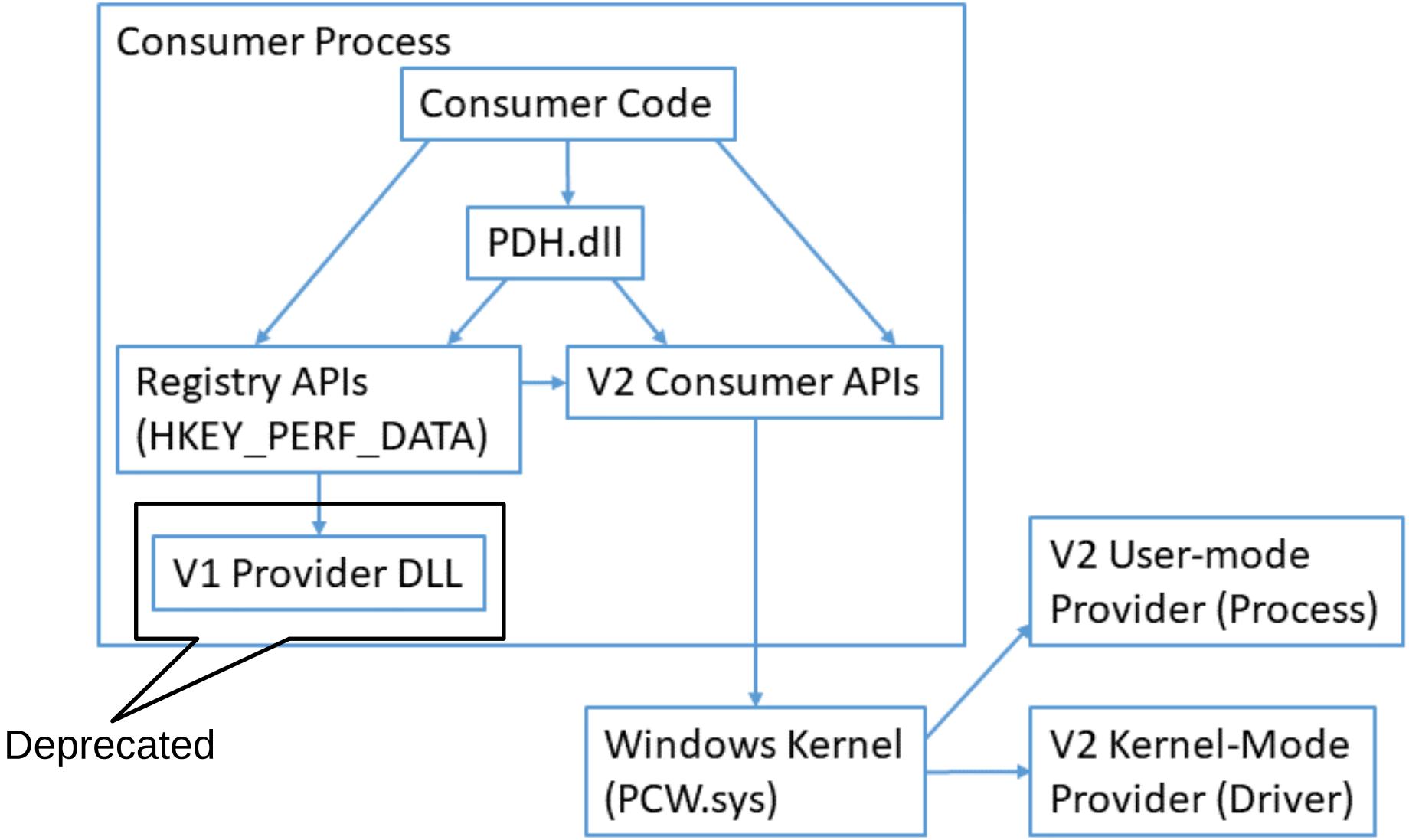
Consistent interface for collecting various kinds of system data

- 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

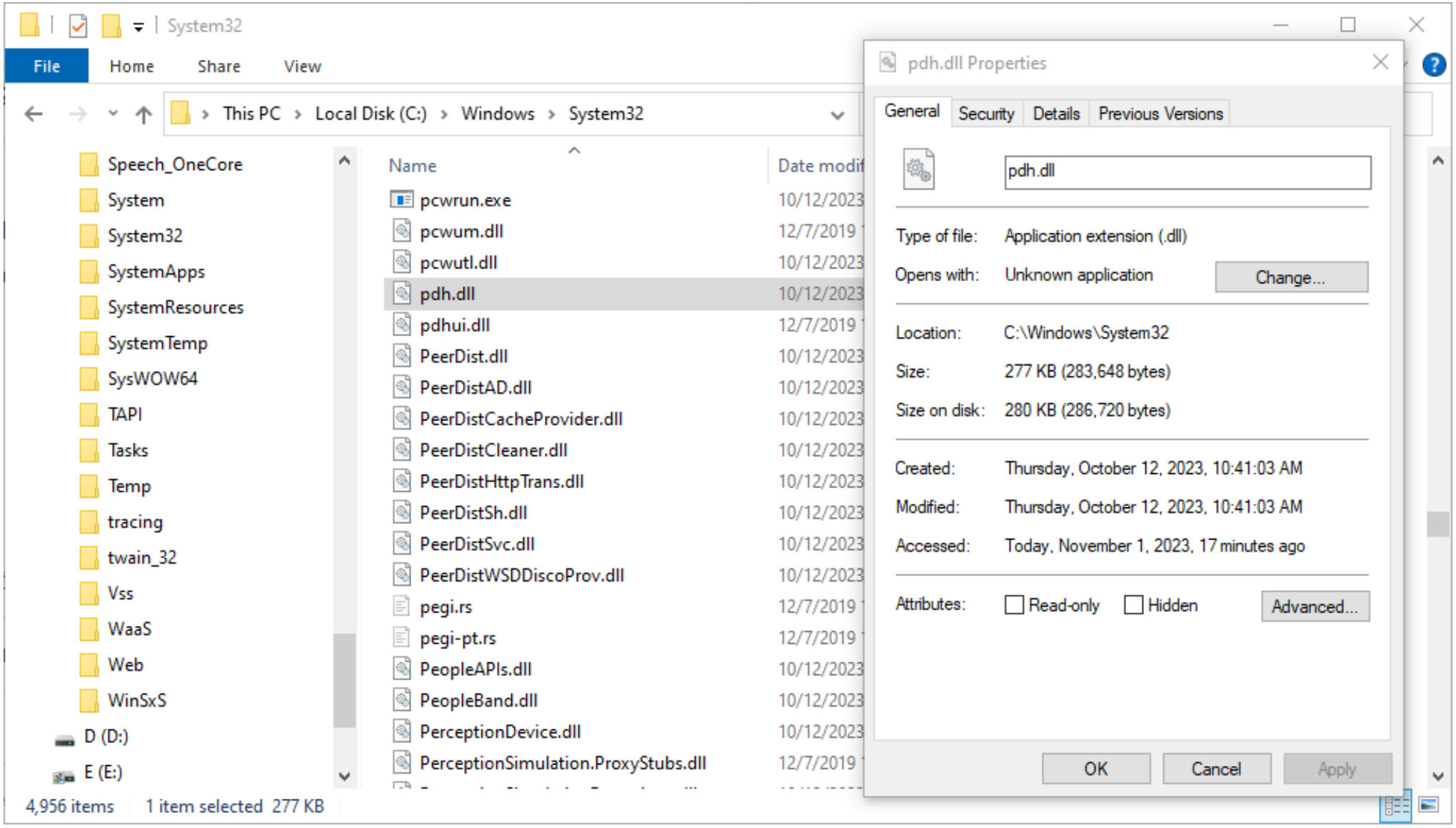
Windows Performance Counters

- **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



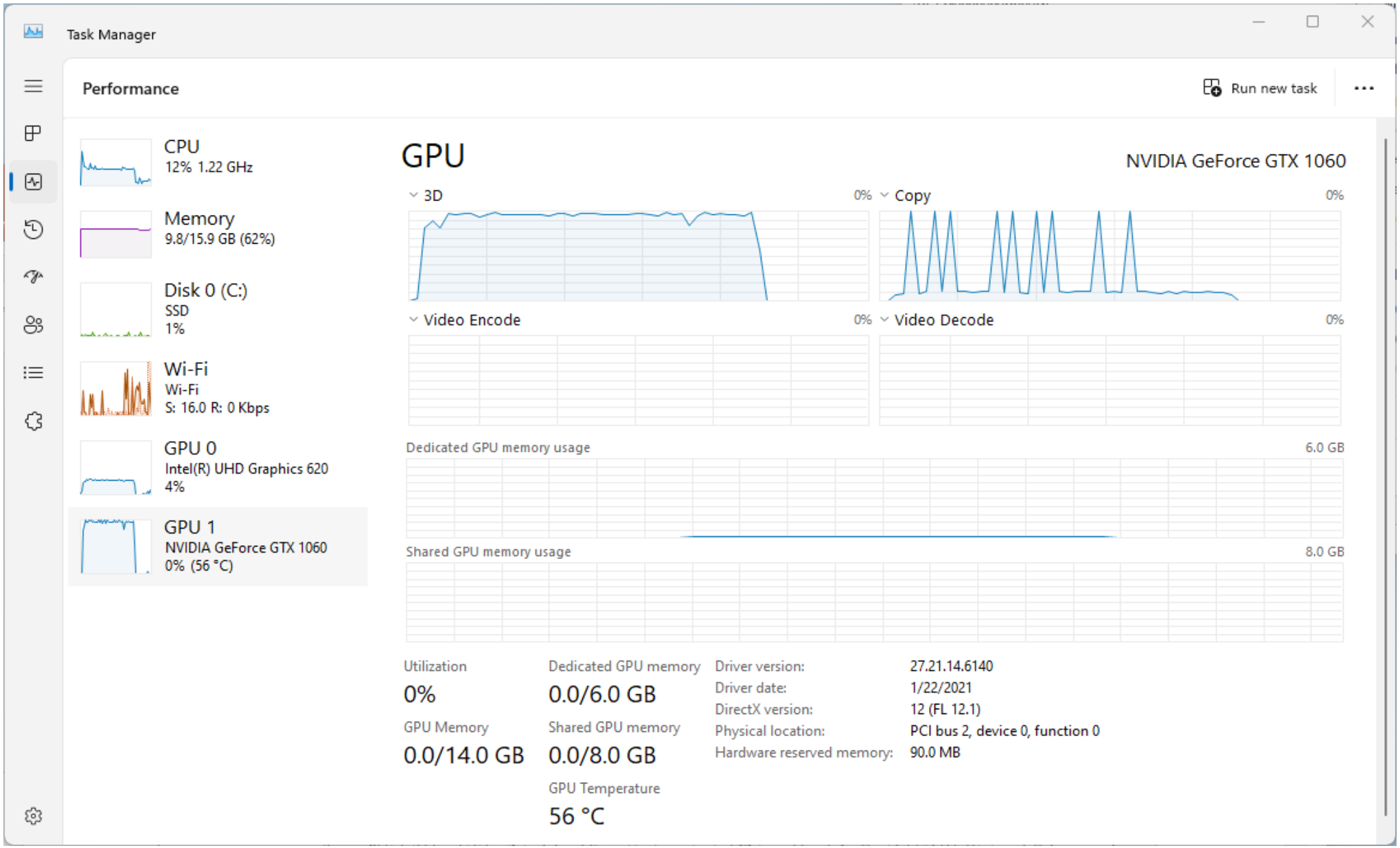
Windows Performance Data Helper DLL – PDH.dll



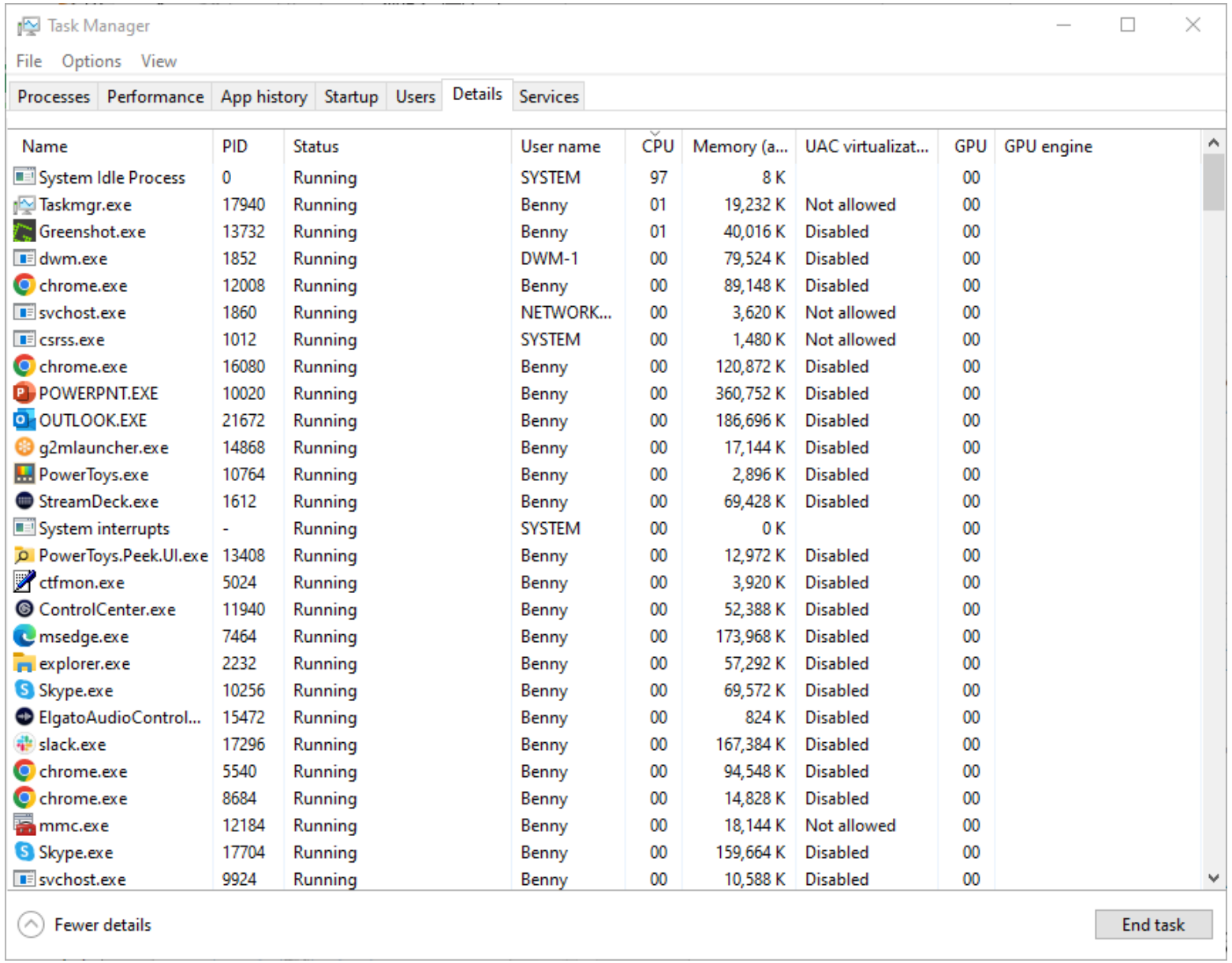
HKEY_PERFORMANCE_DATA & PDH API

- 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/

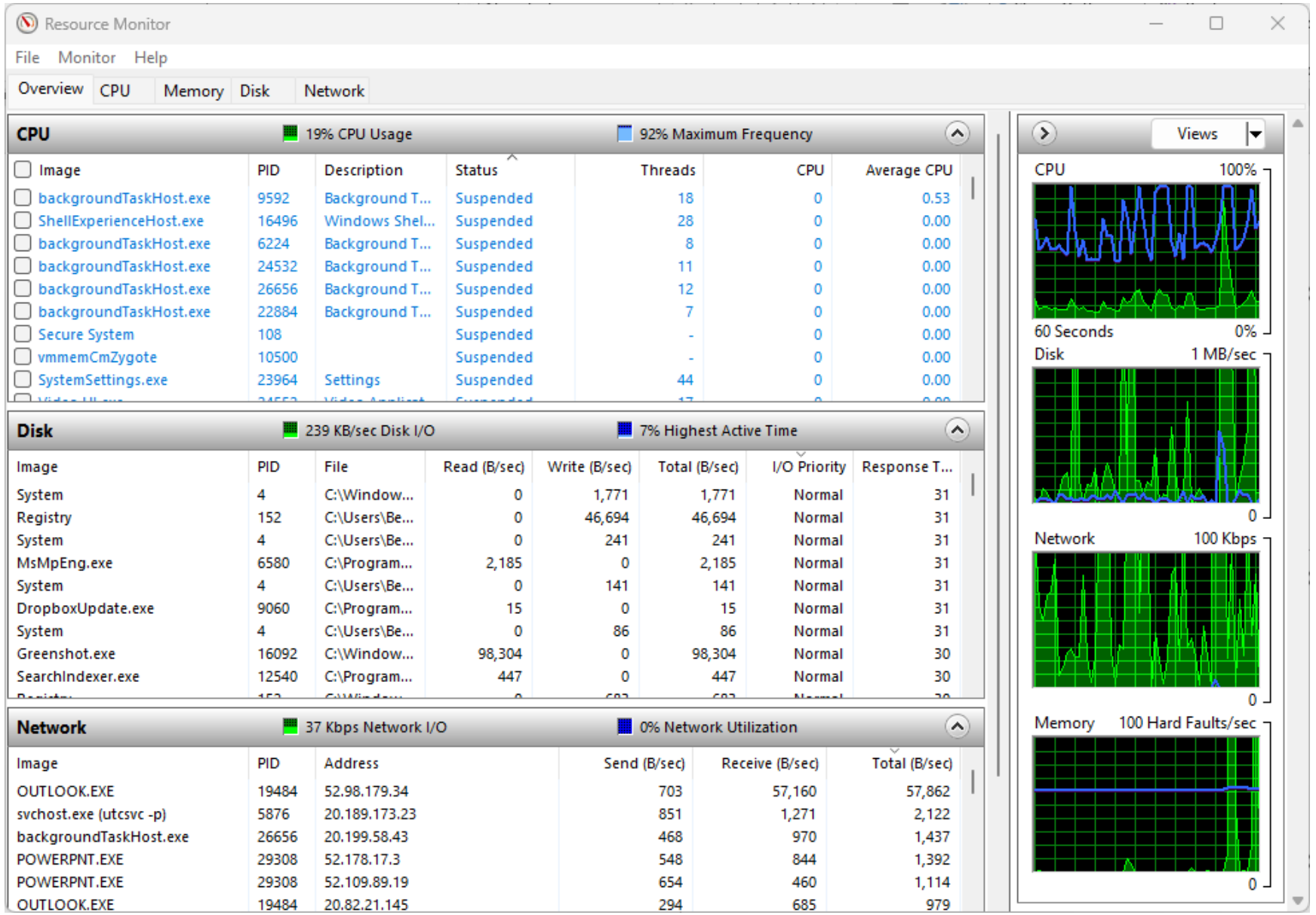
Task Manager – Performance Tab



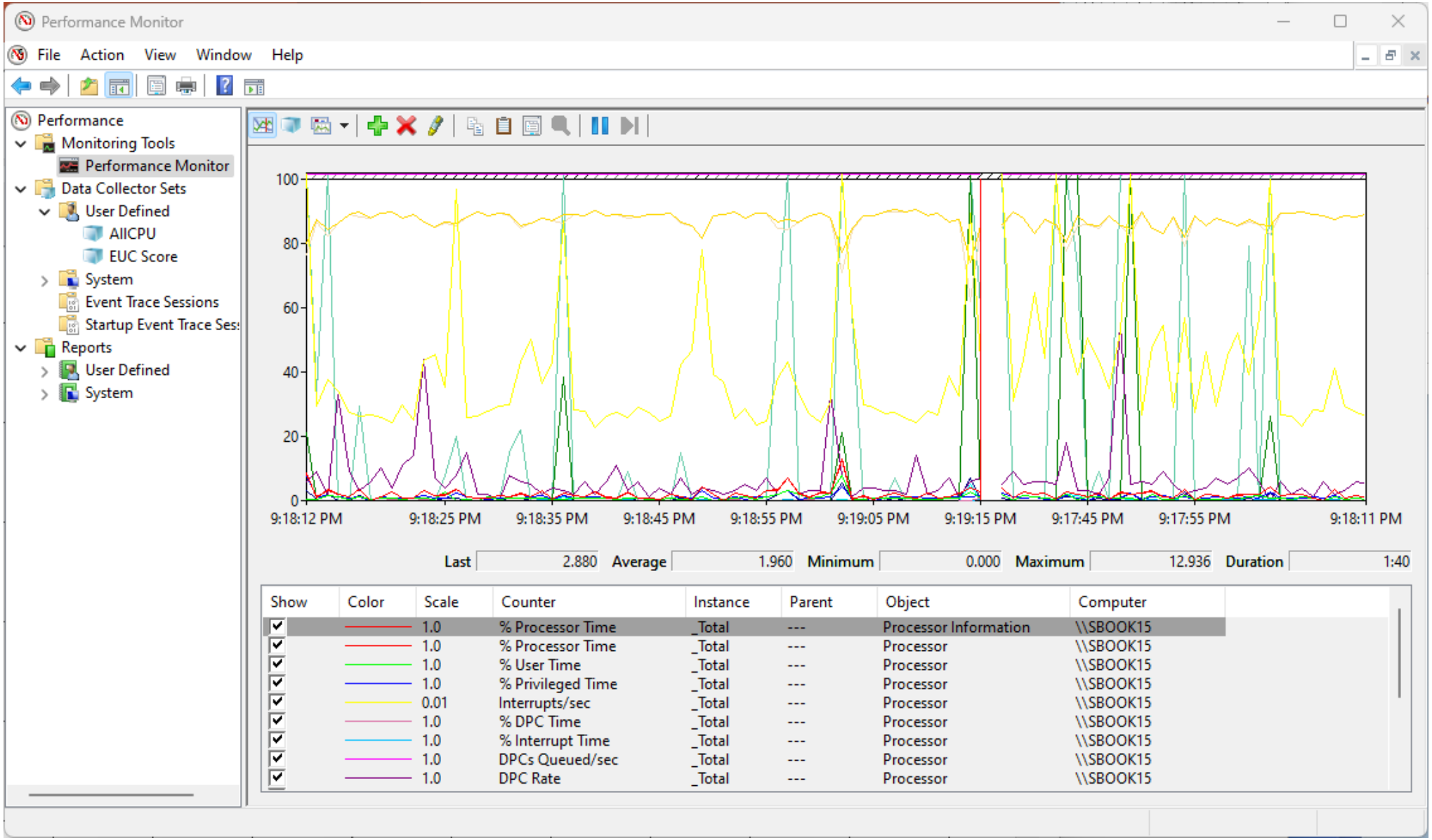
Task Manager – Detail Tab



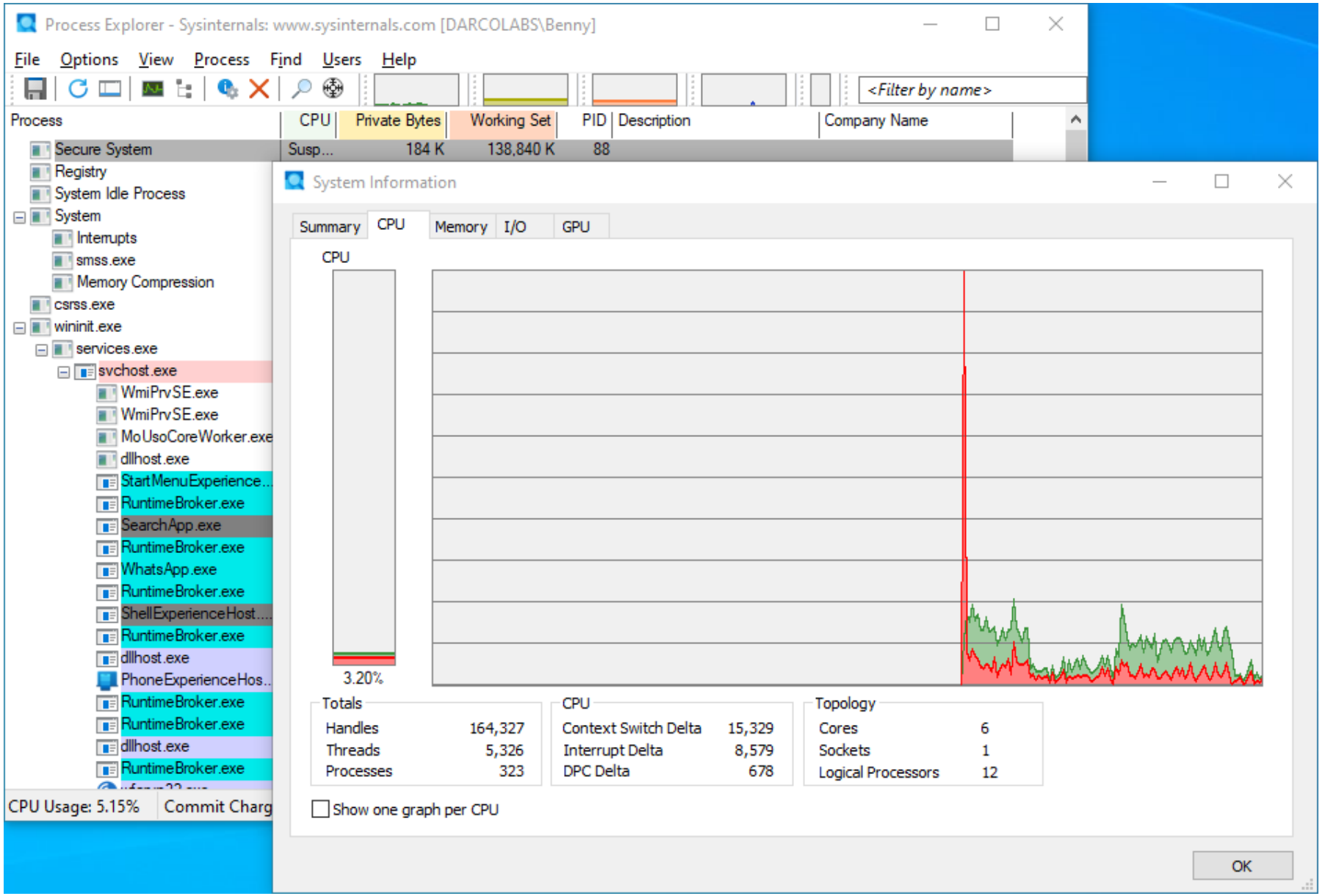
Resource Monitor



Performance Monitor



Sysinternals Process Explorer



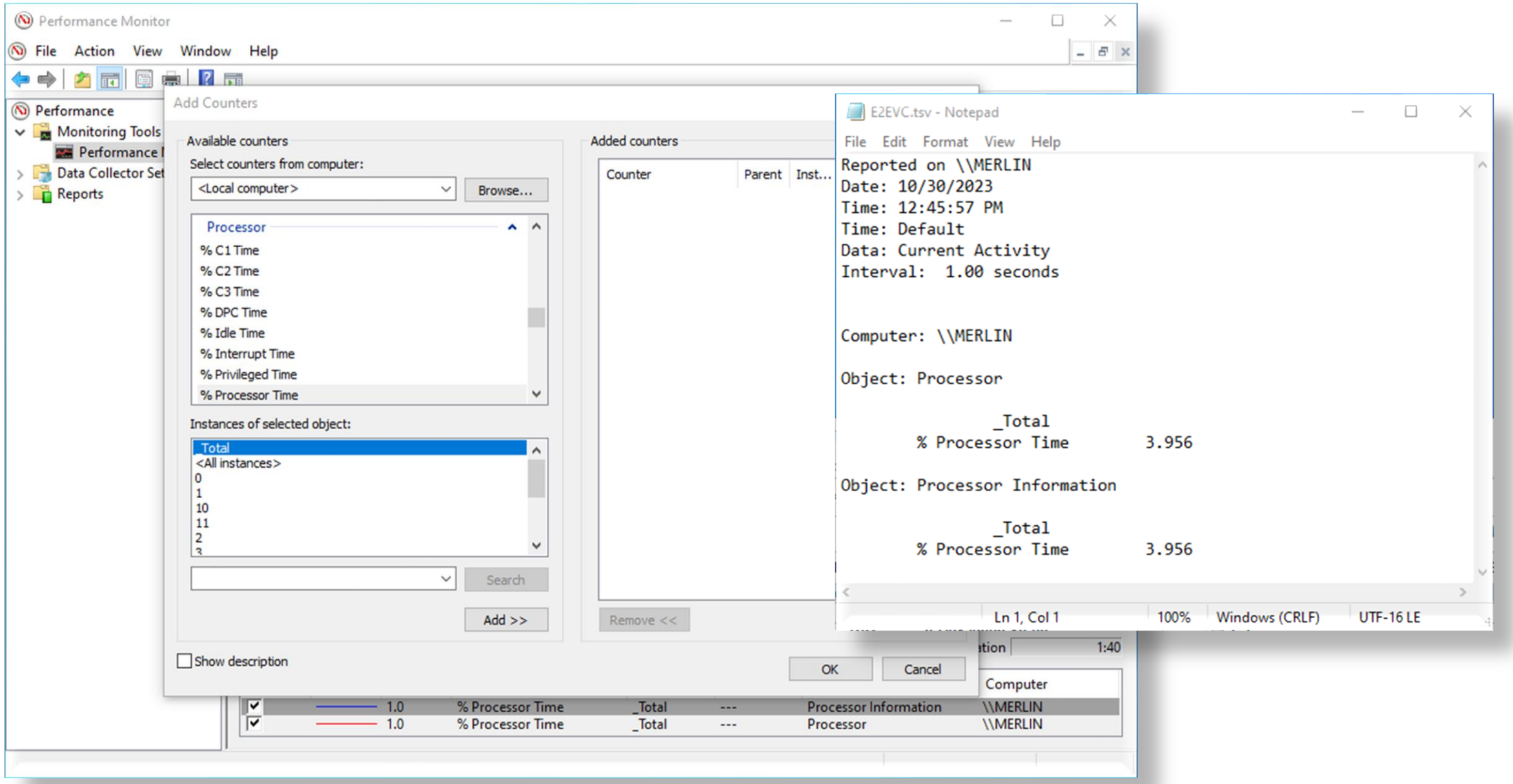
Command-Line Consumers

- **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

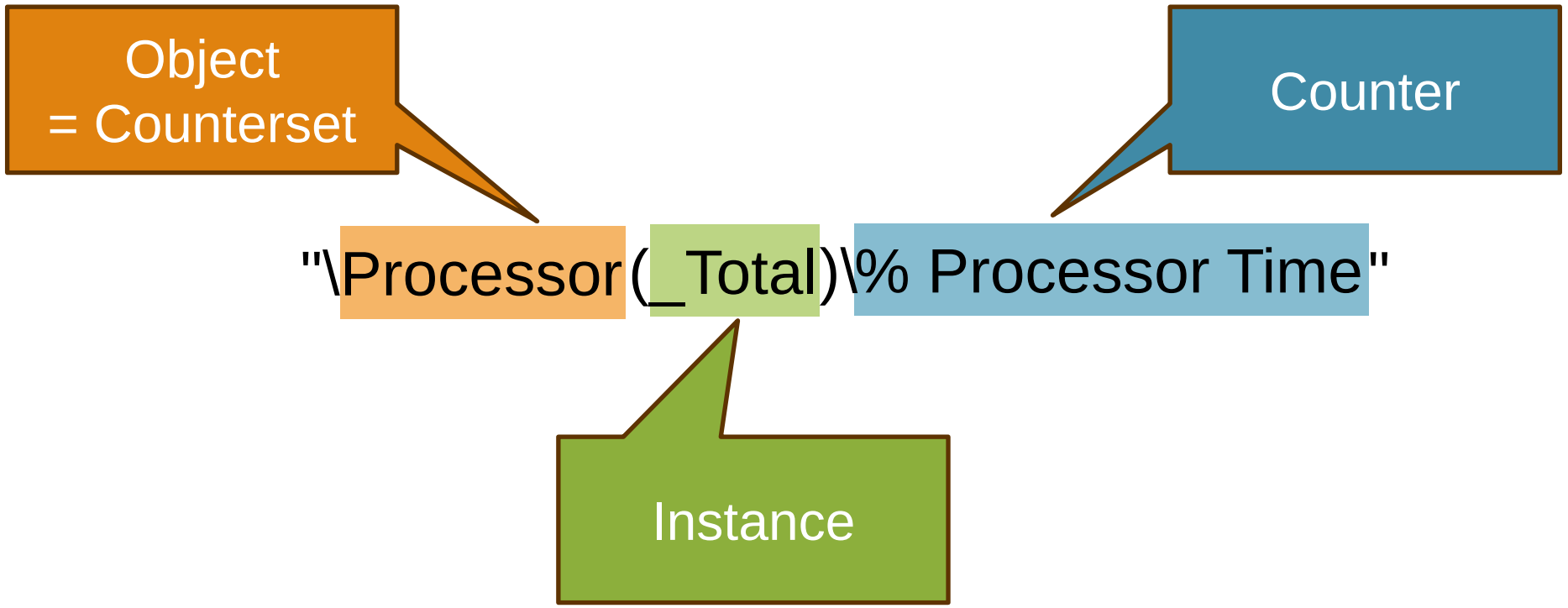


Some Important EUC Counters

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

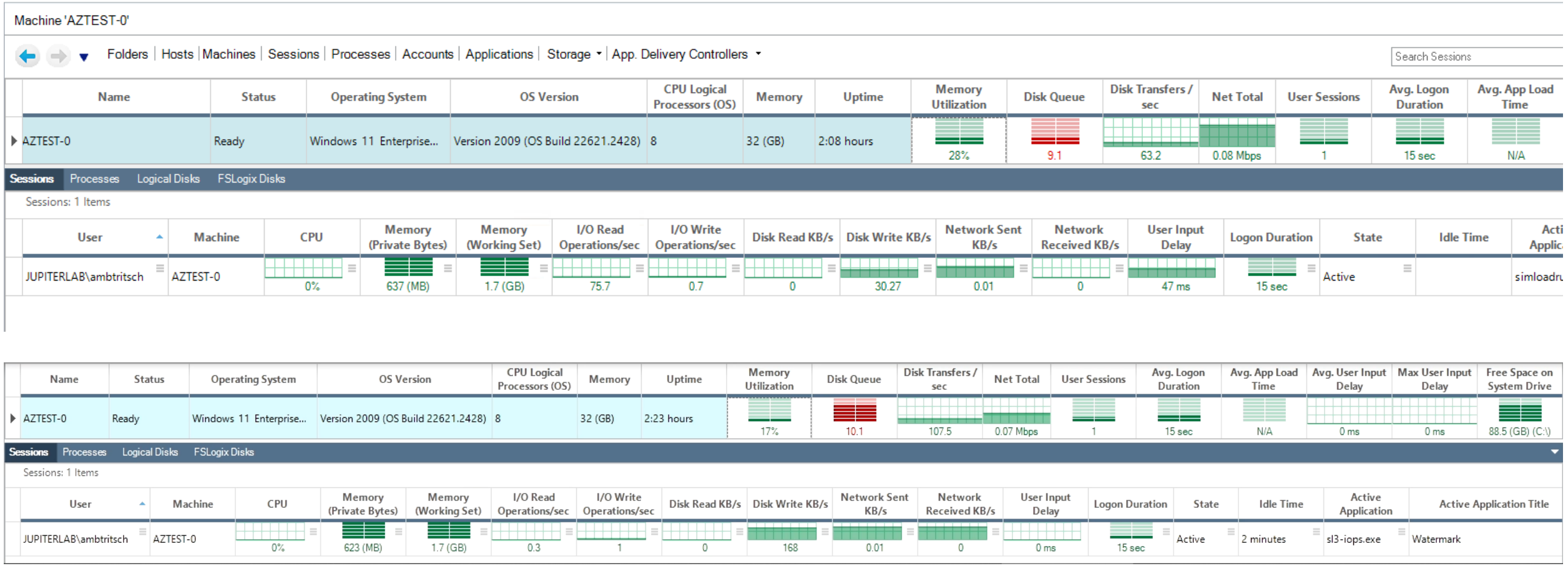
Dealing With Localized Counter Names

- 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

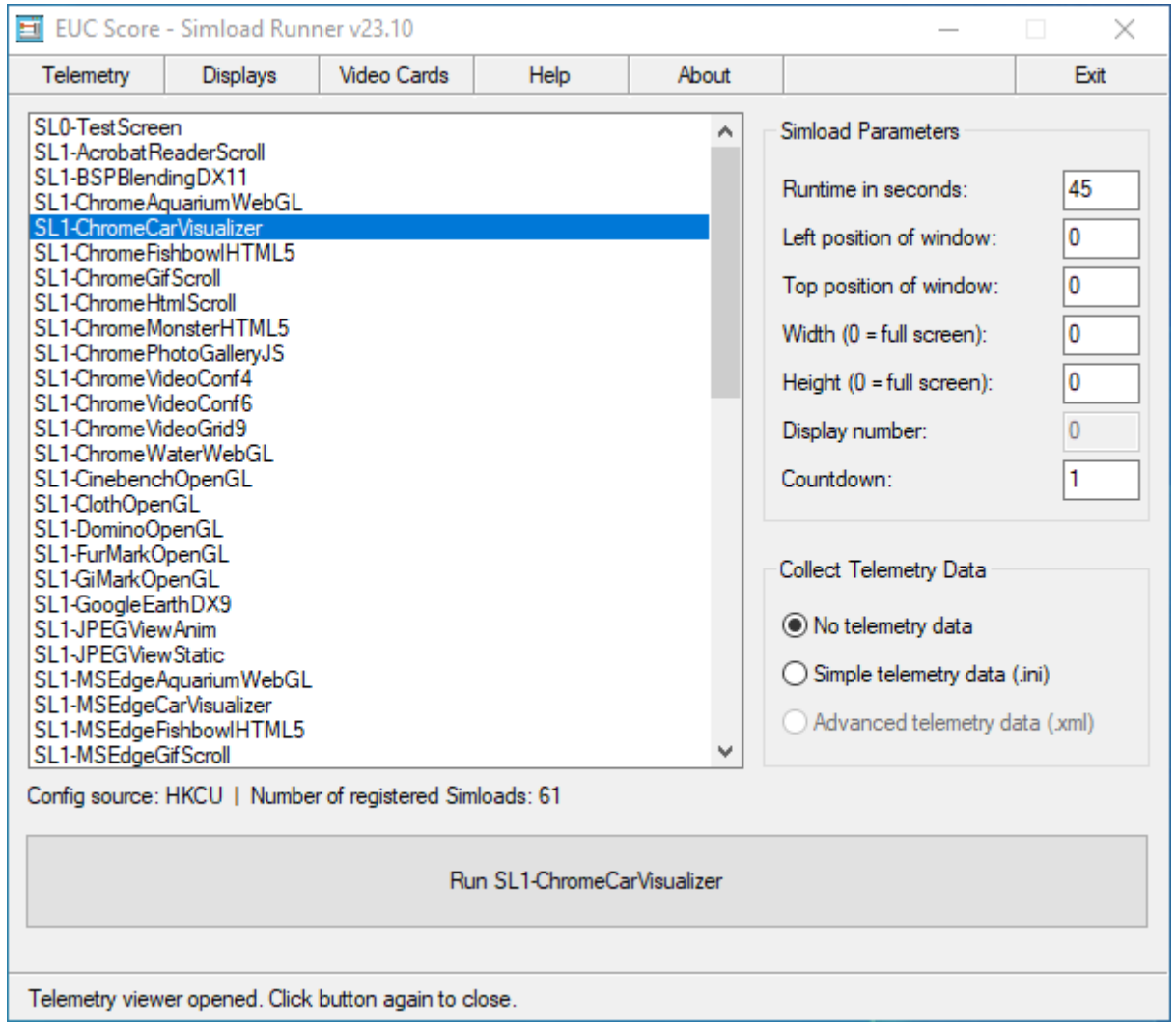
https://powershell.one/tricks/performance/performance-counters

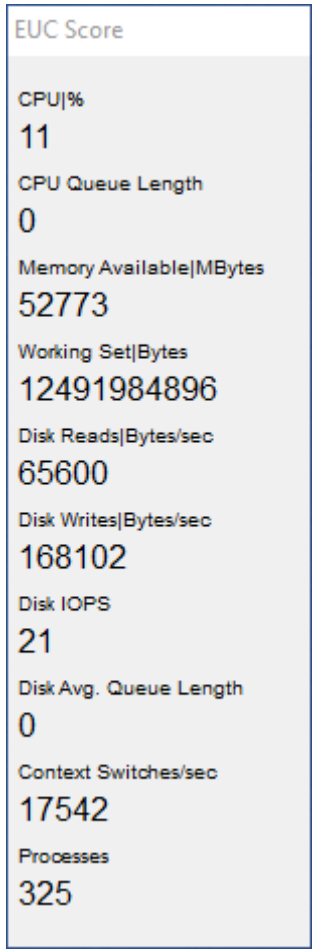
3rd Party Monitoring Solutions

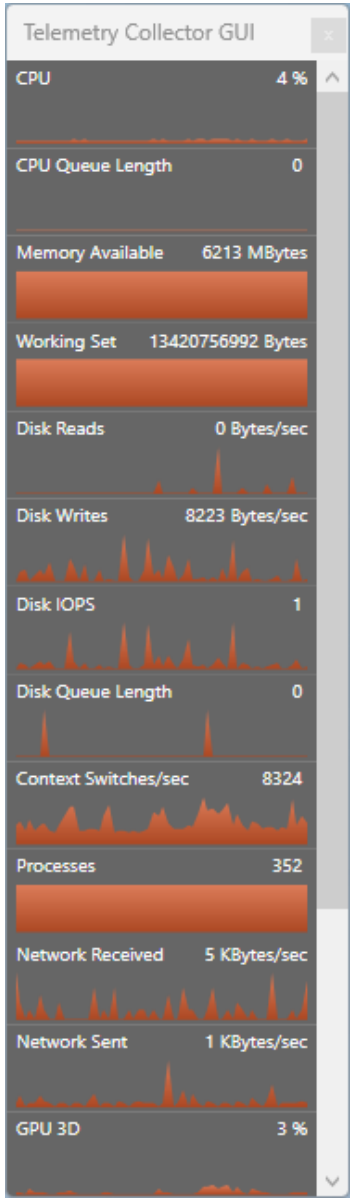
For example, ControlUp Management Console visualizing performance data collected by the ControlUp Real-Time Agent (a consumer)



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
```

AutoIt Code Base
Only single-instance counters

AutoIt – _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

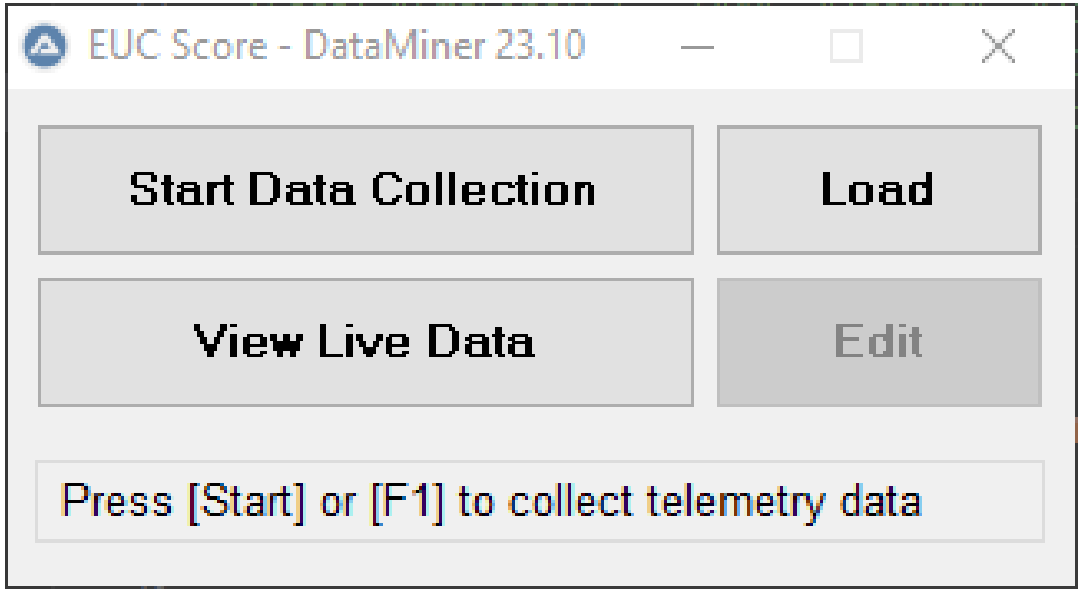
```
<Counter Name="Network Received" Unit="KBytes/sec">
        <CategoryName>TC::network received</CategoryName>
        <InstanceName>_Total</InstanceName>
</Counter>
<Counter Name="Network Sent" Unit="KBytes/sec">
        <CategoryName>TC::network sent</CategoryName>
        <InstanceName>_Total</InstanceName>
</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)

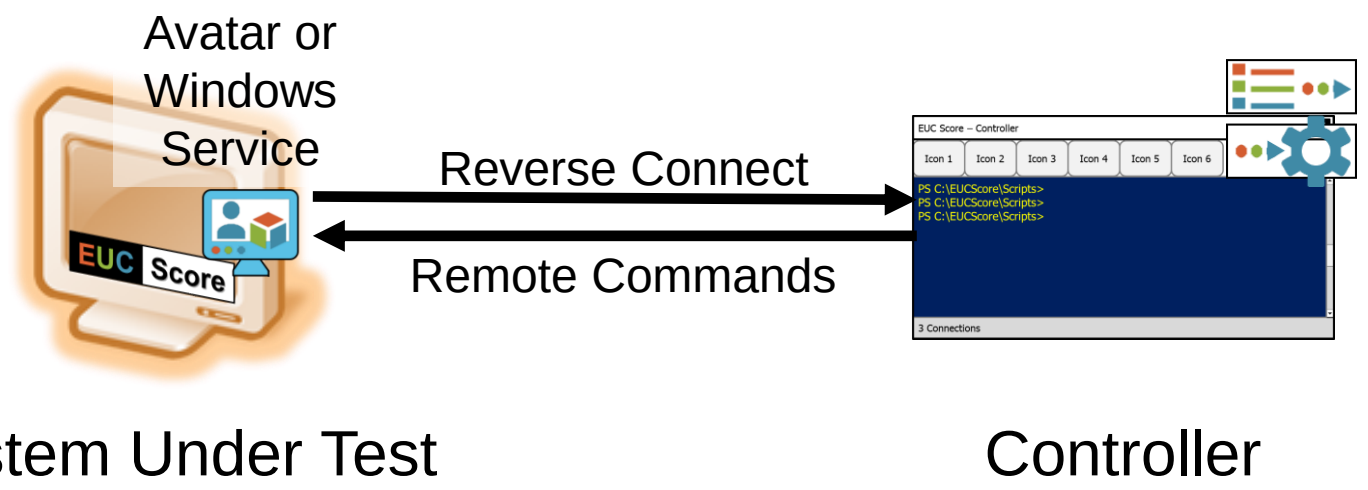
EUC Score Data Miner

- 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

EUC Score

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