**What's new in Dynamics 365 Business Central telemetry - November 2023**

It is (almost) November and it has been a month since the last newsletter. In the last month, life has (still) been busy preparing for Summit NA 2023 Directions EMEA 2023 (and also attending the former).

As always, the bleeding edge news on Dynamics 365 Business Central telemetry happens on Twitter/X (not sure about the future of this platform, but will stay there for a bit), so if you want to keep up with the latest and greatest (and the beta versions of the Power BI telemetry apps) then follow me there (@kennienp). The intention of these monthly newsletters is to try to gather everything that I know and learn about this area and present it here. Let’s go…

In the November 2023 edition, read about these things:

* Business Central launch event
* Upcoming conference sessions
* Power BI Usage apps – November updates
* New signal/updates
* Documentation updates
* New blogs and videos

# Business Central launch event

Join the Business Central Launch Event (BCLE) to see what’s new in Dynamics 365 Business Central 2023 release wave 2. BCLE (see, we do abbreviate everything at MS…) is a free virtual event for everyone from reselling partners to consultants, and ISV partners. I am hosting the session *What’s new in telemetry*

<insert picture>

Join me and thousands of other Business Central fan-people!

Register today: <https://aka.ms/BCLE>

# Upcoming conference sessions in November 2023

**Directions EMEA 2023 (November 1-3, 2023)**

If you attend the Directions EMEA 2023 conference this year, consider learning some tips and tricks about telemetry in sessions there:

On 2023-10-31 (From: 18:00 to 20:00), Microsoft hosts a fun workshop *Join the Kusto Detective Agency*. Bring a laptop to the expo reception and solve detective stories with KQL:

<https://directions4partners.com/events/directions-emea-2023/session-schedule/?tid=561291>

On 2023-11-02 (From: 16:15 to 18:00), Microsoft MVP Eric "waldo" Wauters have an extended session titled *How To Use Telemetry To Improve Your Product*

<https://directions4partners.com/events/directions-emea-2023/session-schedule/?tid=500738>

On 2023-11-03 (From: 11:30 to 12:15), I will present the session *Microsoft presents: what's new in telemetry*

<https://directions4partners.com/events/directions-emea-2023/session-schedule/?tid=550672>

On 2023-11-03 (From: 12:45 to 13:30) Microsoft MCT and Author Duilio Tacconi & Microsoft MVP Stefano Demiliani presents their session *Telemetries. Real life tips from the field*

<https://directions4partners.com/events/directions-emea-2023/session-schedule/?tid=515977>

Read more about Directions EMEA 2023 here:

<https://directions4partners.com/events/directions-emea-2023/>

# Power BI Usage apps – November updates

The November updates for both apps mainly focus on small bugfixes (only listed in the release notes) and enhanced filtering.

## For both apps

## Environment Usage app (for VARs)

Release note: <https://github.com/microsoft/BCTech/blob/master/samples/AppInsights/PowerBI/Reports/AppSource/environment-app-pbix/changelog.txt>

## App Usage app (for ISVs)

Release note: <https://github.com/microsoft/BCTech/blob/master/samples/AppInsights/PowerBI/Reports/AppSource/isv-app-pbix/changelog-isv-app.txt>

# New signal/updates

**Configuration of changelog (23.0)**

The Business Central change log feature lets you track direct modifications a user makes to data in the database. You specify each table and field that you want the system to log, and then you activate the change log. The change log is based on changes that are made to data in the tables that you track. Telemetry is now logged for the following changes to the configuration of the change log:

When a field is added to be tracked in the changelog.

When changelog configuration for a field is changed.

When a field is removed for being tracked in the changelog.

Read more in the documentation here: <https://learn.microsoft.com/en-us/dynamics365/business-central/dev-itpro/administration/telemetry-changelog-configuration-trace>

KQL samples are both added as part of the documentation article above and also available on BCTech here: <https://github.com/microsoft/BCTech/blob/master/samples/AppInsights/KQL/Queries/ExampleQueriesForEachArea/ChangeLogLifecycle.kql>

If you want to alert on this signal, the alerting scenarios on BCTech has also been updated with information about change log configuration changes:

<https://github.com/microsoft/BCTech/tree/master/samples/AppInsights/Alerts#:~:text=Change%20log%20configuration%20changes>

**Coming soon/in the works (no ETA given)**

PTE validation signal (coming in Autumn 2023) (PTEs that were uploaded in the Extension management page and PTEs that block updates to next major)

Early KQL samples are out now. Check them out here:

<https://github.com/microsoft/BCTech/blob/master/samples/AppInsights/KQL/Queries/ExampleQueriesForEachArea/PTEEnvironmentValidation.kql>

<https://github.com/microsoft/BCTech/blob/master/samples/AppInsights/KQL/Queries/ExampleQueriesForEachArea/PTEUploadValidation.kql>

Pageviews on queries (coming in 23.0)

Business Events lifecycle events (coming in 23.0)

Onboarding telemetry: format data of date dimensions

Information on files blocked from upload due to malware scanning (only in the online version).

# Documentation updates

**Best practices for designing telemetry events**

We got feedback on some of the best practices for designing telemetry events in app/extension telemetry. So we added some guidance to docs. Here goes:

When the Business Central product team designed the partner telemetry feature, we build the following characteristics into it:

Telemetry event definitions must treated as an API. Changing custom dimensions is a breaking change (someone might have built reporting or alerting on top of it).

Telemetry events must be discoverable in docs. If you see someting in telemetry, it should be easy to learn more about it in documentation. We added the custom dimension eventId because of this. It is good practice to keep eventIds unique, also across apps/extensions.

Documented: each telemetry event has good documentation, preferably with guidance on how to react on this event.

Actionable (if possible): before we add a new telemetry event, we ask "what can a customer/partner do with this?" If no good answers come to mind, we do not add the event.

Now also live on docs here:

<https://learn.microsoft.com/en-us/dynamics365/business-central/dev-itpro/developer/devenv-instrument-application-for-telemetry-app-insights#best-practices-for-designing-telemetry-event>

**Allowed HTTP headers for telemetry**

For privacy and security reasons, the Business Central server maintains a list of HTTP headers that are allowed to be emitted to telemetry.

The following HTTP headers are emitted to telemetry (if set in the request)

Accept

Accept-Charset

Accept-Encoding

Accept-Language

Allow

client-request-id

Connection

Content-Encoding

Content-Language

Content-Length

Content-Type

Data-Access-Intent

Expect

If-Match

isolation

odata-isolation

OData-MaxVersion

OData-Version

postman-token

Prefer

request-id

return-client-request-id

Transfer-Encoding

User-Agent

x-forwarded-host

x-forwarded-path

x-forwarded-port

x-forwarded-proto

Now also live on docs here:

<https://learn.microsoft.com/en-us/dynamics365/business-central/dev-itpro/administration/telemetry-webservices-trace>

# Tips and tricks

N/A this month.

# Blog posts and videos

Did you know that the BCTech repo has pages with links to blog posts and videos on telemetry?

Blogs: <https://github.com/microsoft/BCTech/blob/master/samples/AppInsights/BLOGS.md>

Videos: <https://github.com/microsoft/BCTech/blob/master/samples/AppInsights/VIDEOS.md>

If you create blog posts/videos on telemetry (or know of things that are not linked from these two pages), feel free to do a pull request to the repository (or send me an email/message).

**That’s all folks!**

That's it for the November newsletter. If you made it all the way down here, then you are truly a Telemetry Hero. See you in a month.

PS. Would love to hear your experiences on using alerts to be more proactive. Reach out (or blog about your experiences.)

PPS. It is not too late to rate the Power BI apps on Appsource 😊 Your feedback matters (a lot).

Do it here:

<https://appsource.microsoft.com/en-us/product/power-bi/microsoftdynsmb.bc_telemetry_pbi_app>

(for environment telemetry)

or

<https://appsource.microsoft.com/en-us/product/power-bi/microsoftdynsmb.bc_telemetry_pbi_app_isv_version>

(for app telemetry)