

# System Configuration

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## Windows Fundamentals Part 2

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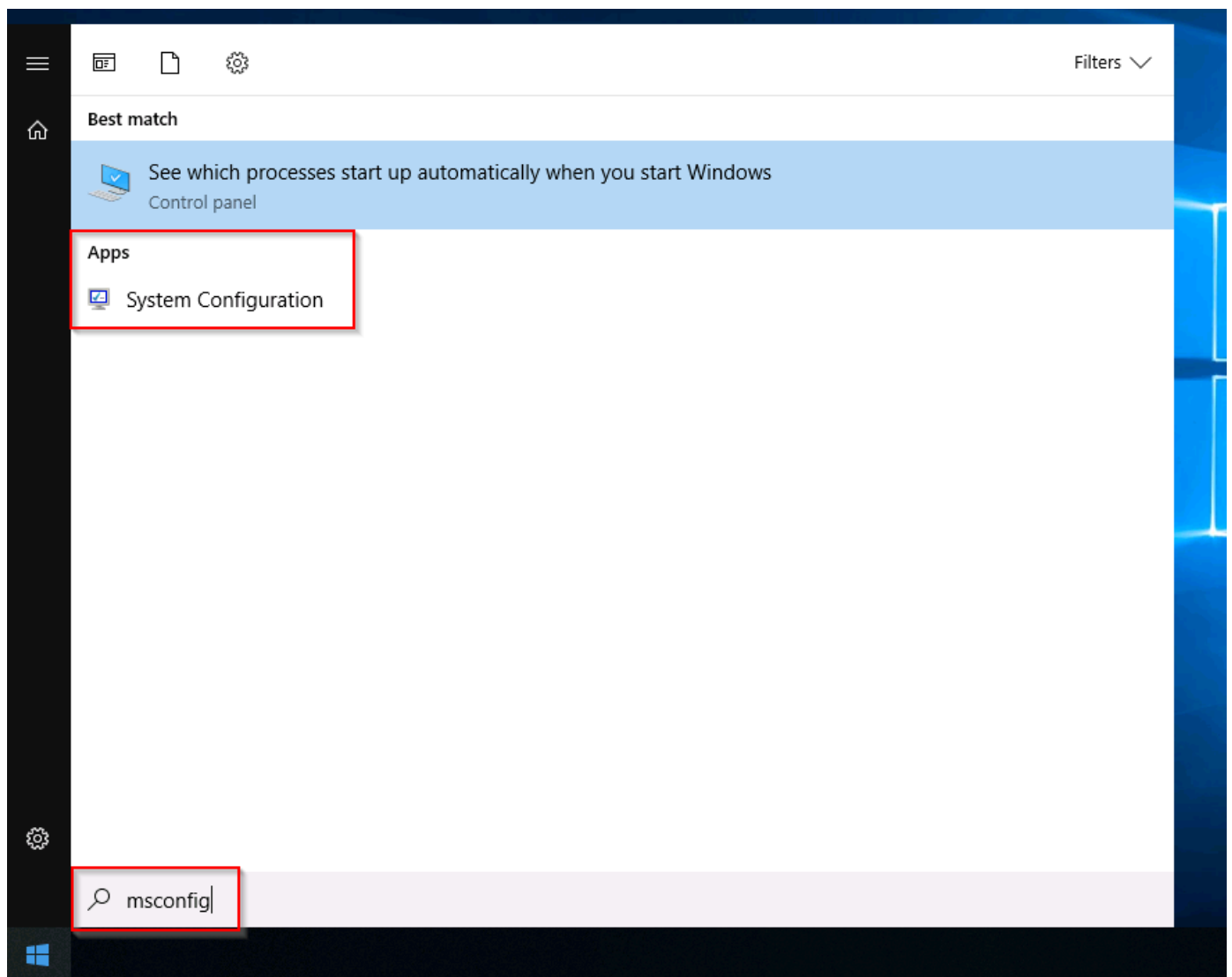
Learned:

- Event Viewer helps you investigate problems on a computer, like failed logins or suspicious applications.
- System tools like MSConfig, Performance Monitor, and Resource Monitor are used for diagnosing startup issues and detecting unusual activity.
- Command line tools such as `ipconfig`, and `netstat` are useful for viewing network configurations, active connections, and managing network resources.

### System Configuration

The **System Configuration** utility (`MSConfig`) is for advanced troubleshooting, and its main purpose is to help diagnose startup issues.

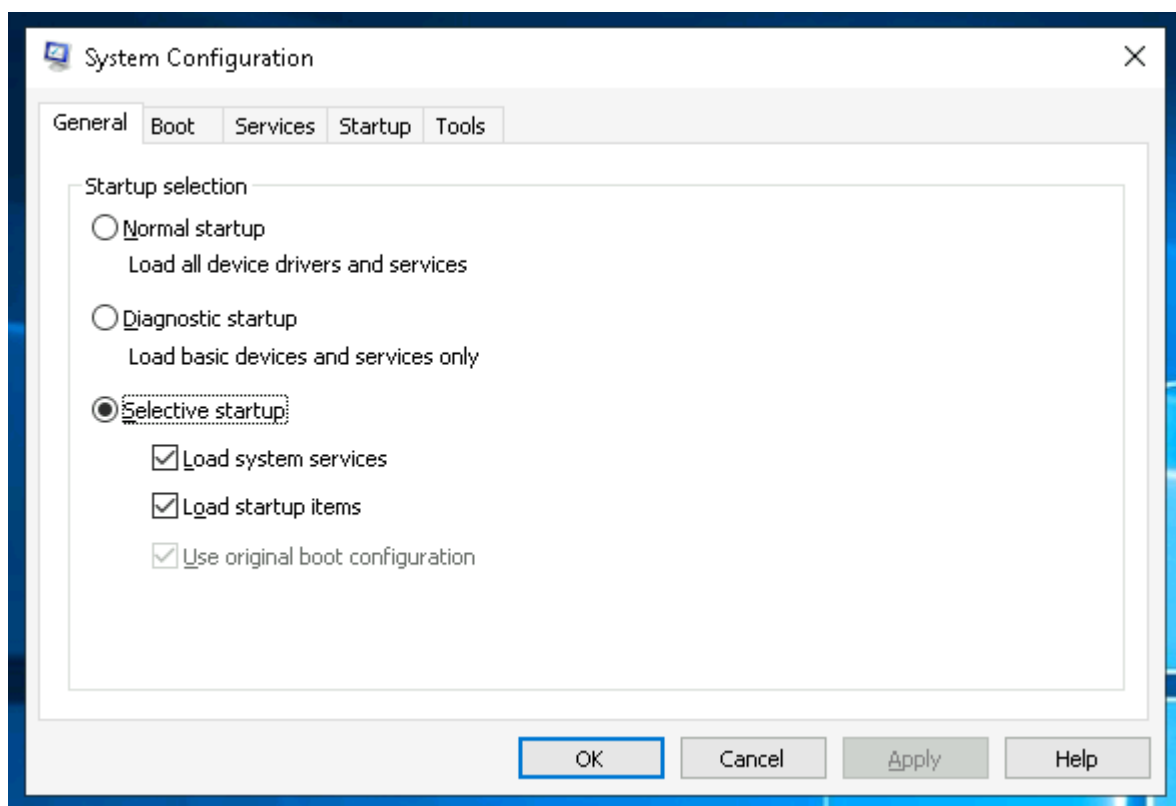
There are several methods to launch System Configuration. One method is from the Start Menu.



**Note:** You need local administrator rights to open this utility.

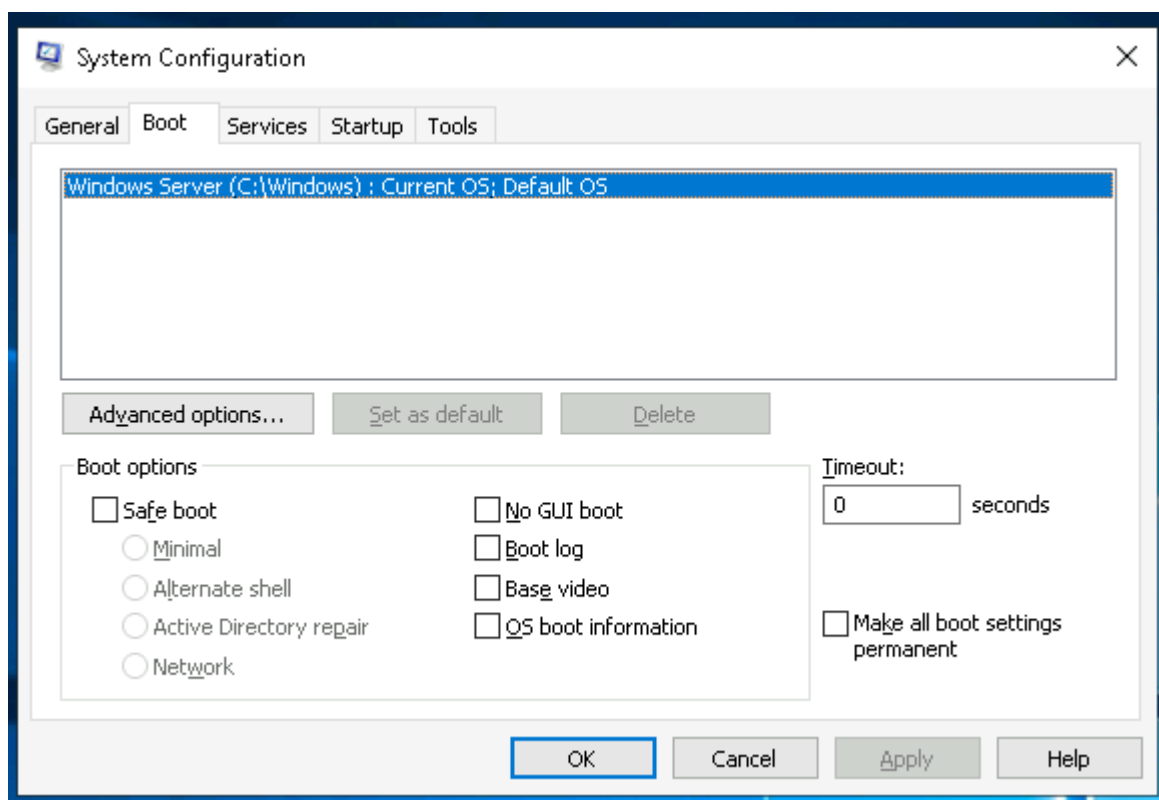
The utility has five tabs across the top.

1. General
2. Boot
3. Services
4. Startup
5. Tools

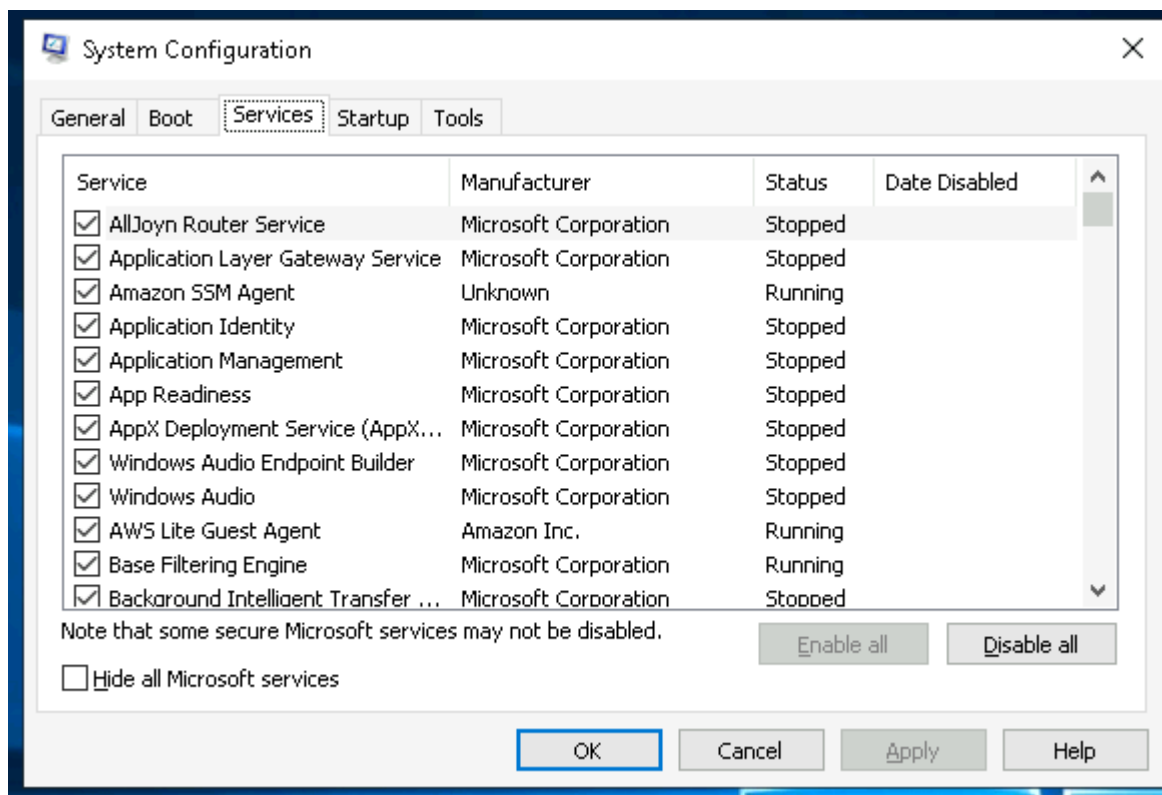


In the **General** tab, we can select what devices and services for Windows to load upon boot. The options are: **Normal**, **Diagnostic**, or **Selective**.

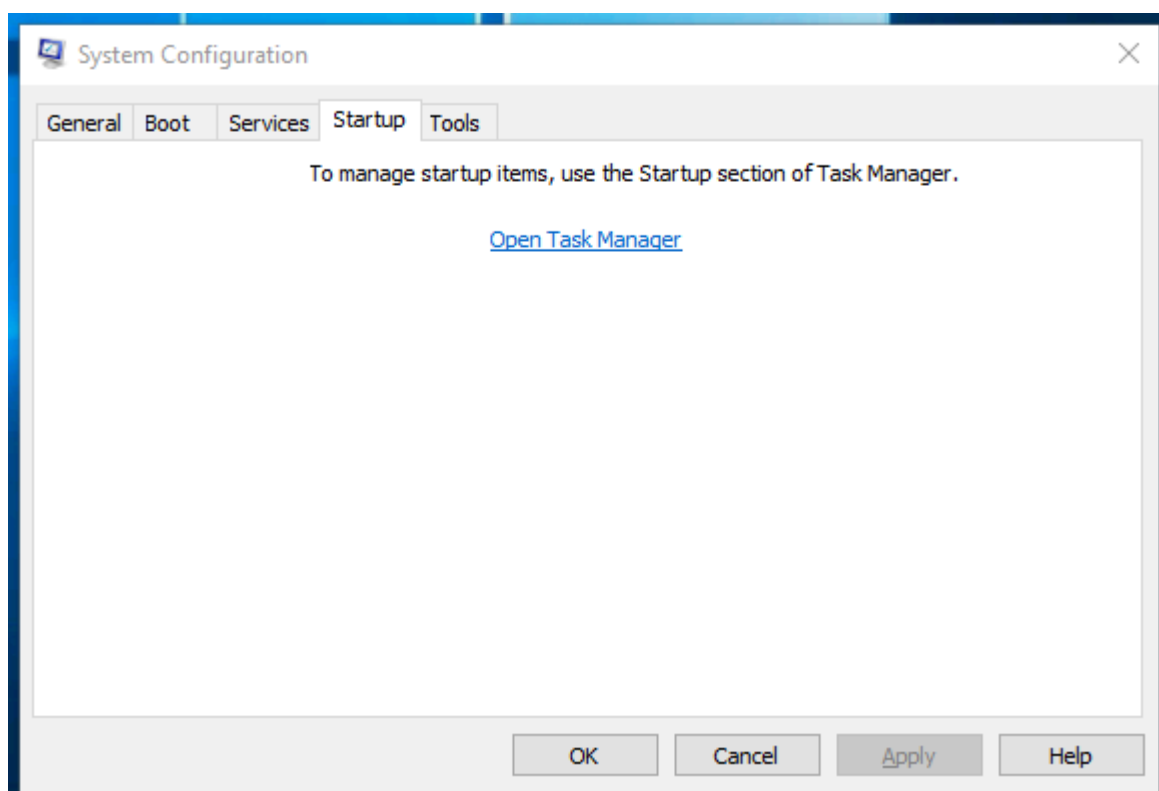
In the **Boot** tab, we can define various boot options for the Operating System.



The **Services** tab lists all services configured for the system regardless of their state (running or stopped). A service is a special type of application that runs in the background.

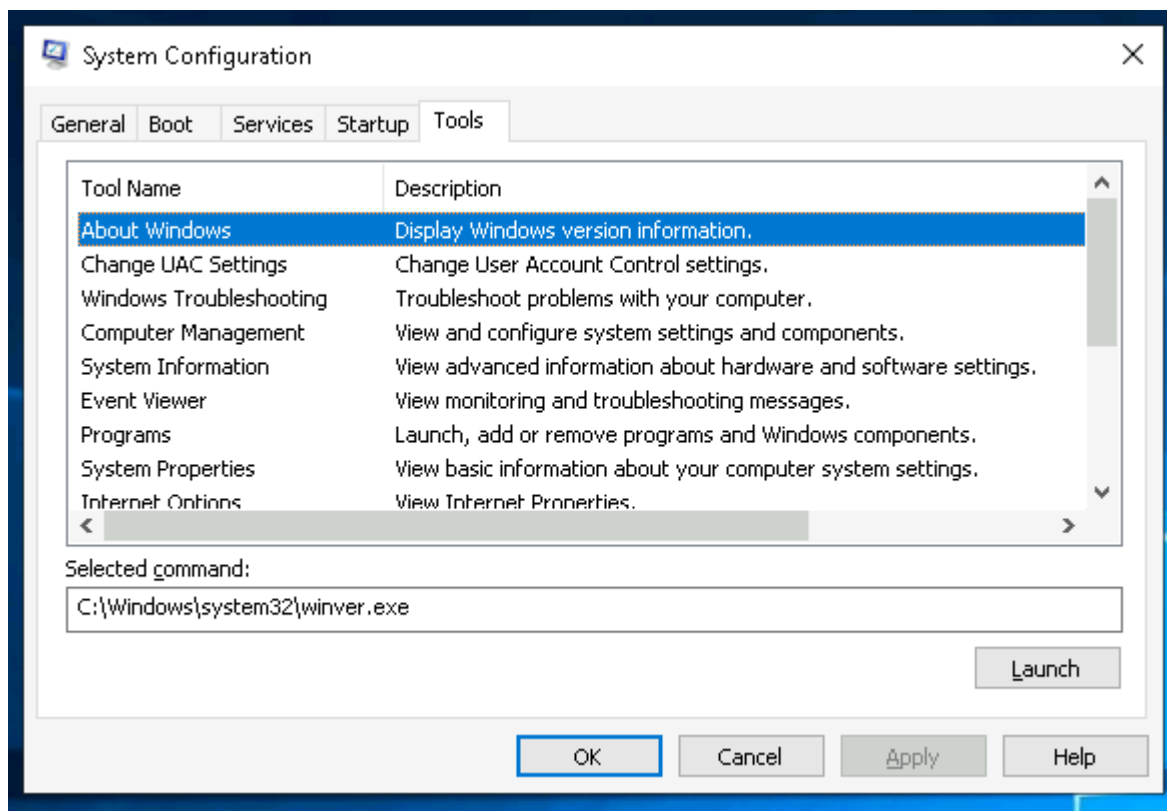


Below is a screenshot of the Startup tab for **MSConfig**.



Microsoft advises using **Task Manager** (`taskmgr`) to manage (enable/disable) startup items. The System Configuration utility is **NOT** a startup management program.

There is a list of various utilities (tools) in the Tools tab that we can run to configure the operating system further. There is a brief description of each tool.



In the **Selected command** section. The information in this textbox will change per tool.

To run a tool, we can use the command to launch the tool via the run prompt, command prompt, or by clicking the **Launch** button.

## Change UAC Settings (User Account Control)

The UAC settings can be changed or even turned off (not recommended).

You can move the slider to see how the setting will change the UAC settings and Microsoft's stance on the setting.

## Choose when to be notified about changes to your computer

User Account Control helps prevent potentially harmful programs from making changes to your computer.

[Tell me more about User Account Control settings](#)

Always notify



Never notify

### Notify me only when apps try to make changes to my computer (default)

- Don't notify me when I make changes to Windows settings

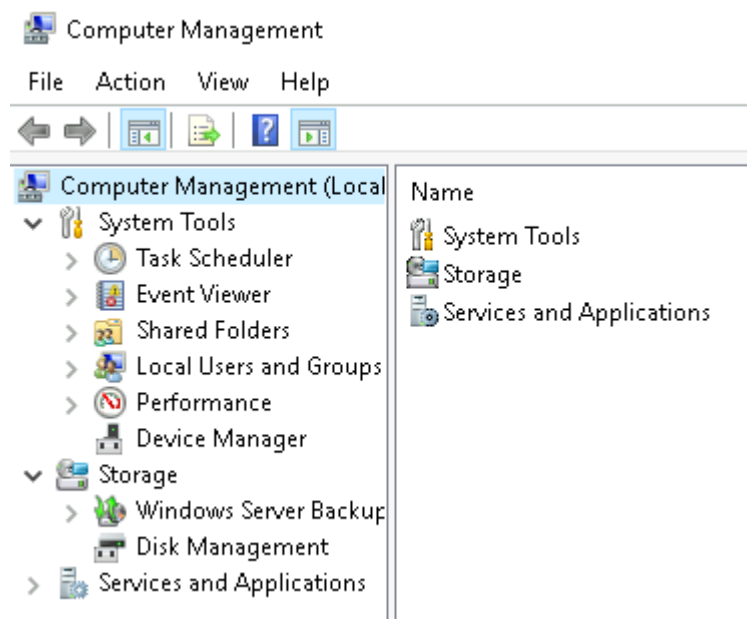
**i** Recommended if you use familiar apps and visit familiar websites.

OK

Cancel

## Computer Management

The **Computer Management** (`compmgmt`) utility has three primary sections: System Tools, Storage, and Services and Applications.

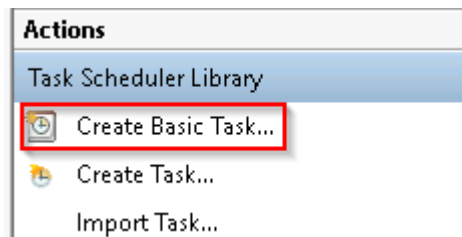


### System Tools

with Task Scheduler, we can create and manage common tasks that our computer will carry out automatically at the times we specify.

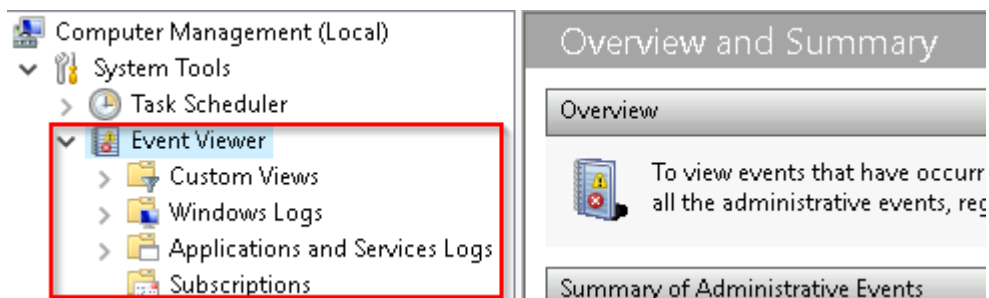
A task can run an application, a script, etc., and tasks can be configured to run at any point. A task can run at log in or at log off. Tasks can also be configured to run on a specific schedule, for example, every five mins.

To create a basic task, click on **Create Basic Task** under **Actions** (right pane).



Next is **Event Viewer**.

Event Viewer allows us to view events that have occurred on the computer. These records of events can be seen as an audit trail that can be used to understand the activity of the computer system. This information is often used to diagnose problems and investigate actions executed on the system.



Event Viewer has three panes.

1. The pane on the left provides a hierarchical tree listing of the event log providers. (as shown in the image above)
2. The pane in the middle will display a general overview and summary of the events specific to a selected provider.
3. The pane on the right is the actions pane.

There are five types of events that can be logged.

The following table describes the five event types used in event logging.




Event type	Description
Error	An event that indicates a significant problem such as loss of data or loss of functionality. For example, if a service fails to load during startup, an Error event is logged.
Warning	An event that is not necessarily significant, but may indicate a possible future problem. For example, when disk space is low, a Warning event is logged. If an application can recover from an event without loss of functionality or data, it can generally classify the event as a Warning event.
Information	An event that describes the successful operation of an application, driver, or service. For example, when a network driver loads successfully, it may be appropriate to log an Information event. Note that it is generally inappropriate for a desktop application to log an event each time it starts.
Success Audit	An event that records an audited security access attempt that is successful. For example, a user's successful attempt to log on to the system is logged as a Success Audit event.
Failure Audit	An event that records an audited security access attempt that fails. For example, if a user tries to access a network drive and fails, the attempt is logged as a Failure Audit event.

The standard logs are visible under Windows Logs.

The event log contains the following standard logs as well as custom logs:

Log	Description
Application	Contains events logged by applications. For example, a database application might record a file error. The application developer decides which events to record.
Security	Contains events such as valid and invalid logon attempts, as well as events related to resource use such as creating, opening, or deleting files or other objects. An administrator can start auditing to record events in the security log.
System	Contains events logged by system components, such as the failure of a driver or other system component to load during startup.
CustomLog	Contains events logged by applications that create a custom log. Using a custom log enables an application to control the size of the log or attach ACLs for security purposes without affecting other applications.

**Shared Folders** is where you will see a complete list of shares and folders shared that others can connect to.

Share Name	Folder Path	Type	# Client Connections	Description
 ADMIN\$	C:\Windows	Windows	0	Remote Admin
 C\$	C:\	Windows	0	Default share
 IPC\$		Windows	0	Remote IPC

In the above image, under Shares, are the default share of Windows, C\$, and default remote administration shares created by Windows, such as ADMIN\$.

As with any object in Windows, you can right-click on a folder to view its properties, such as Permissions (who can access the shared resource).

Under **Sessions**, you will see a list of users who are currently connected to the shares.

All the folders and/or files that the connected users access will list under **Open Files**.

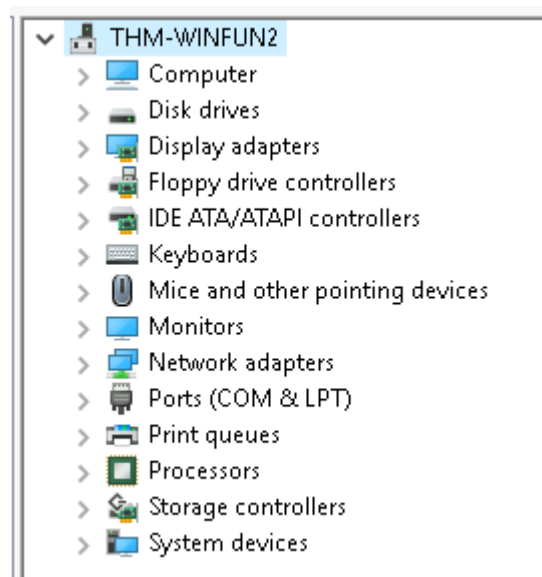


In **Performance**, you'll see a utility called **Performance Monitor** (`perfmon`).

Perfmon is used to view performance data either in real-time or from a log file. This is useful for troubleshooting performance issues on a computer system, whether local or remote.

System Summary			
\\THM-WINFUN2			
<b>Memory</b>			
% Committed Bytes In Use	44.807		
Available MBytes	980.000		
Cache Faults/sec	0.000		
<b>Network Interface</b> <b>AWS PV Network Device _0</b>			
Bytes Total/sec	360.000		
<b>PhysicalDisk</b> <b>_Total</b> <b>0 C:</b> <b>1</b>			
% Idle Time	99.967	99.935	99.999
Avg. Disk Queue Length	0.001	0.001	0.000
<b>Processor Information</b> <b>_Total</b> <b>0, _Total</b> <b>0,0</b>			
% Interrupt Time	0.000	0.000	0.000
% Processor Time	0.001	0.001	0.001
Parking Status	0.000	0.000	0.000

**Device Manager** allows us to view and configure the hardware, such as disabling any hardware attached to the computer.



## Storage

Under Storage is **Windows Server Backup** and **Disk Management**. We'll only look at Disk Management in this room.

Volume	Layout	Type	File System	Status	Capacity	Free Space	% Free	
(C:)	Simple	Basic	NTFS	Healthy (Boot, Page File, Crash Dump, Primary Partition)	19.46 GB	9.13 GB	47 %	
System Reserved	Simple	Basic	NTFS	Healthy (System, Active, Primary Partition)	549 MB	115 MB	21 %	




  




<b>Disk 0</b> Basic 20.00 GB Online	<b>System Reserved</b> 549 MB NTFS Healthy (System, Active, Primary Partition)	<b>(C:)</b> 19.46 GB NTFS Healthy (Boot, Page File, Crash Dump, Primary Partition)
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Disk Management is a system utility in Windows that enables you to perform advanced storage tasks. Some tasks are:

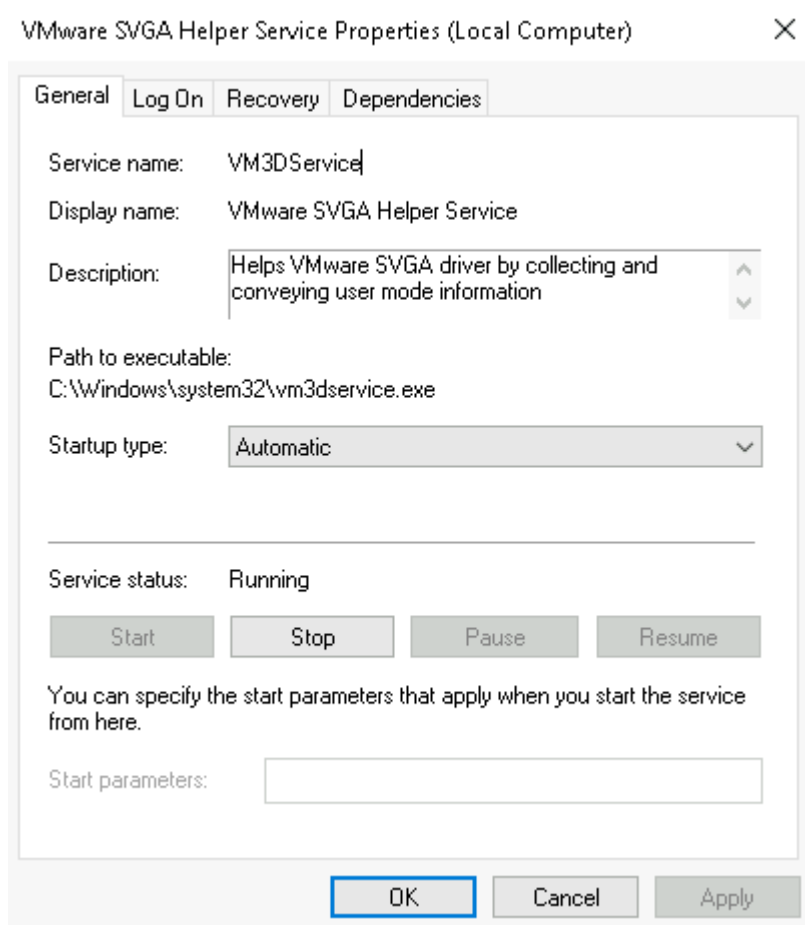
- Set up a new drive
- Extend a partition
- Shrink a partition
- Assign or change a drive letter (ex. E:)

## Services and Applications

Name	Type	Description
 Routing and Remote ...	Routing and Remote Access	Routing and Remote Access
 Services		Starts, stops, and configures Windows services.
 WMI Control	Extension Snap-in	Configures and controls the Windows Management Instrumentation (WMI) service.

Name	Type	Description
 Routing and Remote ...	Routing and Remote Access	Routing and Remote Access
 Services		Starts, stops, and configures Windows services.
 WMI Control	Extension Snap-in	Configures and controls the Windows Management Instrumentation (WMI) service.

Recall from the previous task; a service is a special type of application that runs in the background. Here you can do more than enable and disable a service, such as view the Properties for the service.



WMI Control configures and controls the **Windows Management Instrumentation** (WMI) service.

## System Information

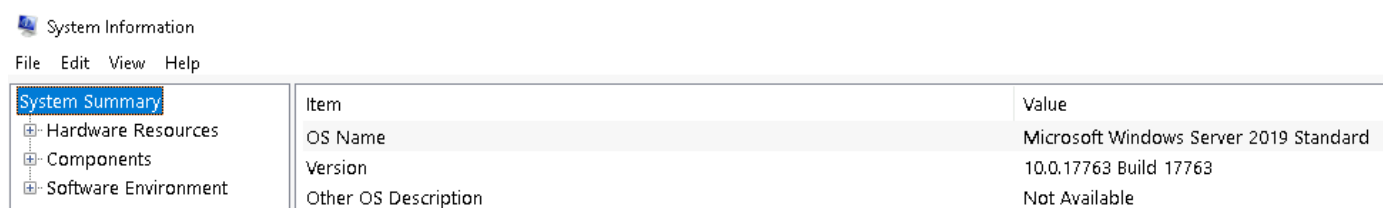
What is the **System Information** (`msinfo32`) tool?

*"Windows includes a tool called Microsoft System Information (Msinfo32.exe). This tool gathers information about your computer and displays a comprehensive view of your hardware, system components, and software environment, which you can use to diagnose computer issues."*

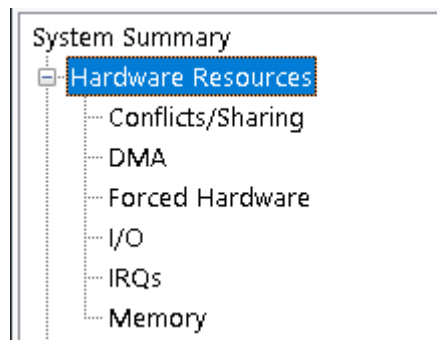
The information in **System Summary** is divided into three sections:

- **Hardware Resources**
- **Components**
- **Software Environment**

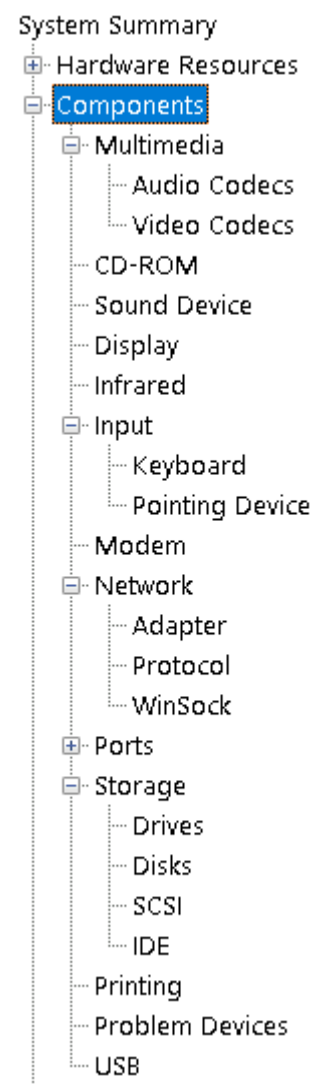
System Summary will display general technical specifications for the computer, such as processor brand and model.



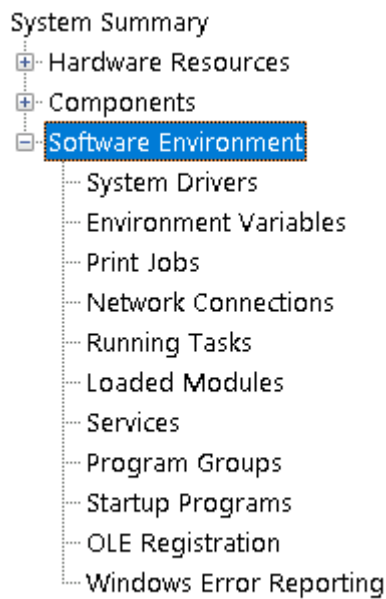
The information displayed in **Hardware Resources** is not for the average computer user.



Under **Components**, you can see specific information about the hardware devices installed on the computer. Some sections don't show any information, but some sections do, such as **Display** and **Input**.



In the **Software Environment** section, you can see information about software baked into the operating system and software you have installed. Other details are visible in this section as well, such as the **Environment Variables** and **Network Connections**.



*The environment variables store data that is used by the operating system and other programs. For example, the WINDIR environment variable contains the location of the Windows installation directory. Programs can query the value of this variable to determine where Windows operating system files are located".*

## Resource Monitor

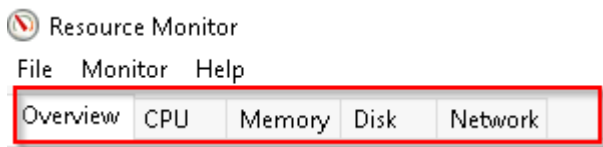
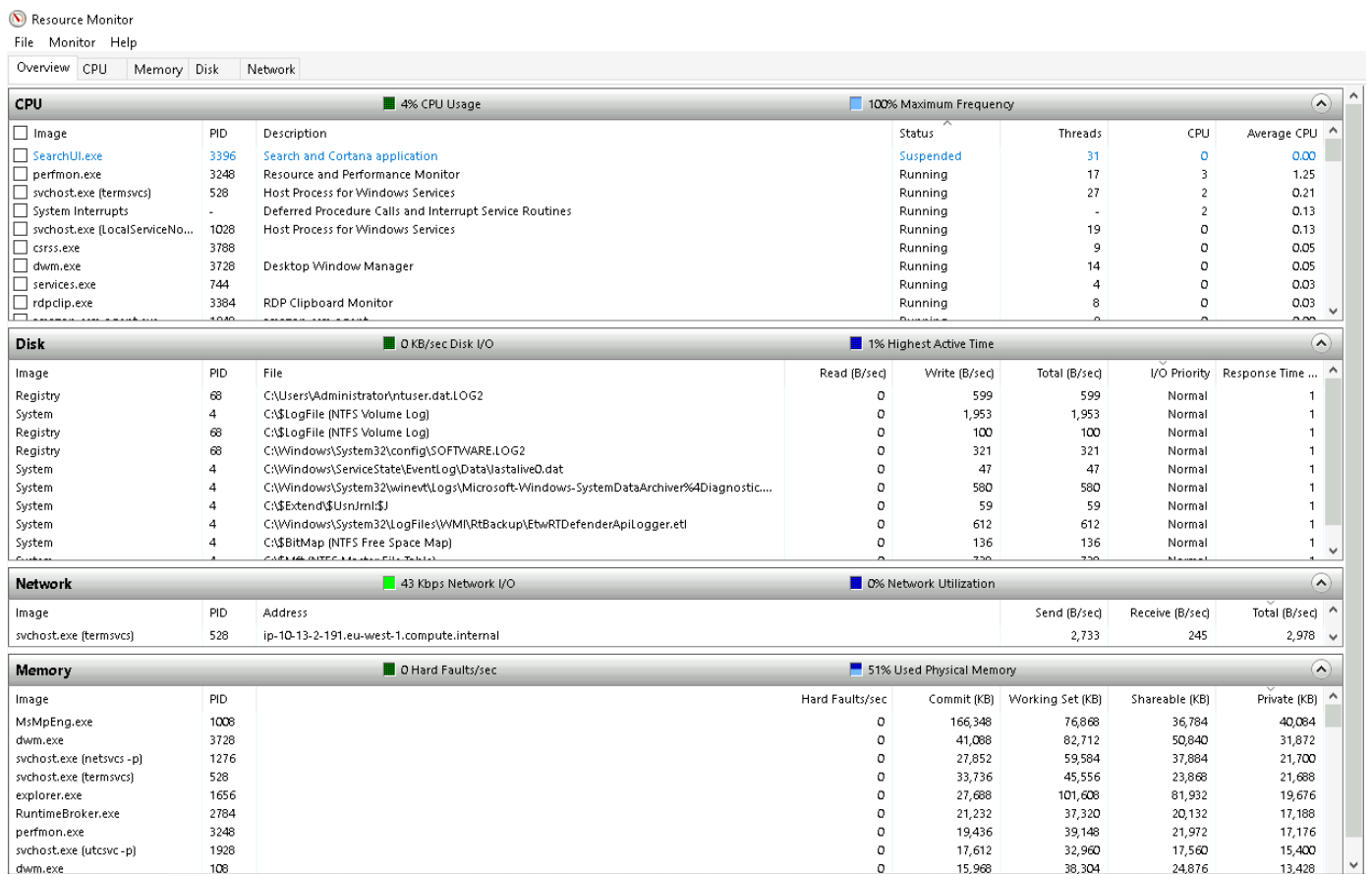
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What is **Resource Monitor** (`resmon`)?

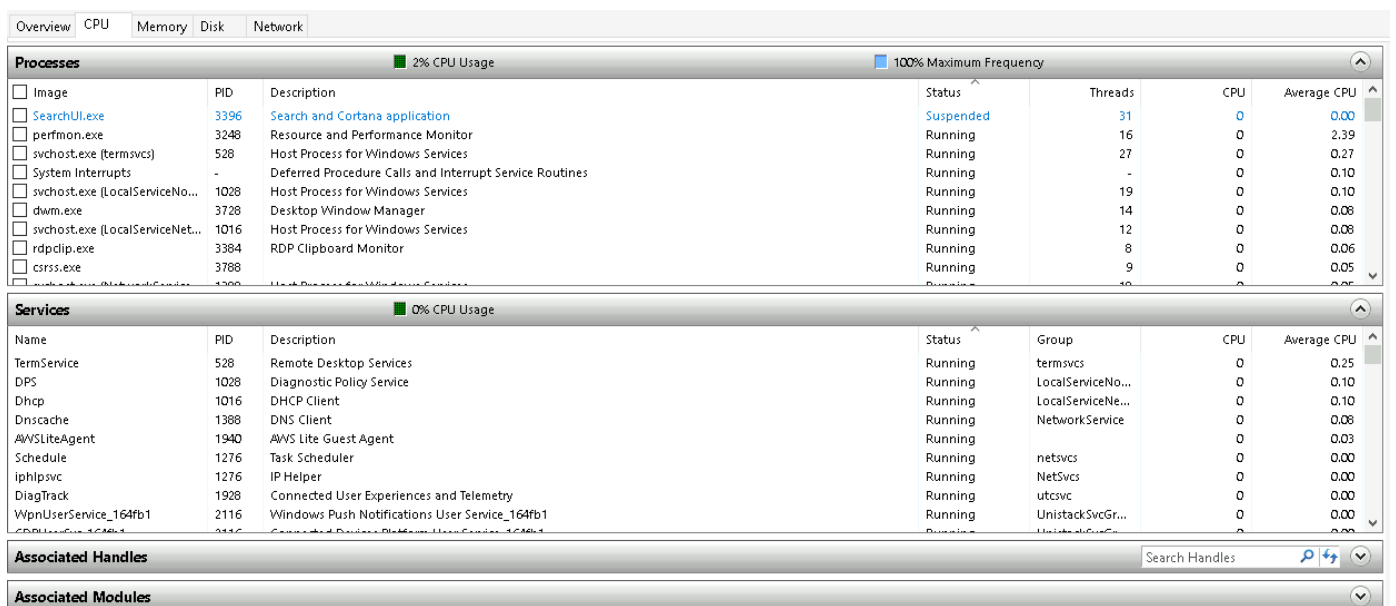
*Per Microsoft, "Resource Monitor displays per-process and aggregate CPU, memory, disk, and network usage information, in addition to providing details about which processes are using individual file handles and modules.*

In the Overview tab, Resmon has four sections:

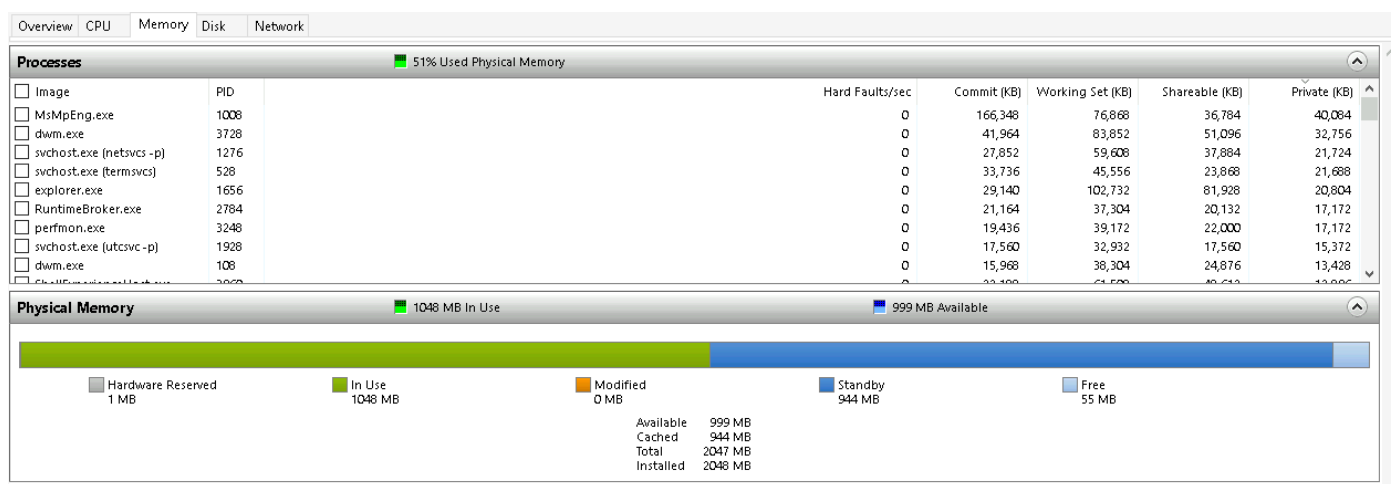
- **CPU**
- **Disk**
- **Network**
- **Memory**



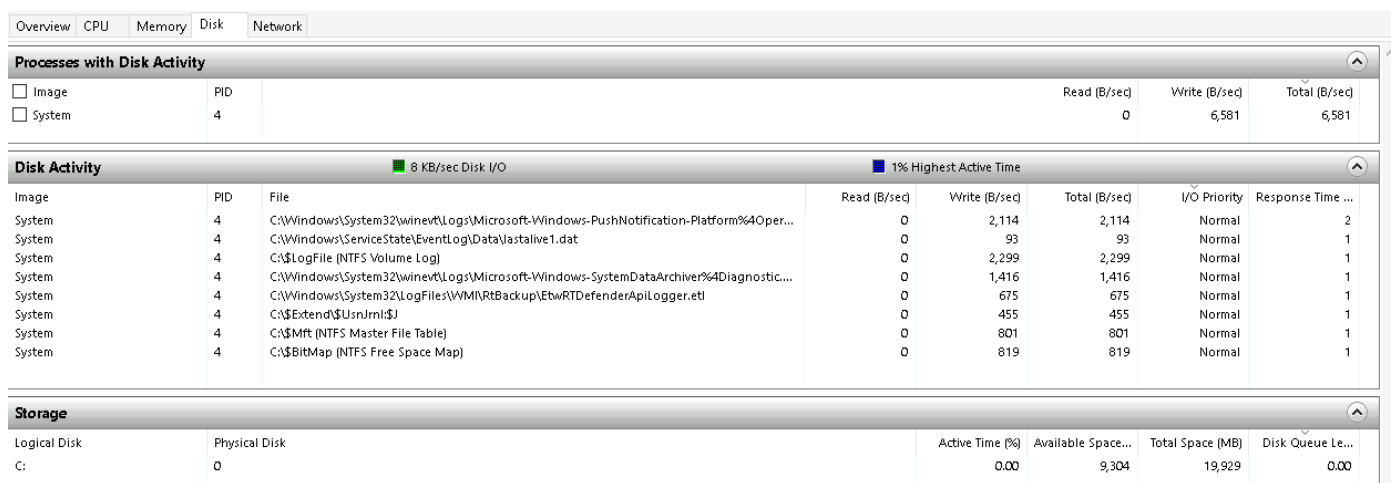
## CPU



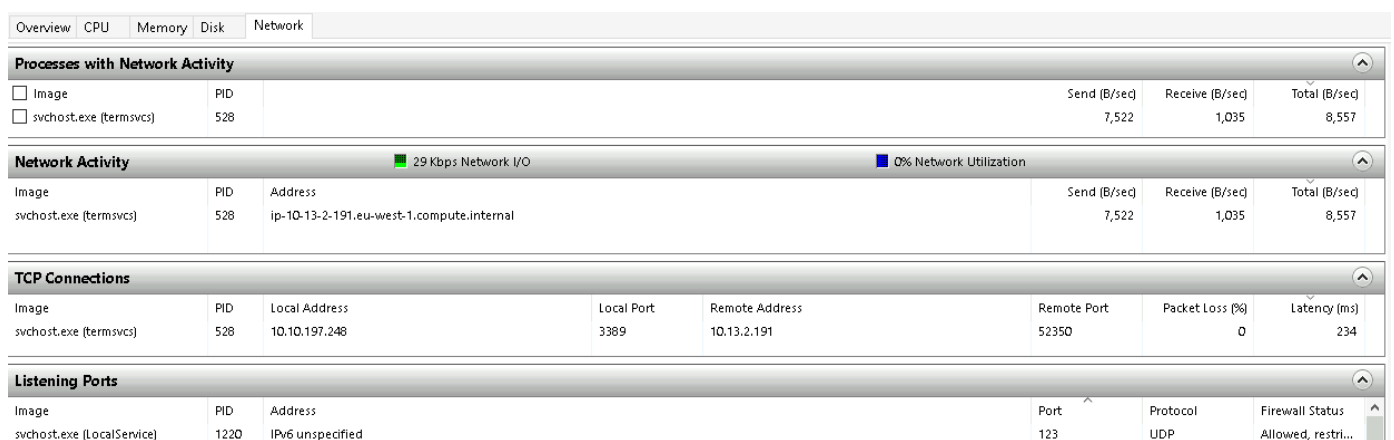
## Memory



## Disk



## Network



Resource Monitor has a pane at the far right which shows a graphical view in real-time for each section.

## Command Prompt

The command **hostname** will output the computer name.

```
C:\Users\Administrator>hostname  
THM-WINFUN2
```

The command **whoami** will output the name of the logged-in user.

```
C:\Users\Administrator>whoami
thm-winfun2\administrator
```

A command used often is **ipconfig**. This command will show the network address settings for the computer.

```
C:\Users\Administrator>ipconfig

Windows IP Configuration

Ethernet adapter Ethernet:

    Connection-specific DNS Suffix  . : eu-internal
    Link-local IPv6 Address . . . . . : fe80::6486:c81a:3db5:a0ed%7
    IPv4 Address. . . . . : 10.10.
    Subnet Mask . . . . . : 255.255.0.0
    Default Gateway . . . . . : 10.10.

C:\Users\Administrator>
```

A command to retrieve the help manual for a command is **/?**.

For example, to see the help manual for **ipconfig**, you can use the following command: **ipconfig /?**

```
C:\Users\Administrator>ipconfig /?

USAGE:
    ipconfig [/allcompartments] [/? | /all |
        /renew [adapter] | /release [adapter] |
        /renew6 [adapter] | /release6 [adapter] |
        /flushdns | /displaydns | /registerdns |
        /showclassid adapter |
        /setclassid adapter [classid] |
        /showclassid6 adapter |
        /setclassid6 adapter [classid] ]

where
    adapter          Connection name
                     (wildcard characters * and ? allowed, see examples)

Options:
    /?              Display this help message
    /all            Display full configuration information.
```

The next command is **netstat**. Per the help manual, this command will display protocol statistics and current TCP/IP network connections.



```

C:\Users\Administrator>netstat

Active Connections

Proto Local Address           Foreign Address         State
TCP   10.10.10.10:3389         ip-10-13-10.10:38150    ESTABLISHED

C:\Users\Administrator>netstat /?

Displays protocol statistics and current TCP/IP network connections.

NETSTAT [-a] [-b] [-e] [-f] [-n] [-o] [-p proto] [-r] [-s] [-x] [-t] [interval]

```

The line with the red box shows an example syntax for the command.

The structure tells us the **netstat** command can be run alone or with parameters, such as `-a`, `-b`, `-e`, etc.

The `net` command is primarily used to manage network resources. This command supports sub-commands.

If you type **net** without a sub-command, the output will show the syntax for the root command showing a few of the sub-commands you can use.

```

C:\Users\Administrator>net
The syntax of this command is:

NET
[ ACCOUNTS | COMPUTER | CONFIG | CONTINUE | FILE | GROUP | HELP |
  HELPMMSG | LOCALGROUP | PAUSE | SESSION | SHARE | START |
  STATISTICS | STOP | TIME | USE | USER | VIEW ]

```

For the net command, to display the help manual `/?` will not work. In this case, you need to use different syntax, which is `net help`.

```

C:\Users\Administrator>net help
The syntax of this command is:

NET HELP
command
    -or-
NET command /HELP

Commands available are:

NET ACCOUNTS          NET HELPMMSG          NET STATISTICS
NET COMPUTER          NET LOCALGROUP        NET STOP
NET CONFIG            NET PAUSE             NET TIME
NET CONTINUE          NET SESSION           NET USE
NET FILE              NET SHARE             NET USER
NET GROUP             NET START             NET VIEW
NET HELP

NET HELP NAMES explains different types of names in NET HELP syntax lines.
NET HELP SERVICES lists some of the services you can start.
NET HELP SYNTAX explains how to read NET HELP syntax lines.
NET HELP command | MORE displays Help one screen at a time.

```

So, if you wish to see the help information for `net user` , the command is `net help user` .

```

C:\Users\Administrator>net help user
The syntax of this command is:

NET USER
[username [password | *] [options]] [/DOMAIN]
    username {password | *} /ADD [options] [/DOMAIN]
    username [/DELETE] [/DOMAIN]
    username [/TIMES:{times | ALL}]
    username [/ACTIVE: {YES | NO}]

NET USER creates and modifies user accounts on computers. When used
without switches, it lists the user accounts for the computer. The
user account information is stored in the user accounts database.

```

You can use the same command to view the help information for other useful **net** sub-commands, such as **localgroup**, **use**, **share**, and **session**.

## Registry Editor

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The registry contains information that Windows continually references during operation, such as:

- Profiles for each user
- Applications installed on the computer and the types of documents that each can create
- Property sheet settings for folders and application icons
- What hardware exists on the system
- The ports that are being used.

There are various ways to view/edit the registry. One way is to use the **Registry Editor** (`regedit`).

Computer

Computer		Name	Type	Data
▼	Computer			
>	HKEY_CLASSES_ROOT			
>	HKEY_CURRENT_USER			
>	HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE			
>	HKEY_USERS			
>	HKEY_CURRENT_CONFIG			