# How Does it Work?

The Usage Data Collector is designed to have a minimal impact on user experience. The impact on performance is negligible.

Once installed, the Usage Data Collector immediately starts monitoring your use of Eclipse. In particular, it takes note of the views, editors, perspectives, and commands that you use. It also keeps track of when you bring the Eclipse workbench window into focus. At a lower level, the Usage Data Collector records the bundles (plug-ins) that are loaded by Eclipse. The information collected amounts to the id of the entity (view, editor, perspective, etc.), the symbolic name and version of the bundle that contains the entity, and the time of the event.

We recognize that the data collected may contain sensitive information. Symbolic names for bundles can potentially include company and product names; bundle versions, as well as view, editor, and perspective ids could potentially also contain sensitive information. With this in mind, the Usage Data Collector includes a filtering framework that can be used to restrict the type of information that is uploaded.

After a configurable period of time (five days by default) passes, it asks you for permission to upload.



At this point, you can tell the Usage Data Collector what you want to do:

* *Upload now* tells the Usage Data Collector to upload the data that has been captured to date. After the same configurable period of time passes, you will be asked again.
* *Upload always* tells the Usage Data Collector to upload the data that has been captured to date and not ask again. Henceforth, the data will be uploaded without asking.
* *Don't upload* tells the Usage Data Collector not to upload the data that has been captured. After that same configurable period of time passes, you will be asked again. All the data collected to this point will be retained.
* *Turn UDC feature off* tells the Usage Data Collector not to upload the data and to stop collecting the data altogether. This turns off the usage data collection.

The period of time between requests to upload the usage data can be configured by changing the "Upload Period" field on the "Usage Data Collection | Uploading" preferences page.



The target for uploads is a server hosted by The Eclipse Foundation. The data is stored in its collected form in a foundation database.

Two different keys are used to identify the source of the uploaded data. The first key identifies the workstation; this key is stored locally in your "user home" directory. The second key identifies the workspace; this key is stored in the directory for the workspace. These keys are uploaded along with the usage data.