

Exp:05

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VIEW LAST ACTIVITY OF YOUR PC

Aim

To view and document the recent user and system activities on a Windows PC (program executions, file opens, USB insertions, logon/logoff, startup/shutdown, etc.) using **NirSoft – LastActivityView**.

Introduction

LastActivityView is a portable Windows artifact viewer that correlates traces from multiple sources (UserAssist, Prefetch, Jump Lists, RecentDocs, MUICache, event logs, shell history, and more) into a single timeline. It helps quickly answer “what happened, when, and by which process” without installing heavy forensic suites. Typical uses include basic triage, user activity verification, and incident response on a live system or an offline Windows drive.

Procedure

1. Acquire the tool

- Download **LastActivityView (ZIP)** from the page shown.
- Extract the ZIP to a working folder (e.g., C:\Tools\LastActivityView\).

2. Run with elevated rights

- Right-click LastActivityView.exe → **Run as administrator** for fuller artifact access.

3. Initial timeline

- The tool auto-loads artifacts and displays a table.
- Click the **Time** column to sort **Newest → Oldest**.

4. Filter and focus

- Press **Ctrl+Q (Quick Filter)** and type keywords to narrow results:
 - Examples: USB, chrome.exe, .docx, shutdown, setup.exe.
- (Optional) **Options → Advanced Options...**
 - Set **From/To** time range.
 - Choose **Load activity from external hard-drive** to analyze another Windows installation.

5. Inspect key columns

- **Time** – exact timestamp of the event.
- **Description / Action Type** – e.g., *Run .EXE, Open file, USB plug, System Started/Shutdown*.
- **Process / Filename / Full Path** – what ran or opened.
- **More Info** – extra context (parameters, device name, etc.).

6. Document findings

- Select relevant rows → **Ctrl+S** to export **CSV/HTML/XML**.
- Or **View → HTML Report – All Items** to generate a printable report.
- Note any gaps, anomalies, or corroborating artifacts (e.g., Prefetch presence for a run event).

7. (Optional) Corroboration

- **Event Viewer** (eventvwr.msc) → Windows Logs for startup/shutdown and device logs.
- Check C:\Windows\Prefetch\ for corresponding .pf files of executed programs.

Output

- **On-screen:** A chronological table of activities showing:
 - *Time* (e.g., 2025-10-12 20:14:03)
 - *Action Type* (e.g., **Run .EXE, Open File, USB Device Connected, System Started, Shutdown**)
 - *Process/Filename/Path* (e.g., C:\Program Files\Google\Chrome\Application\chrome.exe)
 - *More Info* (e.g., device label SanDisk Ultra, file parameters, user profile path)

Quick Filter						
			Find one string	Search all columns	Show only items match the f	
Action Time	Description	Filename	Full Path	More Information	File Extension	Data Source
13-10-2025 01:12:16	Run .EXE file	ctfmon.exe	C:\Windows\System32\ctfmon.exe	Microsoft Corporation, ...	exe	C:\WINDOWS\Prefetch\CTFMON.EXE-795F8130.pf
13-10-2025 01:1...	Run .EXE file	CONSENT.EXE	C:\WINDOWS\SYSTEM32\CONSENT.EXE	Microsoft Corporation, ...	EXE	C:\WINDOWS\Prefetch\CONSENT.EXE-40419367.pf
13-10-2025 01:1...	Task Run	LocationNotificationW...	C:\WINDOWS\System32\LocationNotifi...	Notifications, Microsof...	exe	
13-10-2025 01:1...	Run .EXE file	svchost.exe	C:\Windows\System32\svchost.exe	Microsoft Corporation, ...	exe	C:\WINDOWS\Prefetch\SVCHOST.EXE-852EC587.pf
13-10-2025 01:1...	Run .EXE file	dllhost.exe	C:\Windows\System32\dllhost.exe	Microsoft Corporation, ...	exe	C:\WINDOWS\Prefetch\DLLHOST.EXE-7D5CE0CA.pf
13-10-2025 01:1...	Open file or folder	lastactivityview.zip	C:\Users\Sivarangini\Downloads\lastacti...		zip	C:\Users\Sivarangini\AppData\Roaming\Microsoft\Windows...
13-10-2025 01:1...	Run .EXE file	SEARCHFILTERHOST.EXE	C:\Windows\System32\SEARCHFILTERHOS...	Microsoft Corporation, ...	EXE	C:\WINDOWS\Prefetch\SEARCHFILTERHOST.EXE-44162447.pf
13-10-2025 01:1...	Run .EXE file	chrome.exe	C:\PROGRAM FILES\Google\Chrome\APPL...	Google LLC, Google Chr...	exe	C:\WINDOWS\Prefetch\CHROME.EXE-AED7B44A.pf
13-10-2025 01:0...	Run .EXE file	chrome.exe	C:\PROGRAM FILES\Google\Chrome\APPL...	Google LLC, Google Chr...	exe	C:\WINDOWS\Prefetch\CHROME.EXE-AED7BA3D.pf
13-10-2025 01:0...	Run .EXE file	chrome.exe	C:\PROGRAM FILES\Google\Chrome\APPL...	Google LLC, Google Chr...	exe	C:\WINDOWS\Prefetch\CHROME.EXE-AED7BA45.pf
13-10-2025 01:0...	Run .EXE file	dllhost.exe	C:\Windows\System32\dllhost.exe	Microsoft Corporation, ...	exe	C:\WINDOWS\Prefetch\DLLHOST.EXE-7D5CE0CA.pf
13-10-2025 01:0...	Run .EXE file	SEARCHFILTERHOST.EXE	C:\Windows\System32\SEARCHFILTERHOS...	Microsoft Corporation, ...	EXE	C:\WINDOWS\Prefetch\SEARCHFILTERHOST.EXE-44162447.pf
13-10-2025 01:0...	Run .EXE file	AUDIOIOG.EXE	C:\WINDOWS\SYSTEM32\AUDIOIOG.EXE	Microsoft Corporation, ...	EXE	C:\WINDOWS\Prefetch\AUDIOIOG.EXE-AB22E9A6.pf
13-10-2025 01:0...	Run .EXE file	svchost.exe	C:\Windows\System32\svchost.exe	Microsoft Corporation, ...	exe	C:\WINDOWS\Prefetch\SVCHOST.EXE-18C5C664.pf
13-10-2025 01:0...	Run .EXE file	SNIPPINGTOOL.EXE	C:\PROGRAM FILES\WINDOWSAPPS\MICR...	...	EXE	C:\WINDOWS\Prefetch\SNIPPINGTOOL.EXE-65438BF1.pf
13-10-2025 01:0...	Run .EXE file	chrome.exe	C:\PROGRAM FILES\Google\Chrome\APPL...	Google LLC, Google Chr...	exe	C:\WINDOWS\Prefetch\CHROME.EXE-AED7BA3D.pf
13-10-2025 01:0...	Open file or folder	Downloads	C:\Users\Sivarangini\Downloads			C:\Users\Sivarangini\AppData\Roaming\Microsoft\Windows...
13-10-2025 01:0...	Open file or folder	EXPERIMENT 6.docx	C:\Users\Sivarangini\Downloads\EXPERIME...		docx	C:\Users\Sivarangini\AppData\Roaming\Microsoft\Windows...
13-10-2025 01:0...	Open file or folder	EXPERIMENT 7.docx	C:\Users\Sivarangini\OneDrive\Documents...		docx	C:\Users\Sivarangini\AppData\Roaming\Microsoft\Windows...
13-10-2025 01:0...	Select file in open/save ...	EXPERIMENT 7.docx	C:\Users\Sivarangini\OneDrive\Documents...		docx	HKEY_CURRENT_USER\Software\Microsoft\Windows\Current...
13-10-2025 01:0...	Select file in open/save ...	EXPERIMENT 7.docx	C:\Users\Sivarangini\OneDrive\Documents...		docx	HKEY_CURRENT_USER\Software\Microsoft\Windows\Current...
13-10-2025 01:0...	Run .EXE file	svchost.exe	C:\Windows\System32\svchost.exe	Microsoft Corporation, ...	exe	C:\WINDOWS\Prefetch\SVCHOST.EXE-3CF81F86.pf
13-10-2025 01:0...	Run .EXE file	al.exe	C:\PROGRAM FILES\MICROSOFT OFFICE\...	Microsoft Corporation, ...	exe	C:\WINDOWS\Prefetch\AL.EXE-C80F666.pf
13-10-2025 01:0...	Open file or folder	Exp 6.docx	C:\Users\Sivarangini\Downloads\Exp 6.docx		docx	C:\Users\Sivarangini\AppData\Roaming\Microsoft\Windows...
13-10-2025 01:0...	Run .EXE file	WmPrvSE.exe	C:\Windows\System32\wbem\WmPrvSE.exe	Microsoft Corporation, ...	exe	C:\WINDOWS\Prefetch\WMPRVSE.EXE-E880D25.pf
13-10-2025 01:0...	Run .EXE file	WINWORD.EXE	C:\PROGRAM FILES\MICROSOFT OFFICE\...	Microsoft Corporation, ...	EXE	C:\WINDOWS\Prefetch\WINWORD.EXE-AB8C29A.pf
13-10-2025 01:0...	Run .EXE file	chrome.exe	C:\PROGRAM FILES\Google\Chrome\APPL...	Google LLC, Google Chr...	exe	C:\WINDOWS\Prefetch\CHROME.EXE-AED7BA45.pf
13-10-2025 01:0...	Open file or folder	Exp 6.pdf	C:\Users\Sivarangini\Downloads\Exp 6.pdf		pdf	C:\Users\Sivarangini\AppData\Roaming\Microsoft\Windows...
13-10-2025 01:0...	Select file in open/save ...	Exp 6.pdf	C:\Users\Sivarangini\Downloads\Exp 6.pdf		pdf	HKEY_CURRENT_USER\Software\Microsoft\Windows\Current...
13-10-2025 01:0...	Run .EXE file	dllhost.exe	C:\Windows\System32\dllhost.exe	Microsoft Corporation, ...	exe	C:\WINDOWS\Prefetch\DLLHOST.EXE-7D5CE0CA.pf
13-10-2025 01:0...	Run .EXE file	SEARCHFILTERHOST.EXE	C:\Windows\System32\SEARCHFILTERHOS...	Microsoft Corporation, ...	EXE	C:\WINDOWS\Prefetch\SEARCHFILTERHOST.EXE-44162447.pf
13-10-2025 01:0...	Run .EXE file	chrome.exe	C:\PROGRAM FILES\Google\Chrome\APPL...	Google LLC, Google Chr...	exe	C:\WINDOWS\Prefetch\CHROME.EXE-AED7B44A.pf
13-10-2025 01:0...	Run .EXE file	chrome.exe	C:\PROGRAM FILES\Google\Chrome\APPL...	Google LLC, Google Chr...	exe	C:\WINDOWS\Prefetch\CHROME.EXE-AED7BA3D.pf
13-10-2025 01:0...	Run .EXE file	RUNTIMEBROKER.EXE	C:\WINDOWS\SYSTEM32\RUNTIMEBROKE...	Microsoft Corporation, ...	EXE	C:\WINDOWS\Prefetch\RUNTIMEBROKER.EXE-F8127469.pf

Quick Filter						
			Find one string	Search all columns	Show only items match the f	
Action Time	Description	Filename	Full Path	More Information	File Extension	Data Source
13-10-2025 01:12:16	Run .EXE file	chrome.exe	C:\PROGRAM FILES\Google\Chrome\APPL...	Google LLC, Google Chr...	exe	C:\WINDOWS\Prefetch\CHROME.EXE-AED7B44A.pf
13-10-2025 01:1...	Run .EXE file	chrome.exe	C:\PROGRAM FILES\Google\Chrome\APPL...	Google LLC, Google Chr...	exe	C:\WINDOWS\Prefetch\CHROME.EXE-AED7BA3D.pf
13-10-2025 01:0...	Run .EXE file	chrome.exe	C:\PROGRAM FILES\Google\Chrome\APPL...	Google LLC, Google Chr...	exe	C:\WINDOWS\Prefetch\CHROME.EXE-AED7BA45.pf
13-10-2025 01:0...	Run .EXE file	chrome.exe	C:\PROGRAM FILES\Google\Chrome\APPL...	Google LLC, Google Chr...	exe	C:\WINDOWS\Prefetch\CHROME.EXE-AED7BA3D.pf
13-10-2025 01:0...	Run .EXE file	chrome.exe	C:\PROGRAM FILES\Google\Chrome\APPL...	Google LLC, Google Chr...	exe	C:\WINDOWS\Prefetch\CHROME.EXE-AED7BA45.pf
13-10-2025 01:0...	Run .EXE file	chrome.exe	C:\PROGRAM FILES\Google\Chrome\APPL...	Google LLC, Google Chr...	exe	C:\WINDOWS\Prefetch\CHROME.EXE-AED7BA44.pf
13-10-2025 01:0...	Run .EXE file	chrome.exe	C:\PROGRAM FILES\Google\Chrome\APPL...	Google LLC, Google Chr...	exe	C:\WINDOWS\Prefetch\CHROME.EXE-AED7BA3D.pf
13-10-2025 00:5...	Run .EXE file	chrome.exe	C:\PROGRAM FILES\Google\Chrome\APPL...	Google LLC, Google Chr...	exe	C:\WINDOWS\Prefetch\CHROME.EXE-AED7BA45.pf
13-10-2025 00:5...	Run .EXE file	chrome.exe	C:\PROGRAM FILES\Google\Chrome\APPL...	Google LLC, Google Chr...	exe	C:\WINDOWS\Prefetch\CHROME.EXE-AED7BA3D.pf
13-10-2025 00:5...	Run .EXE file	chrome.exe	C:\PROGRAM FILES\Google\Chrome\APPL...	Google LLC, Google Chr...	exe	C:\WINDOWS\Prefetch\CHROME.EXE-AED7BA4A.pf
13-10-2025 00:4...	Run .EXE file	chrome.exe	C:\PROGRAM FILES\Google\Chrome\APPL...	Google LLC, Google Chr...	exe	C:\WINDOWS\Prefetch\CHROME.EXE-AED7BA45.pf
13-10-2025 00:4...	Run .EXE file	chrome.exe	C:\PROGRAM FILES\Google\Chrome\APPL...	Google LLC, Google Chr...	exe	C:\WINDOWS\Prefetch\CHROME.EXE-AED7BA3D.pf
13-10-2025 00:4...	Run .EXE file	chrome.exe	C:\PROGRAM FILES\Google\Chrome\APPL...	Google LLC, Google Chr...	exe	C:\WINDOWS\Prefetch\CHROME.EXE-AED7BA3D.pf
13-10-2025 00:4...	Run .EXE file	chrome.exe	C:\PROGRAM FILES\Google\Chrome\APPL...	Google LLC, Google Chr...	exe	C:\WINDOWS\Prefetch\CHROME.EXE-AED7BA4A.pf
13-10-2025 00:4...	Run .EXE file	chrome.exe	C:\PROGRAM FILES\Google\Chrome\APPL...	Google LLC, Google Chr...	exe	C:\WINDOWS\Prefetch\CHROME.EXE-AED7BA45.pf
13-10-2025 00:3...	Run .EXE file	chrome.exe	C:\PROGRAM FILES\Google\Chrome\APPL...	Google LLC, Google Chr...	exe	C:\WINDOWS\Prefetch\CHROME.EXE-AED7BA4A.pf
13-10-2025 00:3...	Run .EXE file	chrome.exe	C:\PROGRAM FILES\Google\Chrome\APPL...	Google LLC, Google Chr...	exe	C:\WINDOWS\Prefetch\CHROME.EXE-AED7BA45.pf
13-10-2025 00:2...	Run .EXE file	chrome.exe	C:\PROGRAM FILES\Google\Chrome\APPL...	Google LLC, Google Chr...	exe	C:\WINDOWS\Prefetch\CHROME.EXE-AED7BA4A.pf
12-10-2025 22:2...	Run .EXE file	chrome.exe	C:\PROGRAM FILES\Google\Chrome\APPL...	Google LLC, Google Chr...	exe	C:\WINDOWS\Prefetch\CHROME.EXE-AED7BA4A.pf
12-10-2025 22:1...	Run .EXE file	chrome.exe	C:\PROGRAM FILES\Google\Chrome\APPL...	Google LLC, Google Chr...	exe	C:\WINDOWS\Prefetch\CHROME.EXE-AED7BA4A.pf
11-10-2025 20:4...	Run .EXE file	chrome.exe	C:\PROGRAM FILES\Google\Chrome\APPL...	Google LLC, Google Chr...	exe	C:\WINDOWS\Prefetch\CHROME.EXE-AED7BA48.pf
11-10-2025 20:4...	Run .EXE file	chrome.exe	C:\PROGRAM FILES\Google\Chrome\APPL...	Google LLC, Google Chr...	exe	C:\WINDOWS\Prefetch\CHROME.EXE-AED7BA40.pf
11-10-2025 20:3...	Run .EXE file	chrome.exe	C:\PROGRAM FILES\Google\Chrome\APPL...	Google LLC, Google Chr...	exe	C:\WINDOWS\Prefetch\CHROME.EXE-AED7BA3C.pf
11-10-2025 20:3...	Run .EXE file	chrome.exe	C:\PROGRAM FILES\Google\Chrome\APPL...	Google LLC, Google Chr...	exe	C:\WINDOWS\Prefetch\CHROME.EXE-AED7BA46.pf
11-10-2025 20:3...	Run .EXE file	chrome.exe	C:\PROGRAM FILES\Google\Chrome\APPL...	Google LLC, Google Chr...	exe	C:\WINDOWS\Prefetch\CHROME.EXE-AED7BA47.pf
11-10-2025 20:3...	Run .EXE file	chrome.exe	C:\PROGRAM FILES\Google\Chrome\APPL...	Google LLC, Google Chr...	exe	C:\WINDOWS\Prefetch\CHROME.EXE-AED7BA3E.pf
11-10-2025 20:3...	Run .EXE file	chrome.exe	C:\PROGRAM FILES\Google\Chrome\APPL...	Google LLC, Google Chr...	exe	C:\WINDOWS\Prefetch\CHROME.EXE-AED7BA40.pf
11-10-2025 20:3...	Run .EXE file	chrome.exe	C:\PROGRAM FILES\Google\Chrome\APPL...	Google LLC, Google Chr...	exe	C:\WINDOWS\Prefetch\CHROME.EXE-AED7BA3C.pf
11-10-2025 15:0...	Run .EXE file	chrome.exe	C:\PROGRAM FILES\Google\Chrome\APPL...	Google LLC, Google Chr...	exe	C:\WINDOWS\Prefetch\CHROME.EXE-AED7BA46.pf
11-10-2025 15:0...	Software Installation	chrome.exe	C:\Program Files\Google\Chrome\Appl...	Google Chrome	exe	HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE\Software\Microsoft\Windows\Cur...

Conclusion:

The exercise was successfully completed using LastActivityView to generate a chronological timeline of user and system activity. Key events—program executions, file/document access, USB connections, and startup/shutdown—were identified and exported as a report. Cross-checks with Prefetch and Event Logs confirmed the timeline's accuracy, making the findings suitable for inclusion as forensic evidence.