To check installation/uninstallation status and find application GUIDs, you can use the Windows registry under specific keys. Look at HKLM\SOFTWARE\Microsoft\Windows\CurrentVersion\Uninstall and HKCU\SOFTWARE\Microsoft\Windows\CurrentVersion\Uninstall for per-machine and per-user installations, respectively. The application's GUID (Product Code) can be found within the subkey corresponding to the application's name or a unique identifier. [1, 2, 3]

Elaboration:

1. **Registry Keys for Uninstall Information:**

- HKLM\SOFTWARE\Microsoft\Windows\CurrentVersion\Uninstall: This key stores information about programs installed for all users on the machine. [1, 1, 3, 3]
- HKCU\SOFTWARE\Microsoft\Windows\CurrentVersion\Uninstall: This key stores information about programs installed specifically for the current user. [1, 1, 3, 3]

2. **Finding the GUID (Product Code):**

- Within each of the uninstall keys, you'll find subkeys representing individual applications. [1, 1, 3, 3]
- The subkey name itself is often the application's display name or a unique identifier. [1, 3, 4]
- The GUID, also known as the Product Code, is a 32-character hexadecimal string that uniquely identifies the application and is used in uninstall commands. [2, 3, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9]
- You can find this GUID by inspecting the registry entries within the specific application's subkey. [1, 1, 3, 3]

3. **Using the GUID for Uninstall:**

- The Windows Installer (MSI) uses the GUID (Product Code) to uninstall an application. [2, 2]
- You can use the msiexec.exe /x {Product GUID} /QN command to uninstall an application, where {Product GUID} is the application's GUID. [2, 2]
- The /QN flag specifies silent mode, and /L*V "C:\\Client-uninstall\\desktop-uninstall.log"

directs the uninstallation log to a specified file. [2, 2, 10]

4. **Example:**

- If you see a subkey like {80890A63-01AA-40D3-A2E9-B3E214735151} under HKLM\SOFTWARE\Microsoft\Windows\CurrentVersion\Uninstall, this would be the GUID for the corresponding application, allowing you to uninstall it using msiexec.exe /x {80890A63-01AA-40D3-A2E9-B3E214735151} /QN. [2, 11]

By examining these registry keys and their subkeys, you can identify installed applications, find their GUIDs, and use them to perform uninstallation operations, according to Microsoft. [1, 2, 12]

Log files:

Log files capture a detailed record of events and activities within a system or application, aiding in monitoring, debugging, and analysis. These logs typically include information like timestamps, event types, severity levels, and descriptions, which help identify issues and understand system behavior. Event logs are broadly categorized for different purposes, such as system, application, security, and audit logging.

Key Aspects of Event Logs:

- **Timestamps:**
  Record the exact time an event occurred, crucial for tracing the sequence of events.
- **Event Types:**
  Categorize events (e.g., errors, warnings, information, success/failure audits) to prioritize and understand the nature of the event.
- **Severity Levels:**
  Indicate the importance or impact of an event (e.g., critical, error, warning, informational).
- **Descriptions:**
  Provide details about the event, including error codes, affected components, and user actions.
- **Event IDs:**
  Unique identifiers assigned to specific events, allowing for easier searching and

analysis.

- **Categories:**
  Log events are often organized into categories, such as system, application, security, or audit.