



Intel® Cache Acceleration Software (Intel® CAS) for Windows* Enterprise

Release 3.2.2

Administrator Guide

May 2019
Revision 1.1



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1 Introduction

1.1 Scope

This document offers the guidance to learn, install and begin using Intel® Cache Acceleration Software (Intel® CAS) for Windows*. This guide assumes a basic knowledge of storage and application management and Microsoft* Windows* Operating System.

1.2 Revision History

Document #	Description	Date
328330-001	Initial release.	December 2012
328330-002	Minor update for release 2.0.1	April 2013
328330-003	Major update for release 2.5	October 2013
328330-004	Minor update for release 2.5.1	April 2014
328330-005	Minor update for release 2.5.3	July 2014
328330-006	Major update for release 2.6.0	October 2014
328330-007	Minor update for release 2.6.1	December 2014
328330-008	Minor update for release 2.7	February 2014
328330-009-10	Skip these numbers to sync up with enterprise documentation	NA
328330-011	Minor update for release 3.0.1	February 2016
328330-012	Update for release 3.1	June 2016
328330-013	Update for release 3.2	June 2017
328330-014	Update for release 3.2.1 to support Windows* 7, 8.1 and 10	September 2017
328330-015	Update for release 3.2.2 to support Windows* 10 UWD (Universal Windows Driver)	January 2018
328330-016	Updated license and agreement text	May 2019

1.3 Terminology

Term	Definition
cache	The storage media that can transparently store data and is typically faster than the primary storage so that future requests for that data can be served faster.
cache hit	When requested data is contained in (and returned from) the cache.
cache miss	When requested data is not in the cache, and therefore must be retrieved from its primary storage.
caching policy	A set of caching rules.
caching rule	A cache rule is one line in the "Include List" in the Intel® CAS GUI, which is used to specify which file/folder to be cached.
CAS	Short name for Intel Cache Acceleration Software.
CLI	Command Line Interface.



Term	Definition
cold cache	At the moment cache is turned on, there is no data in cache yet. Initial IOs will be served out of primary storage. It takes some time for cache to warm up. Often used as opposite of warm cache.
cold data	Data is used least often. It is a relative-speaking term often used with warm data, hot data.
DAS	Direct Attached Storage. A storage system directly attached to a server or workstation, without a storage network in between, mainly used to differentiate non-networked storage from SAN and NAS.
Dynamic cache mode switching	The ability to switch between cache modes while the cache is still running
dirty data	This refers to data that has latest copy in cache. The copy of the same data in primary storage is outdated.
Exclude list	Customize which files/folders not to be cached.
Guest OS	The operating system running on a Virtual Machine (VM).
host	The operating system running on the physical server, which hosts the Virtual Machines.
hot data	Data is used most often. It's a relative-speaking term. Often used with cold data, warm data. Ex: database journaling and file system metadata are often Hot Data.
hypervisor	A hypervisor is a piece of computer software, firmware or hardware that creates and runs Virtual Machines.
I/O blender	The I/O blender effect occurs when multiple virtual machines all send their I/O streams to a hypervisor for processing. Under heavy work loads, I/O processes which might otherwise have been relatively sequential, become random. This increases the read/write activity on disk heads, which in turn, increases latency.
I/O bottleneck	A term used to describe application slowdown due to the inability of storage subsystem to keep up with application demand.
IOPS	Input Output Per Second. The size of the IO package might be different from different vendors. Intel® CAS defaults to 4KB IO size.
latency	Same as response time. The measure of time delay from a requested I/O operation to its response.
LUN	Logical Unit Number. A number used to identify a device accessed by storage protocols which supports read/write operations (usually a logical disk). The term also refers to the disk itself.
NAND flash	The type of memory primarily used in today's flash cards and SSD drives, which is connected in a way that resembles a NAND (Negated AND) style circuit gate.
NAS	Network Attached Storage. File-level data storage (such as fixed disk and magnetic tape drives) that are directly linked to a storage area network or other network.
NTFS	New Technology File System. A proprietary file system that Microsoft developed for Windows* NT. NTFS supersedes the FAT file system as the preferred file system for Microsoft* Windows* operating systems.
NTFS Volume Mount Points	NTFS Volume Mount Points are specialized NTFS filesystem objects which are used to mount and provide an entry point to other volumes. Mount points can be created in a directory on an NTFS file system, which gives a reference to the root directory of the mounted volume.
over-provisioning	As it relates to primary storage, the allocation of additional physical disks to provide additional capacity to compensate for peak IO traffic.
Pass through	The caching mode in which the cache will be bypassed for all operations
primary storage	As it relates to caching, the primary storage typically refers to DAS, SAN, NAS, etc. where the data is stored before adding caching.



Term	Definition
SAN	Storage Area Network. SAN is a dedicated network that provides access to consolidated, block level data storage, which appears as if it is attached locally to the operating system.
SSD	Solid-State Disk. A device used for data storage that uses non-volatile memory chips instead of a rotation disk.
tiered storage	A data storage technique that moves data between two or more kinds of storage, which are differentiated by four primary attributes: price, performance, capacity, and function.
UNC	Uniform Naming Convention for Windows* network resources (such as a shared file, directory, or printer). The generic form for the "network path" is <code>\\ComputerName\SharedFolder\Resource</code> .
VM density	The measure of the number of virtual machines that can be supported per physical server. The greater the VM density, the less infrastructure required to support a given number of virtual applications, and therefore, less cost per application.
warm cache	The frequently used data has already been copied to cache, therefore subsequent IO likely will be served from cache instead of primary storage. Often used as opposite of cold cache.
warm data	Data is used more often than cold data, but less often than hot data. It is a relative-speaking term. Often used with cold data, hot data.
write-around	A write caching mode in which some write operations are not cached. Writes to blocks that do not exist in cache are written directly to the core device, bypassing the cache. If a write operation is issued to a block that is already in cache (because of a previous read operation), then writes are sent to both the core device the cache device. Write-Around cache improves performance of workloads where write operations are done rarely and no further read accesses to that data are performed, so there is no benefit in caching it.
write-back	A write caching policy where data is written initially to the cache only and then written to primary storage later. As result, it is possible that the data in cache and primary storage might be out of sync before the latest data in cache is flushed (written) to primary storage.
write-through	A write caching policy where every write to the cache causes a synchronous write to primary storage. As result, the data in cache is always the same as in primary storage.

1.4 References

The following resources and tools are suggested for assisting with Intel® CAS testing and benchmarking.

Table 1-1 **Reference Documents**

Name	Purpose	To Learn More
Windows* System Monitor	Monitor system cpu, memory and disk usage and activities.	https://msdn.microsoft.com/en-us/library/ms191246.aspx
Windows* Performance Monitor	Check out built-in Windows performance counters and Intel® CAS performance counters.	http://technet.microsoft.com/en-us/library/cc771692%28WS.10%29.aspx#BKMK_Scen2
IOMeter*	A Synthetic IO benchmark tool	http://www.iometer.org
Sysbench*	To benchmark MySql database	http://dev.mysql.com/downloads/benchmarks.html



2 Product Overview

2.1 What is Intel® CAS

Intel® CAS accelerates Microsoft® Windows® applications by caching most often used, i.e. hot data, to a local flash device inside servers and virtual machines. Intel® CAS implements caching at the server side, which means caching flash device is installed inside the application server as close as possible to the CPU, thus reducing storage latency introduced by SAN or NAS.

Intel® CAS is a Windows® filter driver, working coherently with the operation system and device driver. The caching solution is transparent to users, VMs, applications, and existing storage infrastructure. No storage migration or application modification is required.

Intel® CAS offers both write-back and write-through cache modes. It employs a block-based caching architecture that provides greater granularity for caching management, while providing file-level caching policy, which allows you to conveniently customize cache for your own applications.

2.2 Supported Platforms

Table 2-1 Supported Platforms

Platform	Notes
Windows® 7	64-bit only
Windows® 8.1	64-bit only
Windows® 10	64-bit only
Windows® Server 2016	Can be used in VM or Physical Host
Windows® Server 2008 R2 SP1	Can be used in VM or Physical Host
Windows® Server 2012 R2	Can be used in VM or Physical Host
VMware®	CAS must reside on the guest OS running Windows® Server 2008 R2 SP1 or Windows® Server 2012 R2
Hyper-V	Can be installed in host and guest OS where guest OS is one of the supported OS

2.3 System Requirements

Table 2-2 Intel® CAS system requirements

Memory	2% of caching capacity
Supported flash/SSD	Any SATA, SAS, PCIe flash device larger than 5 GB and smaller than 16TB Intel® SSDs have been fully validated.
Supported storage	DAS, SAN, and limited NAS, CSVFS.
Application Requirement	.NET framework preinstalled with the OS: <ul style="list-style-type: none">3.5 for Windows 74.5.1 for Windows 8.14.6 for Windows 10 Microsoft Visual C++ 2012 Redistributable Package: Will be installed by Intel® CAS installer if missing.



2.4 What's New in This Release

2.4.1 New Features

Intel® Cache Acceleration Software 3.2.2 provides support for all Windows* Operating systems with a single binary, and with one installation package. (Formerly, there were two separate packages.)

2.5 Limitations

- Maximum number of caching rules shall not exceed 65000.
- Maximum number of cached files shall not exceed 65000 files. If the 65000 up limit is reached, the least used file will be evicted in order to cache new file.
- If the data in primary storage is encrypted, we suggest same level of protection for data in caching SSD. Since we do not support software encryption, we suggest using Opal compliant Intel® SSDs to enable hardware encryption for both caching SSD and primary storage.
- Does not support software encryption/compression for the data in cache and the corresponding data in primary storage.
- Does not support Alternate Data Streams.
- Does not support Transactional NTFS (TxF).
- Only files larger than or equal to 4KB will be cached.
- Only limited NAS use cases are supported. For more details, see [NAS](#).
- Only limited Cluster Shared Volume File system support.
- Intel® CAS only provides software upgrade, not downgrade. User can uninstall the newer release, then install the older release if have to.
- Only one instance of Intel® CAS application can be running at any given time.
- VMware limitation – Requires Advanced Options to setup virtual disk as cache
 - Virtual disks will not be recognized as suitable for caching by Intel® CAS Drive setup wizard
 - Choose Advanced menu to configure the virtual disk as cache
- Microsoft* Windows System Restore and Windows Backup limitations:
 - **Intel® CAS must be stopped prior to performing a system restore or backup:**
 - Open the Intel® CAS Acceleration Software GUI, select the “Stop Cache” Button.
 - After System Restore is complete, open GUI, select the “Start Cache” Button.
- Microsoft* Windows Server 2008 R2 – OS support for SHA-2 Certificates is required to install Intel® CAS beginning January 1, 2016
 - If Microsoft* Windows Update is enabled no user intervention is required.
 - If Internet access is enabled, the Intel® CAS application will dynamically install the necessary patch and no user intervention is required
 - On platforms that do meet the above conditions, the Intel® CAS application will inform users to manually install the patch KB3033929 to enable OS support for SHA-2 certificates.
 - Please see Instructions in Appendix A.1 section for manually installing KB3033929



- Intel® CAS Support policy for 4K Sector drives
 - Intel® CAS does not support 4K native (4K logical sector size) drives.
 - Intel® CAS supports the physical format of drives that are 512-byte logical sectors.



3 Getting Started

3.1 Prepare Caching SSD

First make sure the SSD capacity meet min and max requirement (see System Requirements section).
Make sure to install latest driver from the vendor for the caching SSD.
Web Link for Intel® Solid State drives:

<http://www.intel.com/content/www/us/en/support/solid-state-drives.html>

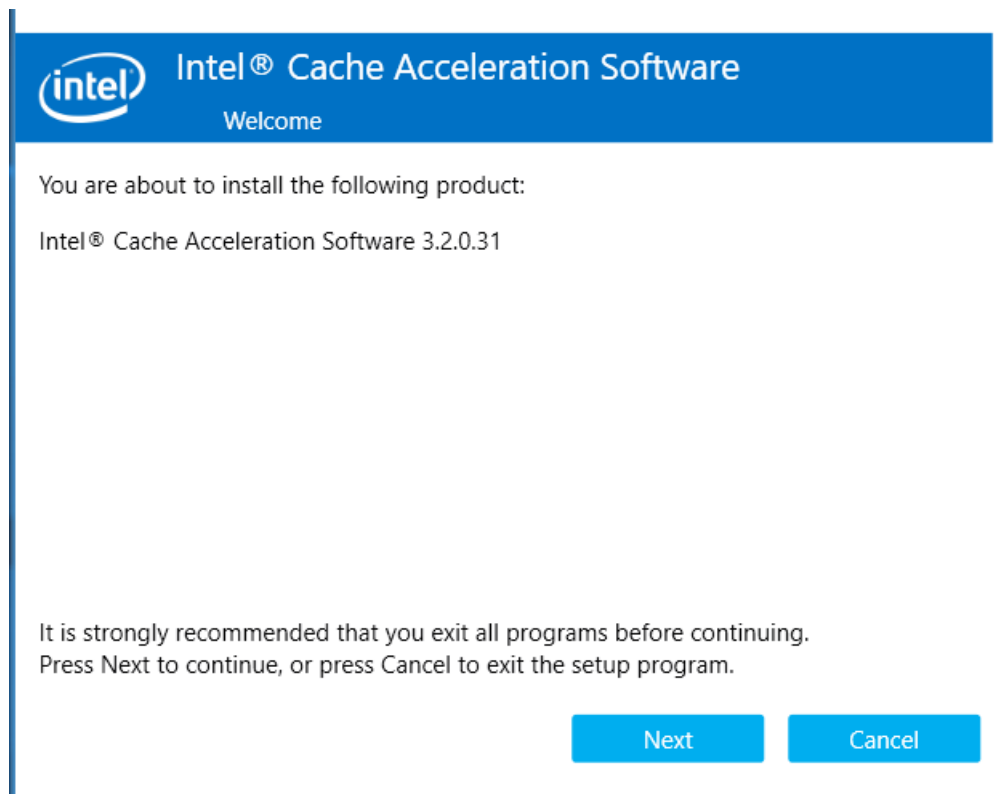
If there is no usable data on the SSD, leave the SSD as raw device. If there is usable data on the SSD and the remaining capacity still meets minimum and maximum requirements, Intel® CAS provides a setup wizard to guide you through creating dedicated partition for caching.

3.2 Installing Intel® CAS

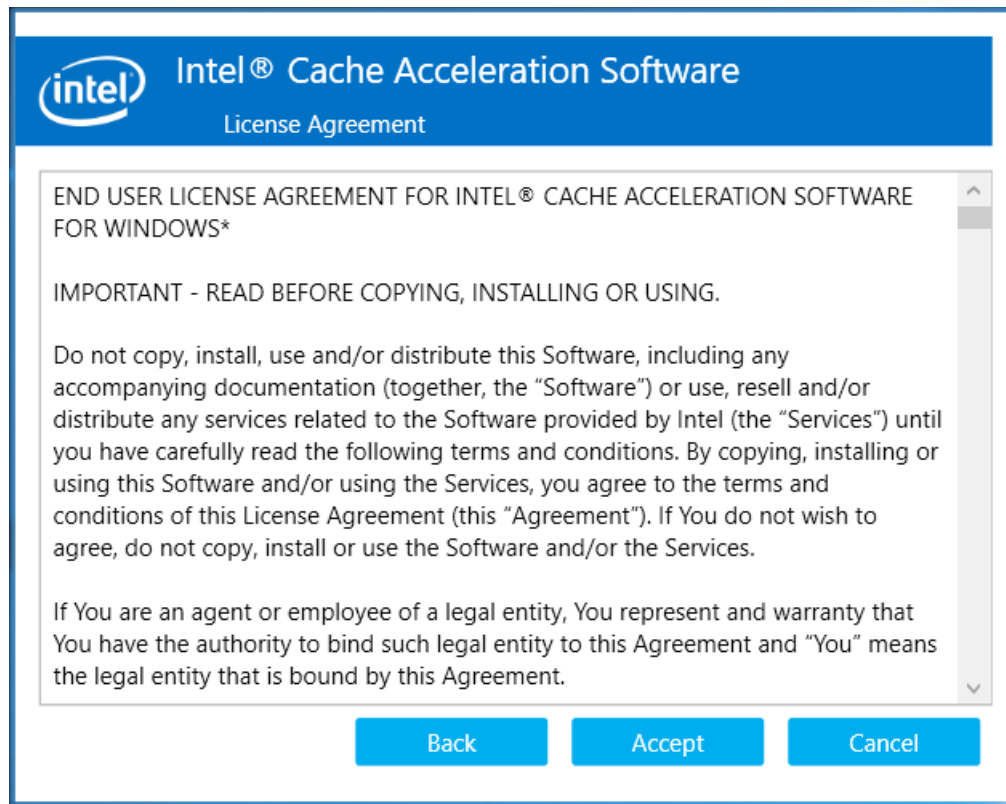
3.2.1 Using the Installer

Run installer IntelCacheAccelerationSoftware_x64-3.2.2.xx_ent.exe* with administrator rights.

1. At the first screen, click **Next**.



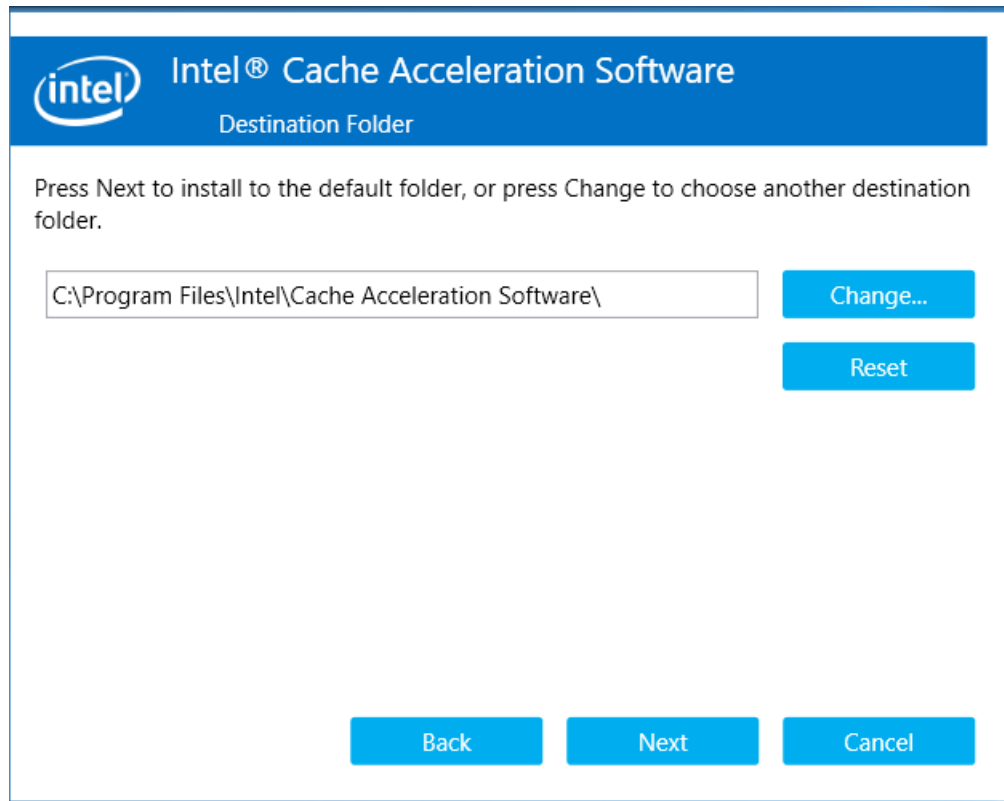
2. At the License Agreement screen, click the **Accept** button.



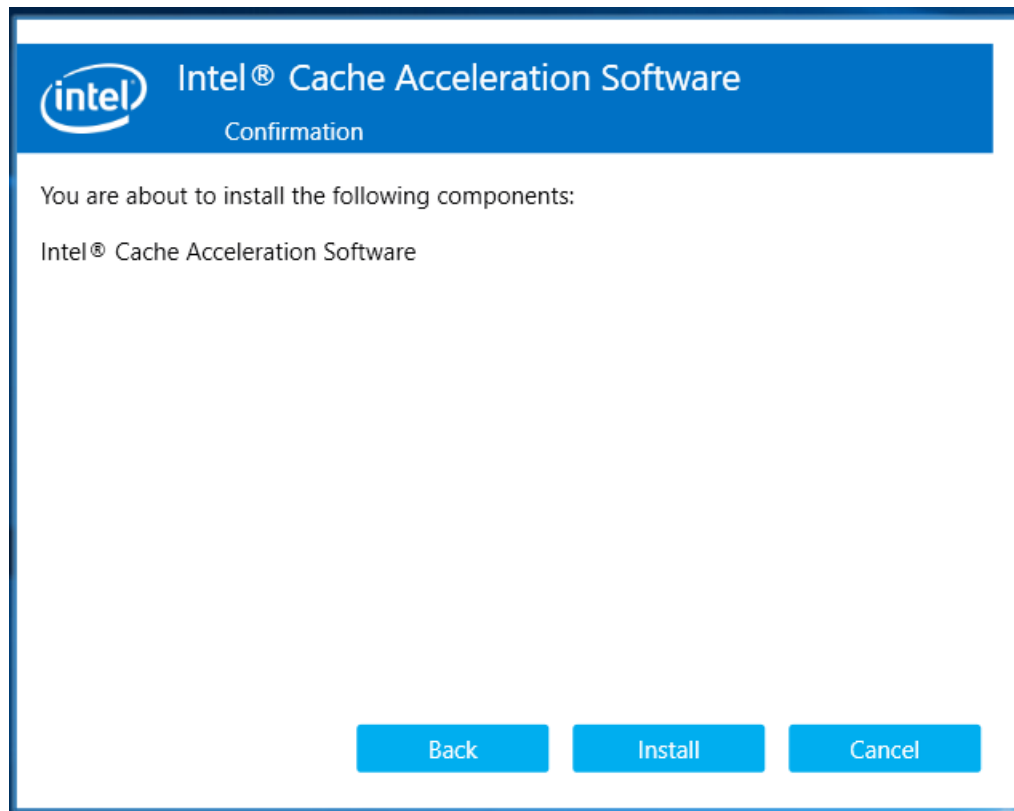
If Microsoft Visual C++ Distributable Package hasn't been installed on the system yet, INTEL® CAS installer



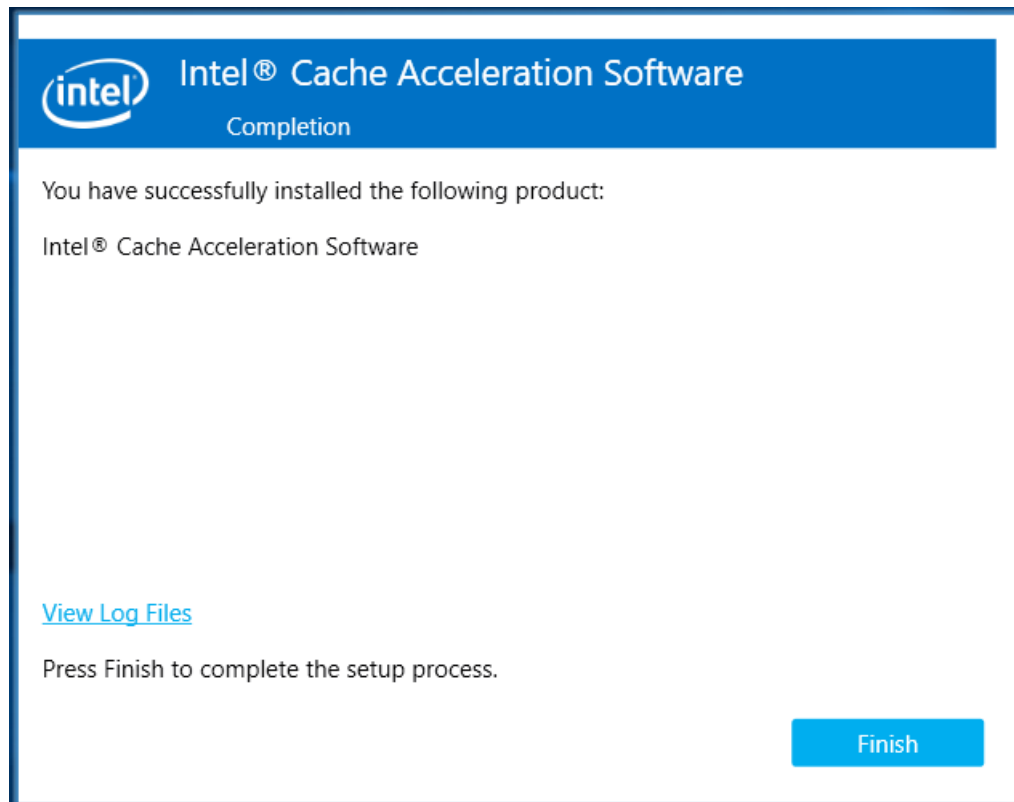
will install it.



3. At the Destination Folder screen, you can change default installation folder, or click **Next** to continue.



4. At the Confirmation/ Ready to Install the Program screen, click **Install**.



5. At the Completion screen, click **Finish**.

3.2.2 Using the Command Line

You can install Intel® CAS from command line in silent mode. Open a command window with administrator rights, change to the directory where Intel® CAS installer is saved. Type following command line:

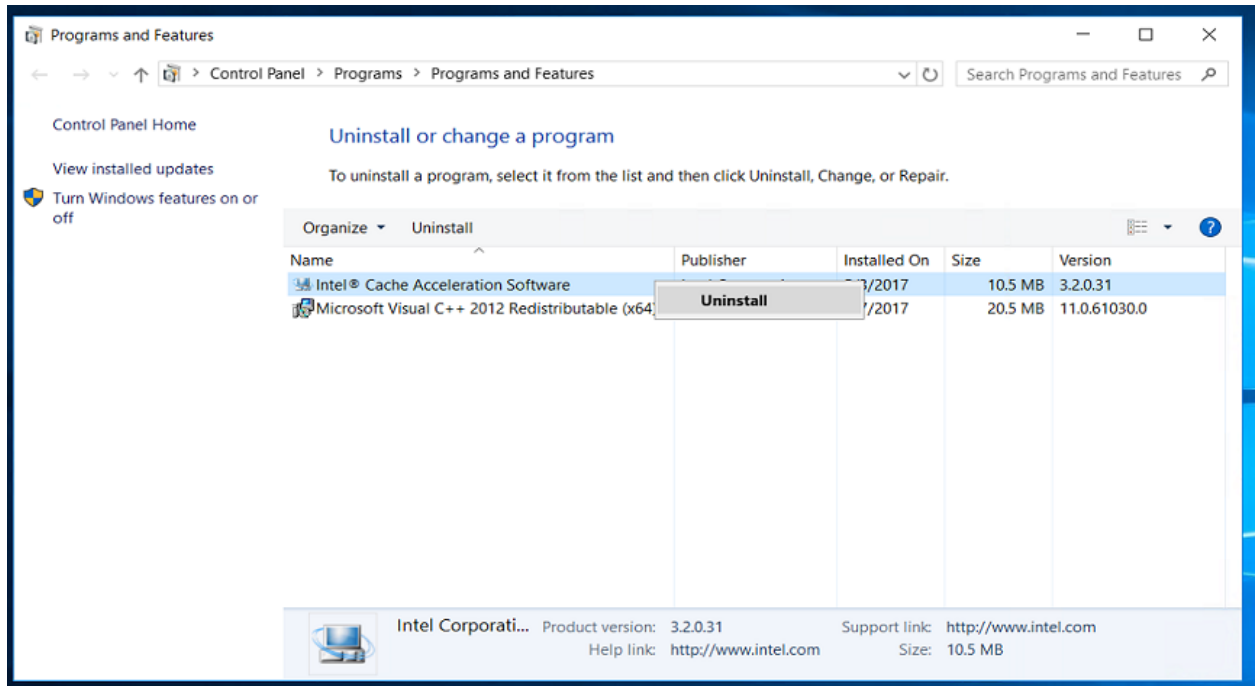
```
IntelCacheAccelerationSoftware_x64-3.2.2.xx_ent.exe -s -p "C:\Program Files\Intel\Cache Acceleration Software" -norestart
```



3.3 Uninstalling Intel® CAS

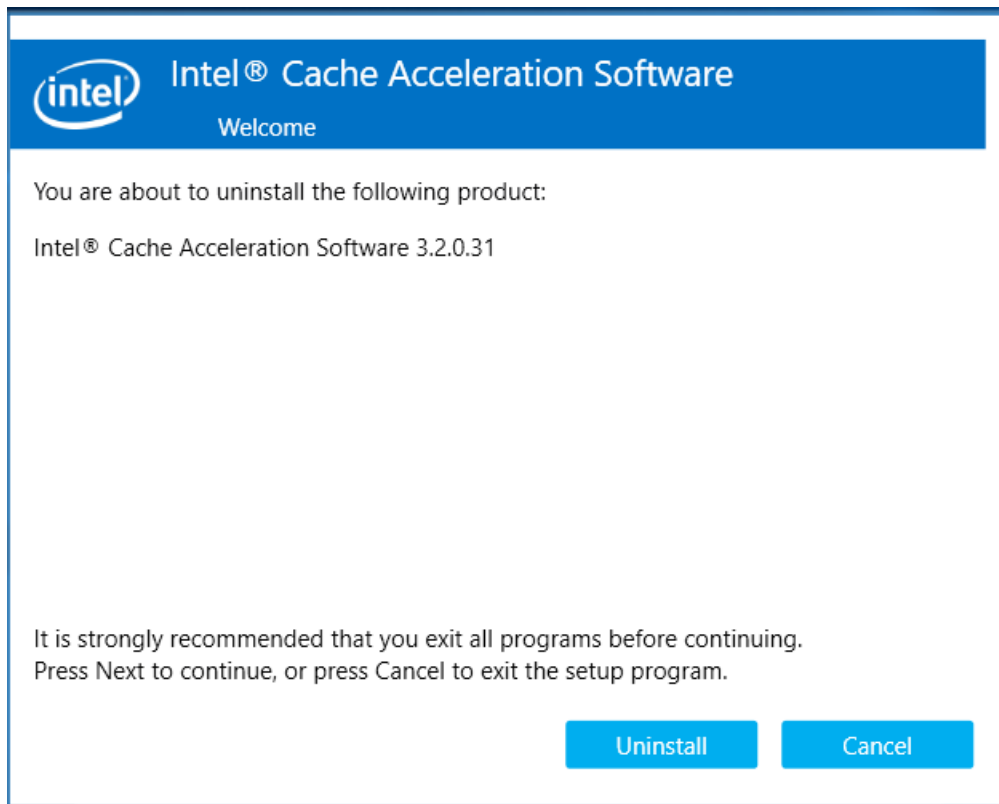
3.3.1 Uninstalling from the Control Panel

1. Go to Control Panel, Right click *Intel® Cache Acceleration Software* and choose Uninstall.

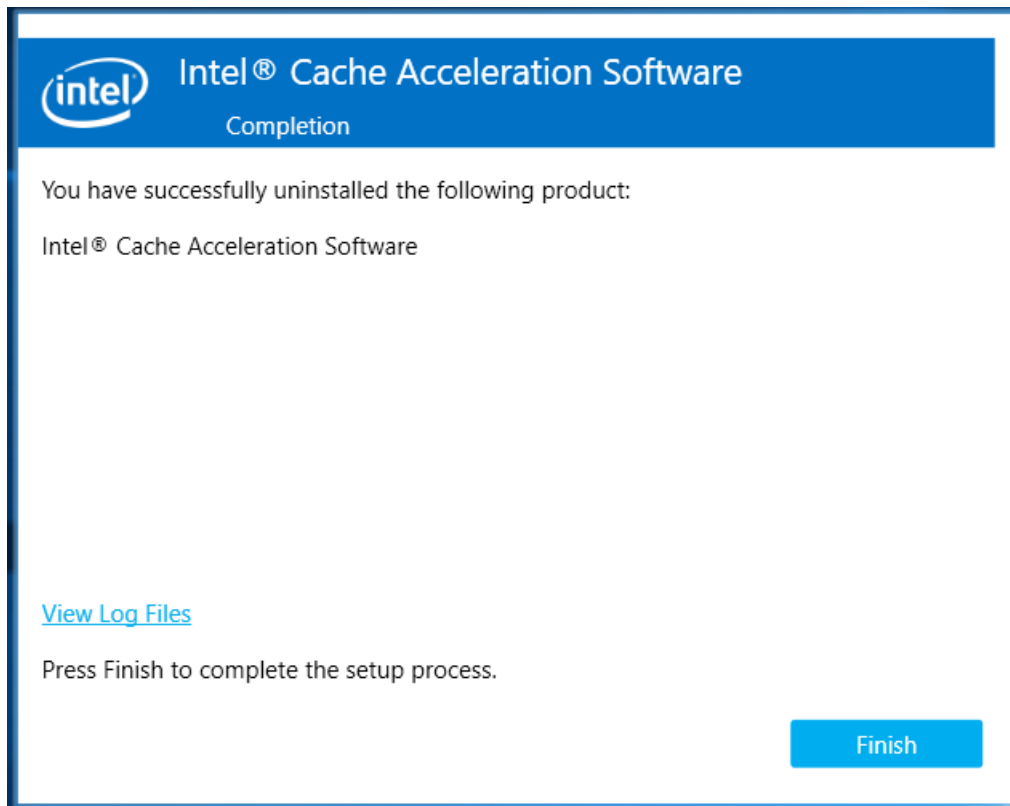


NOTE: The cache must be stopped before uninstallation, in order to ensure all cached data is written to the drive and there is not dirty data (Write-back mode) (See warning)

2. Click Uninstall



3. Then click **Finish**.



Normal uninstall should not require a reboot. But if inconsistency information is found, a reboot will be required to clean up the situation.

3.3.2 Using the Command Line

Use the WMIC (Windows Management Instrumentation Command-line) or command line prompt (CMD.exe).

You can uninstall Intel® CAS from command line in silent mode. Open a command window with administrator rights, change to the directory where Intel® CAS installer is saved. Type the following command line:

`IntelCacheAccelerationSoftware_x64-3.2.2.xx_ent.exe /uninstall /quiet`

WARNING: Make sure the CAS cache is stopped before executing the above command.

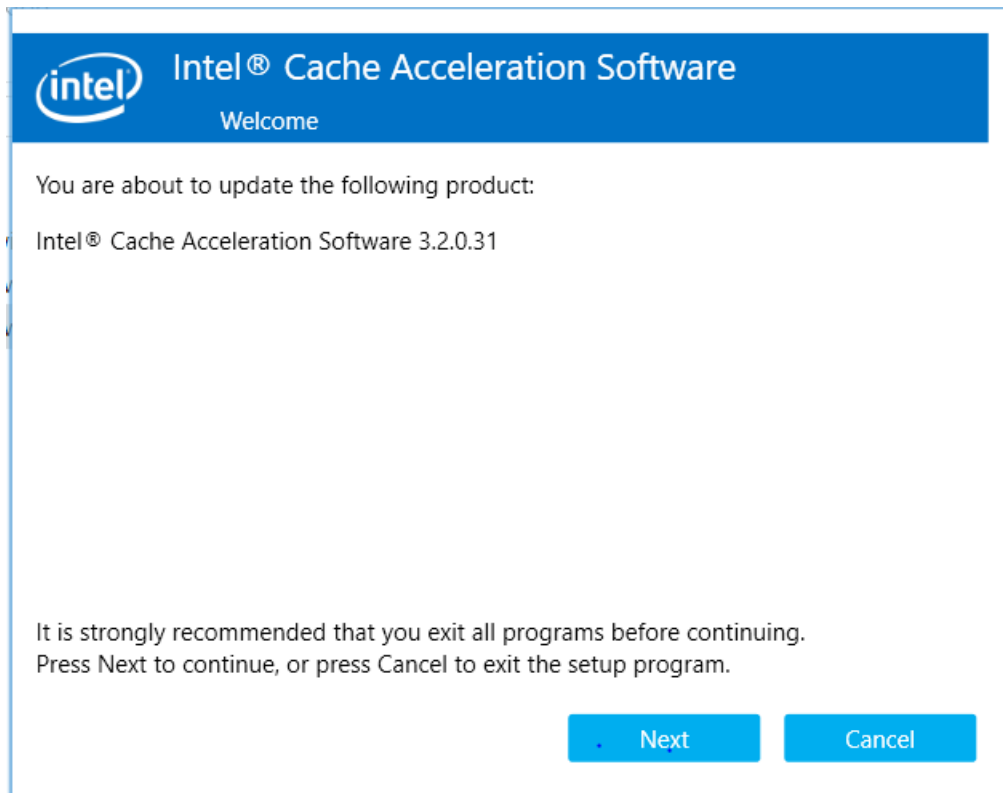


3.4 Upgrading to a Newer Release


You can upgrade to newer release without uninstalling older release. The installer will automatically uninstall the older release. You must stop the cache before upgrading.

Assuming no change on caching SSD, the old configuration (caching SSD partition, caching mode, include list) will be kept after upgrade. You must stop the cache before the upgrade.

Run IntelCacheAccelerationSoftware_x64-3.2.2.xx_ent.exe with administrator rights to start the upgrade. Upgrade process will be similar to install process, with the following screens.





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License Agreement

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If You are an agent or employee of a legal entity, You represent and warranty that You have the authority to bind such legal entity to this Agreement and "You" means the legal entity that is bound by this Agreement.

Back

Accept

Cancel

 **Intel® Cache Acceleration Software**
Destination Folder

Press Next to install to the default folder, or press Change to choose another destination folder.

C:\Program Files\Intel\Cache Acceleration Software\

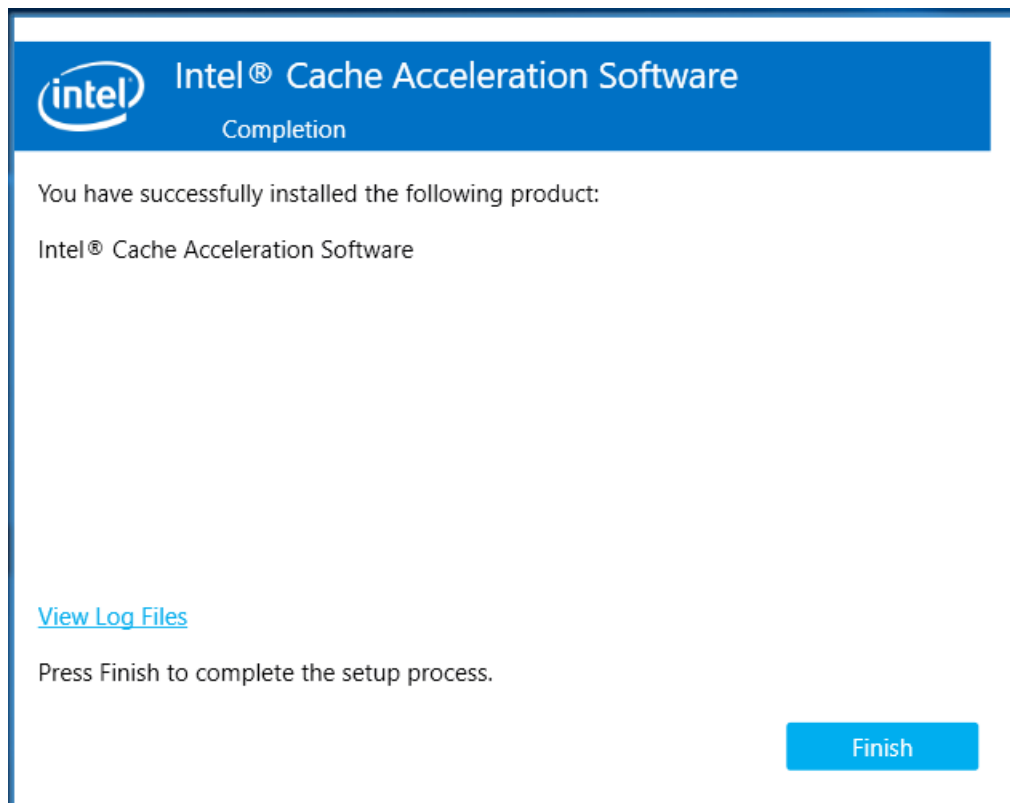
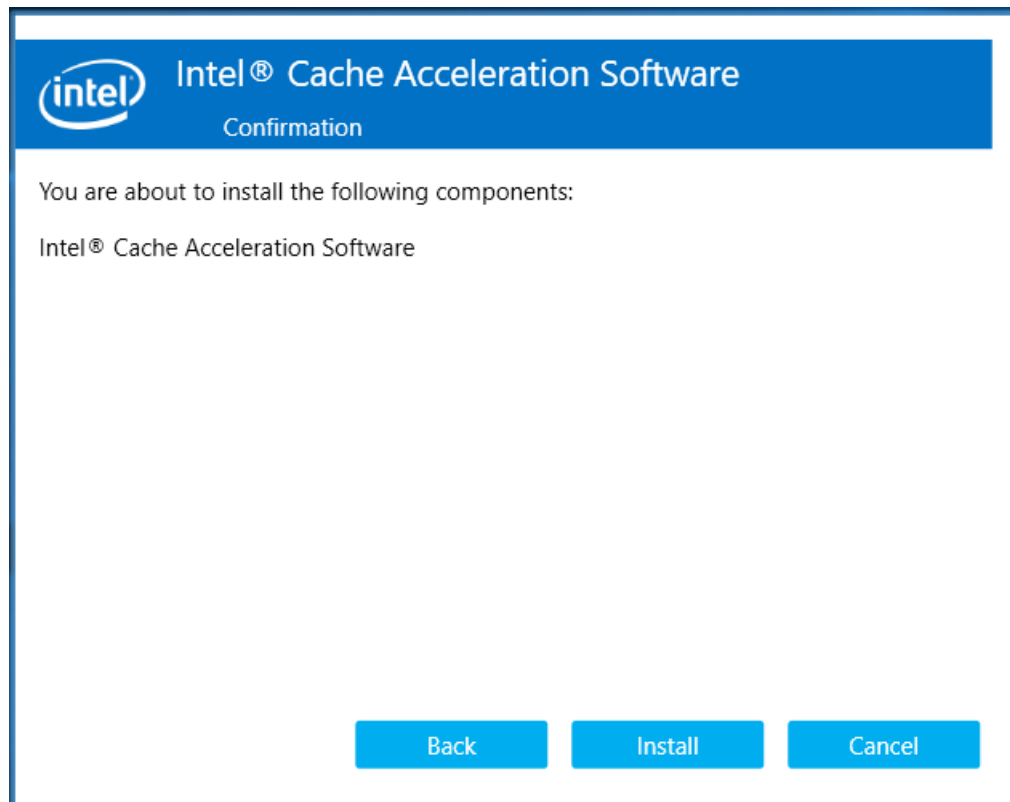
Change...

Reset

Back

Next

Cancel



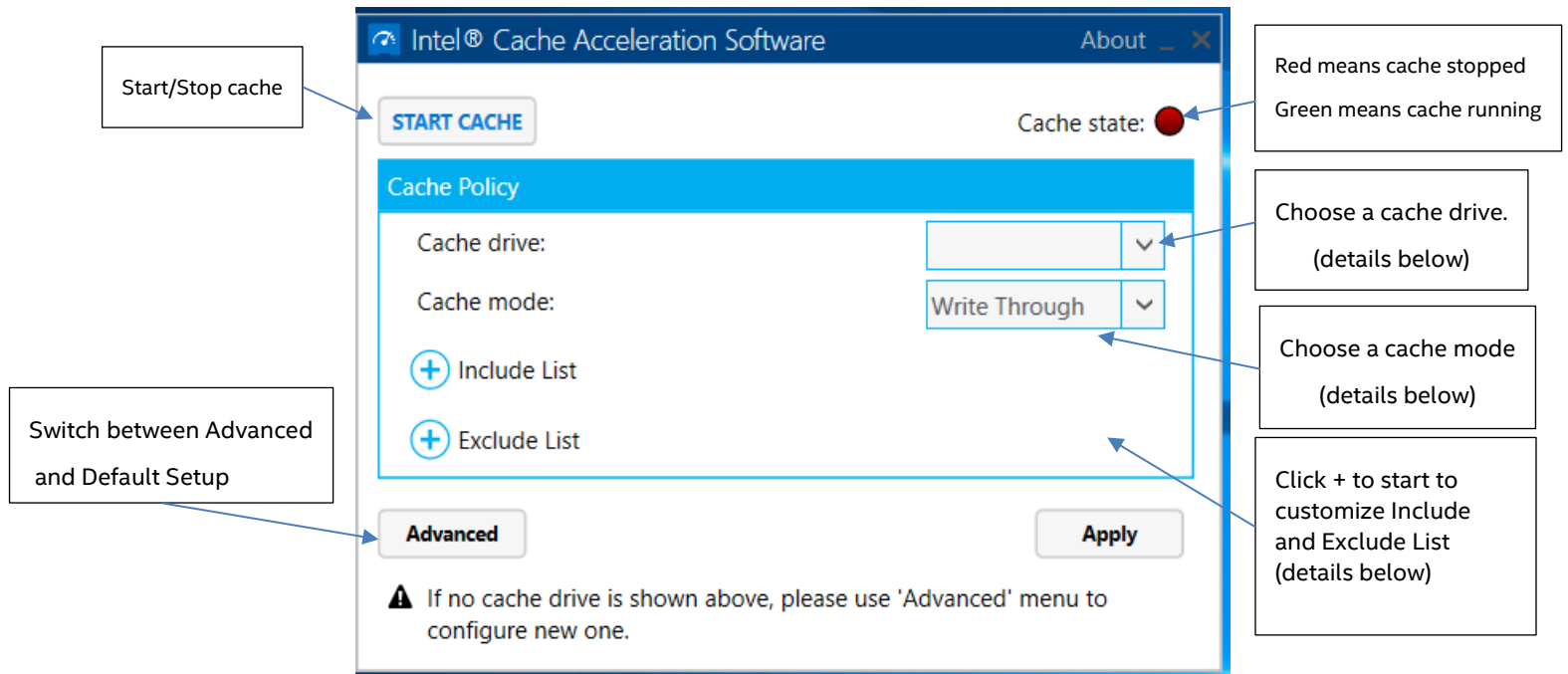


3.5 Known Issues

4 Configuring Intel® CAS

4.1 Configuring with the GUI

Figure 4.1.1 Default Setup





Intel® Cache Acceleration Software - Caching Drive Setup Wizard

Advanced Options:

Select the disk: INTEL SSDPEDMD800G4

Model: INTEL SSDPEDMD800G4 Total size: 745.21 GB
Type: SSD Partitions: 4

Select the partition:

☐ Format drive
☐ Use free space Cache size (MB) : 0
☒ Replace existing partition Partition #0 745.21 GB

Select the cache mode:

☒ Write-Through Caching: ?
☐ Write-Back Caching: ?
☐ Write-Around Caching: ?

☒ Include List
☐ Exclude List

WARNING: Completing this action will permanently delete existing data on the selected disk. Back up data before continuing.

Default **Next >**

- **Cache Drive**

If you are going to use the whole SSD as the caching drive, you can choose it from the drop down list. If you are going to use partial SSD as caching, you will have to create a partition from the SSD, which can only be done in the Advanced Setup.

- **Cache Mode**

All modes, write-through, write-back, write-around and pass-through modes are supported.

	Write-through	Write-back	Write-around	Pass-through
Definition	Every data is written to both cache	Data is only written to cache device at	A caching mode in which some write	Allows users to dynamically



	device and primary storage. As result, the data in cache device is always in sync with data in primary storage	first. Later on, the data is flushed, i.e. written, to primary storage.	operations are not cached. Writes to blocks that do not exist in cache are written directly to the core device, bypassing the cache.	change cache modes while the cache is running.
Advantage	Every data has two copies, one in cache device and the other in primary storage.	Write performance is as fast as cache device write performance.	Improves performance of workloads where write operations are done rarely and no further read accesses to that data are performed, so there is no benefit in caching it.	Dynamically switching to pass-through mode is useful in preventing cache pollution when the system is undergoing maintenance operations, for example.
Disadvantage	The write performance is bottlenecked by primary storage write performance.	The dirty data has only one copy of data in cache device.	A read request for recently written data will create a "cache miss" and have to be read from the primary storage and experience higher latency.	Data is not cached

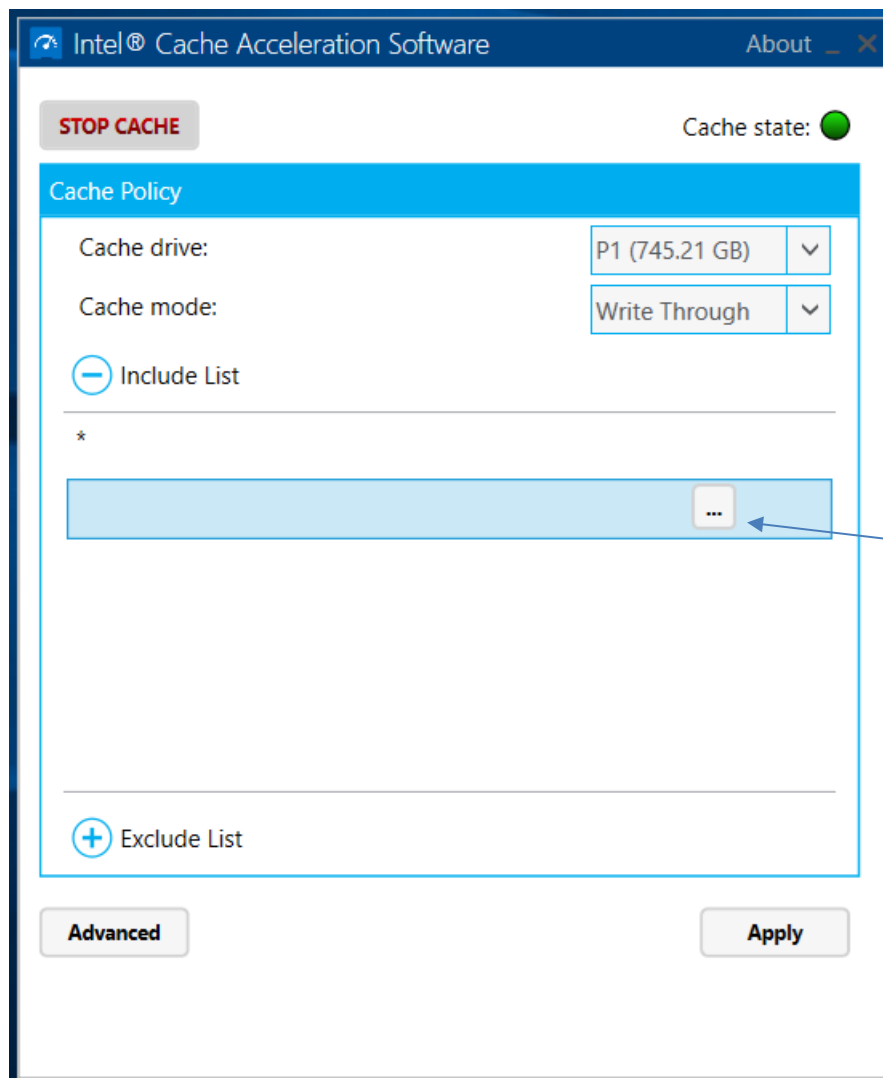
- **Include List**

You can customize which files/folders to be cached by customizing the include list.

You can either "Include" or "Pin". The difference is:

	Include	Pin
Guaranteed?	Best Effort, The cache will make best effort to promote the data to cache	Ensure The cache will ensure that the pinned data shall be promoted in cache and remain in cache
When?	First access of the file	Immediately
What?	Files and folders	Files only
Why?	Narrow the caching target to the identified files/folders	Warm the cache in advance, and avoid eviction of the identified files

Figure 4.1.2 Include List



Click "... " to
Browse file/folder

Figure 4.1.3 Browse File

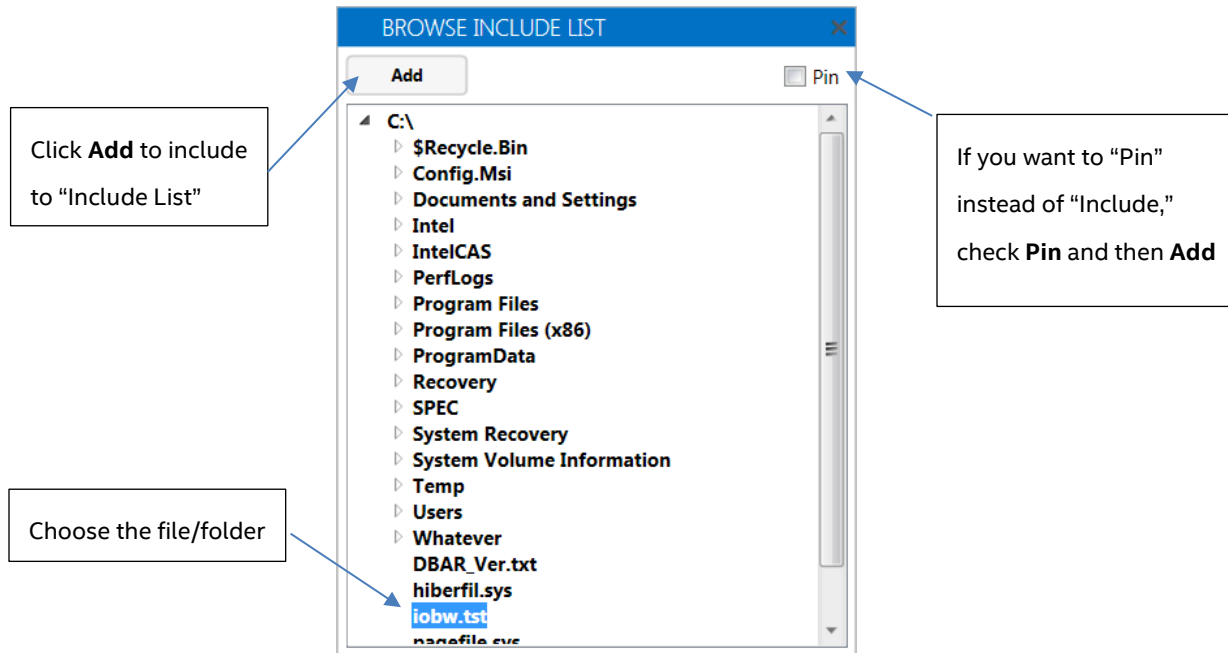


Figure 4.1.4 Finish a Cache Rule

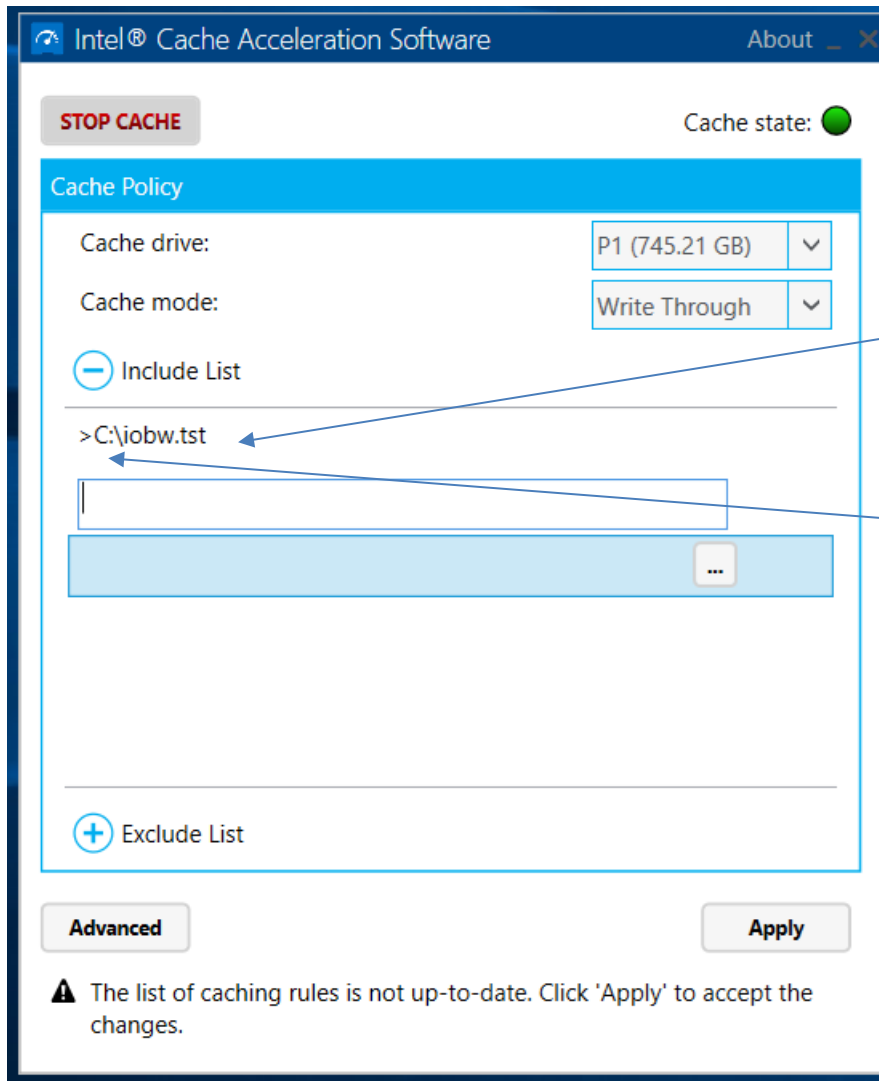
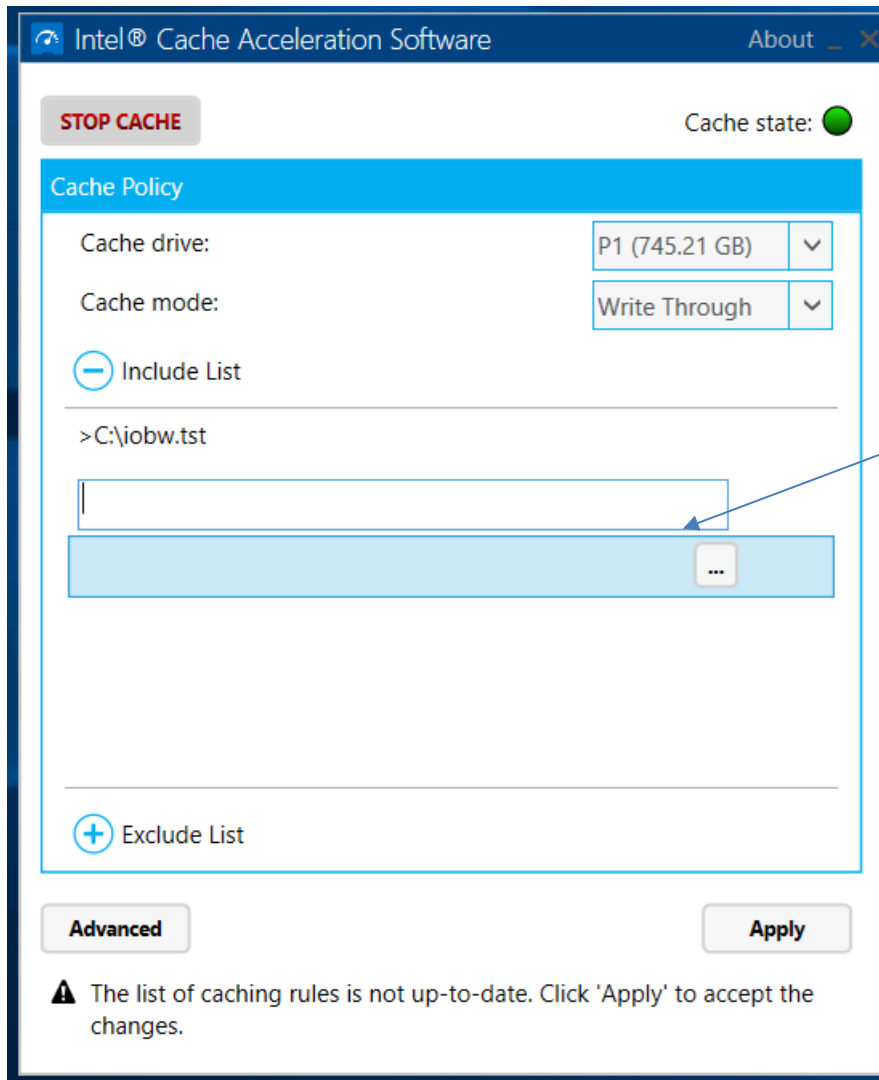
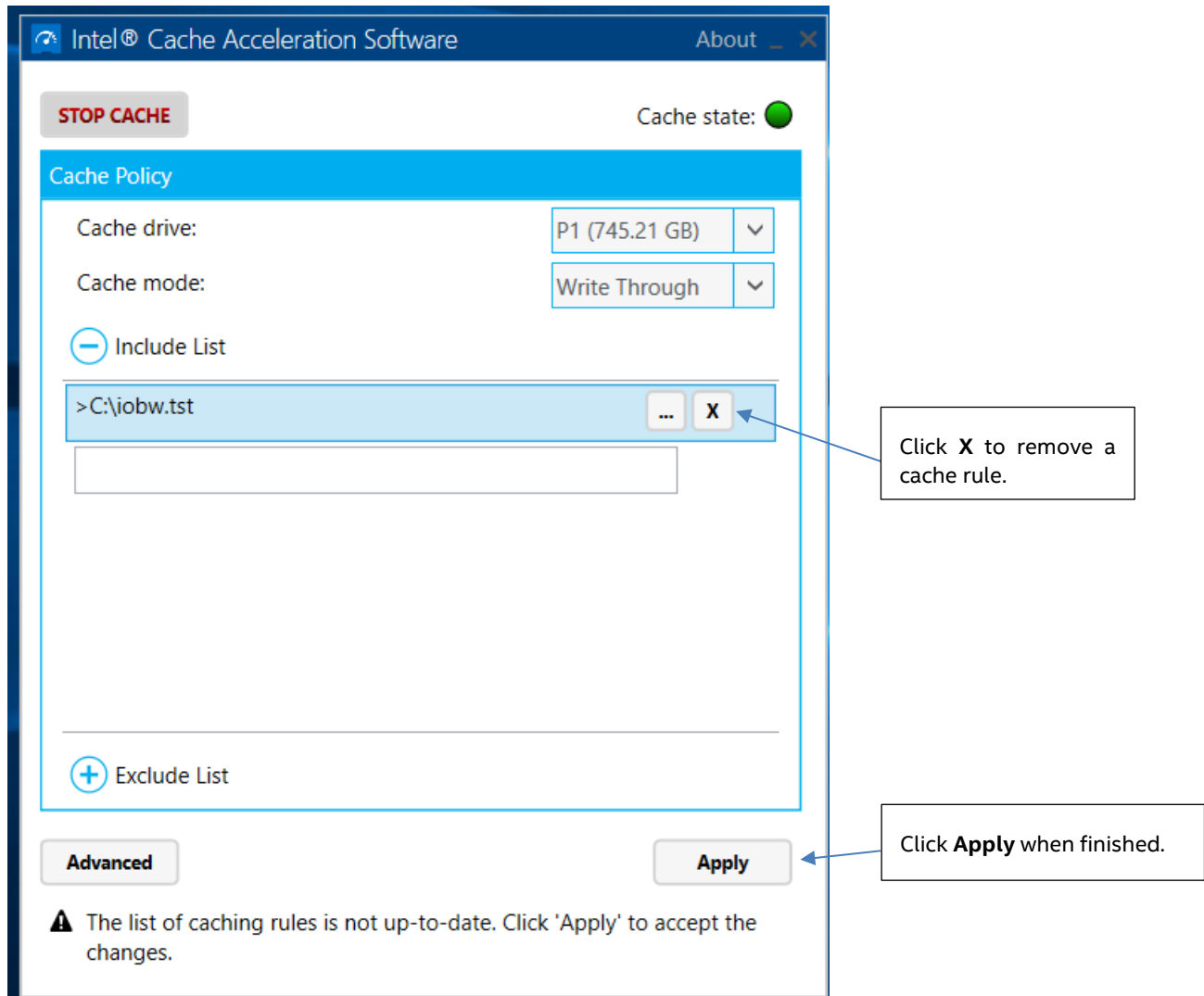


Figure 4.1.5 Add Multiple Cache Rules



Click the open space below the previous cache rule to add one more cache rule.

Figure 4.1.6 Remove a Cache Rule



- **Exclude List**

You can customize which files/folders not to be cached by customizing the exclude list.

Figure 4.1.7 Exclude list

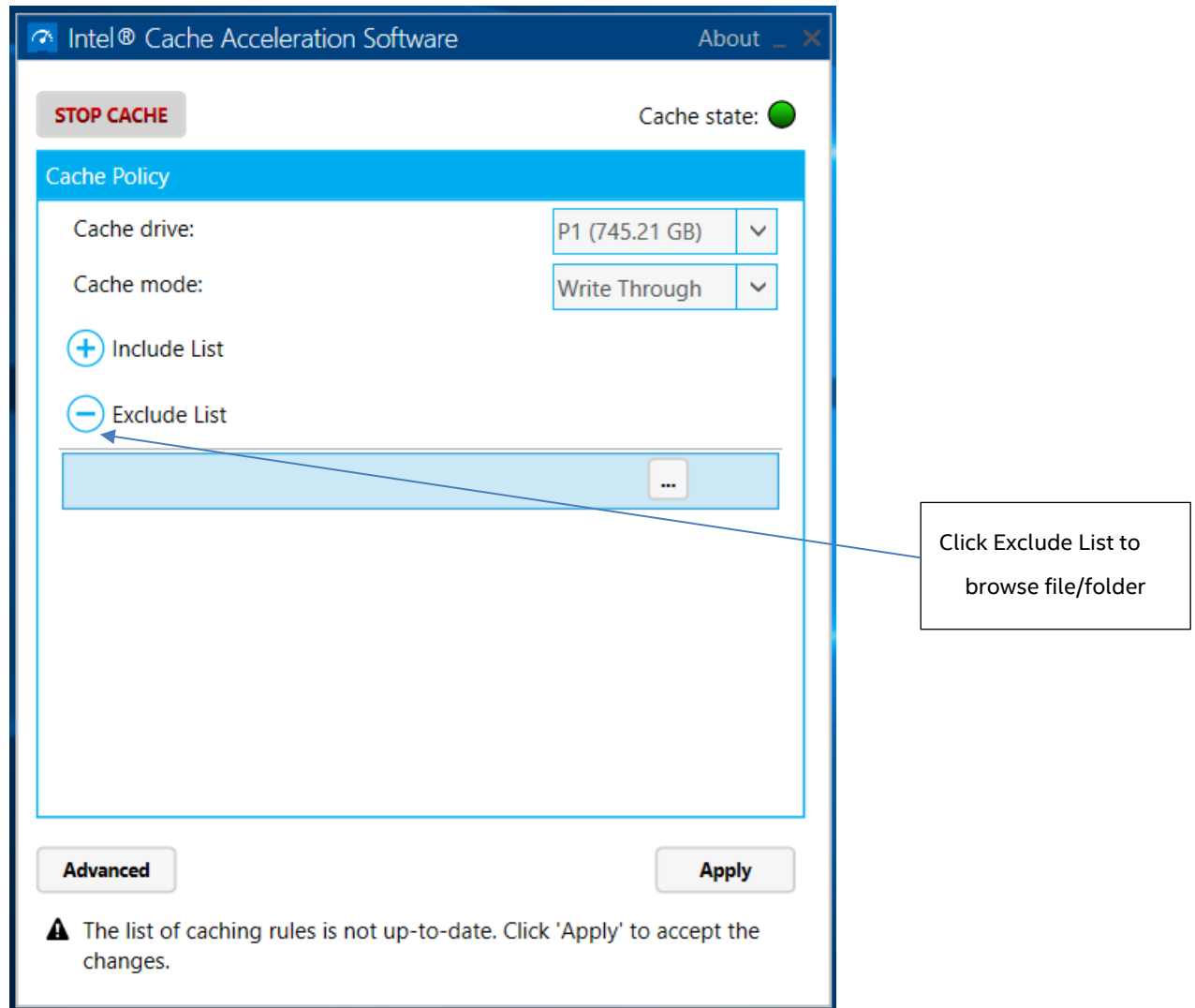
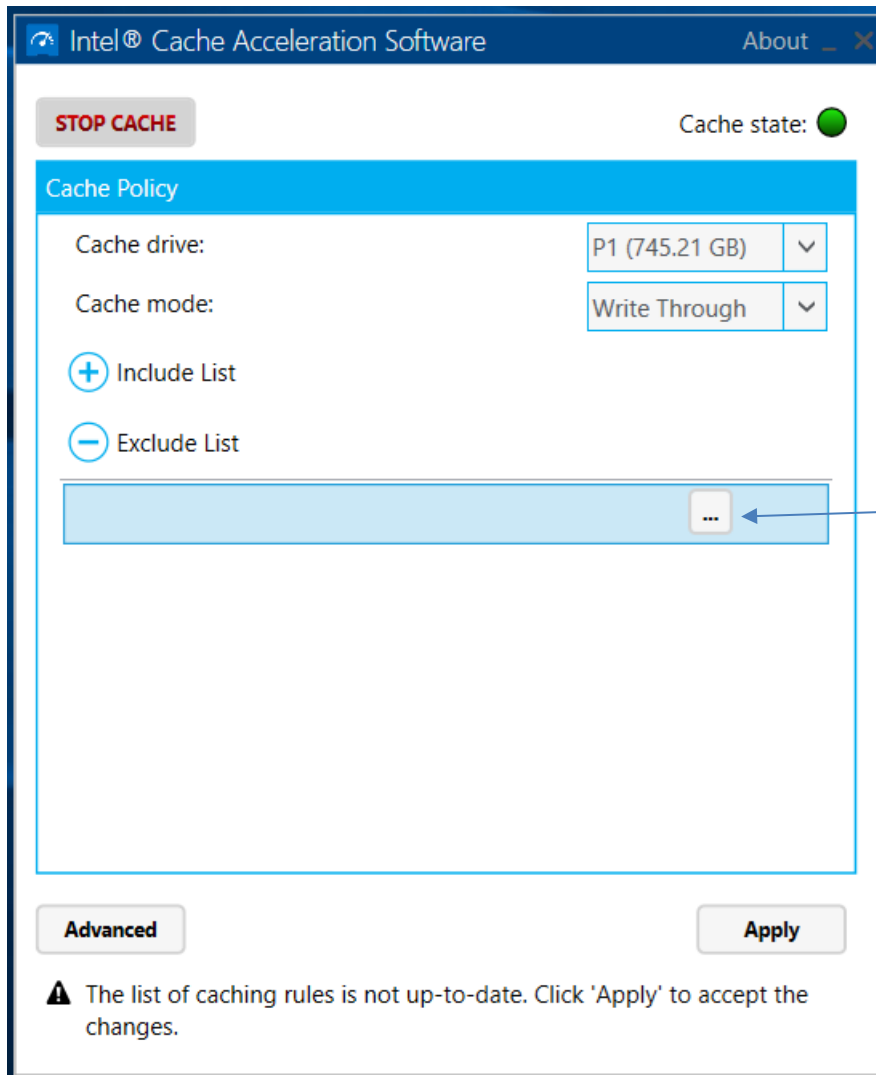
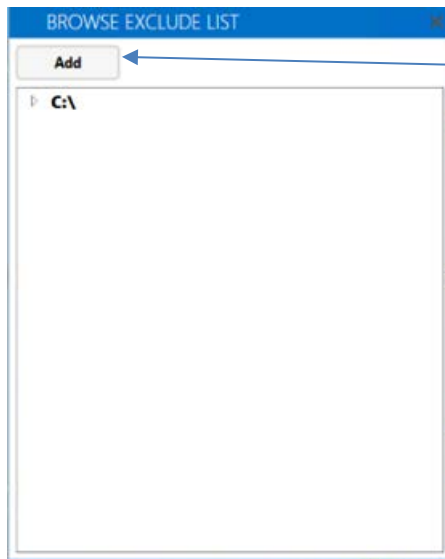


Figure 4.1.8 Exclude list



Click "..."
to
browse file/folder



Click **Add** to include files/ folders to "Exclude List"

Figure 4.1.10 Exclude list

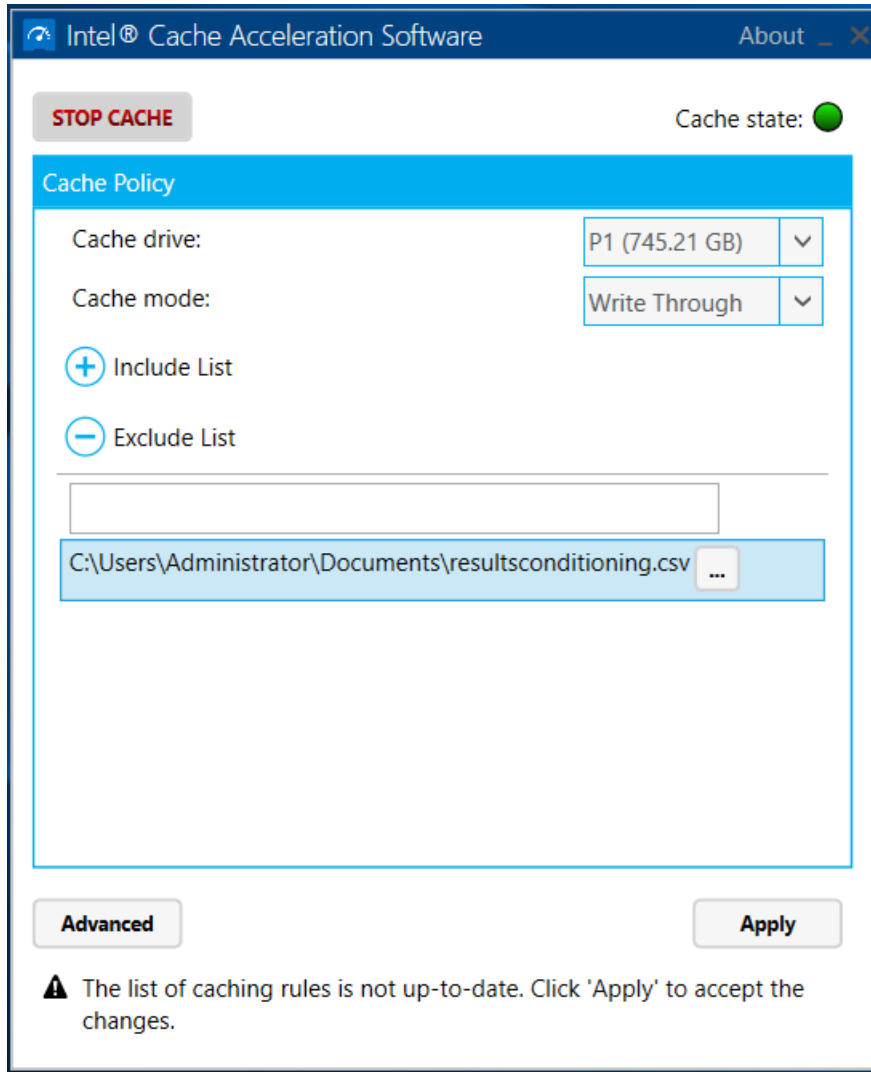


Figure 4.1.11 Advanced Options

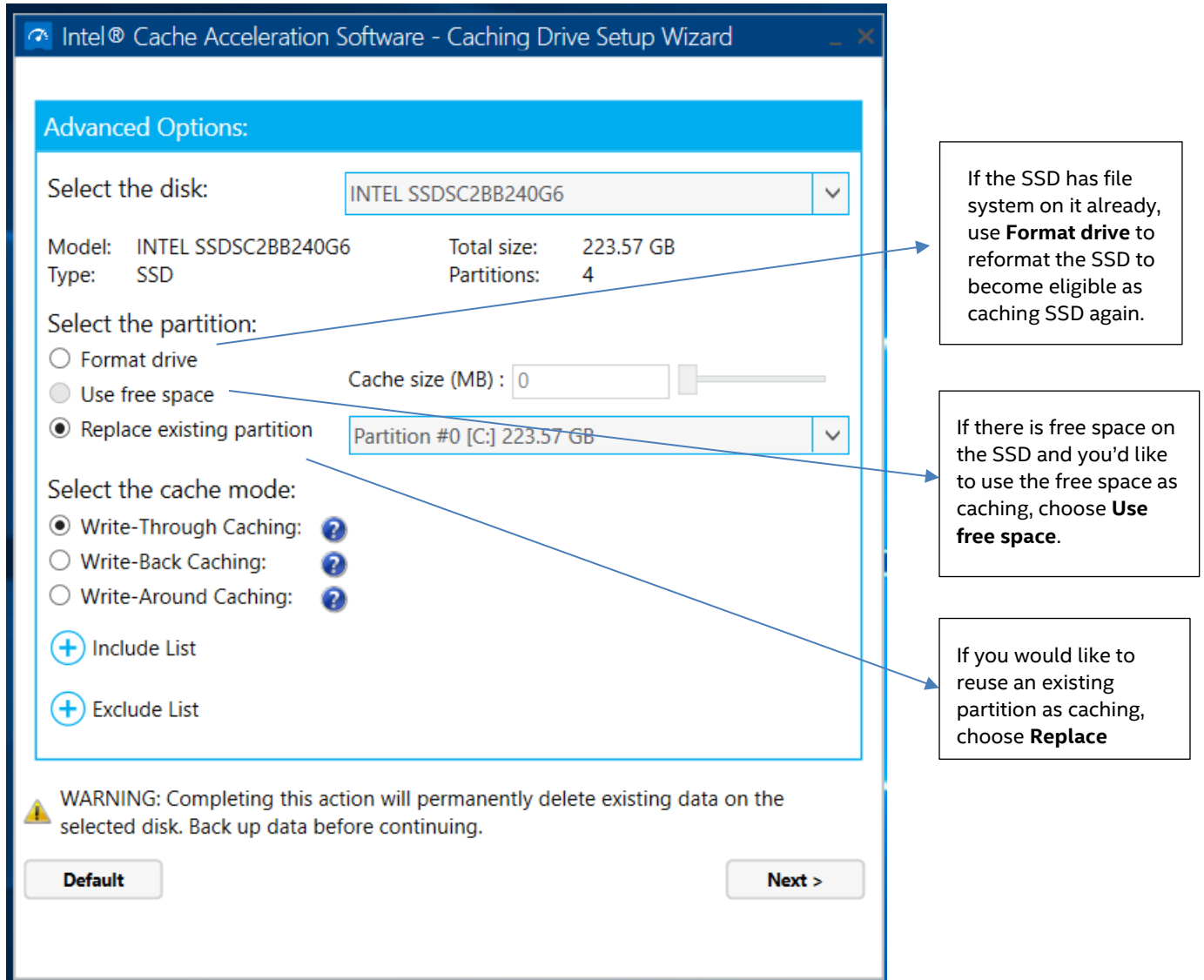


Figure 4.1.12 Confirmation

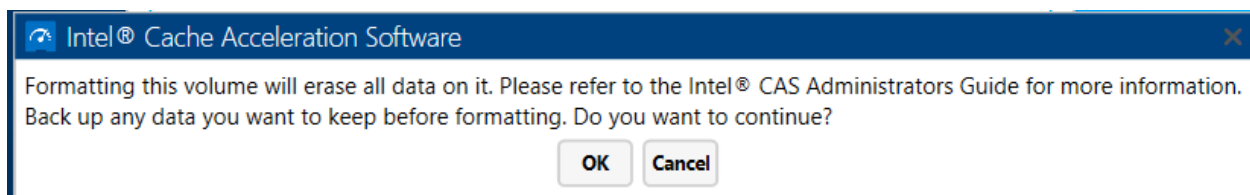
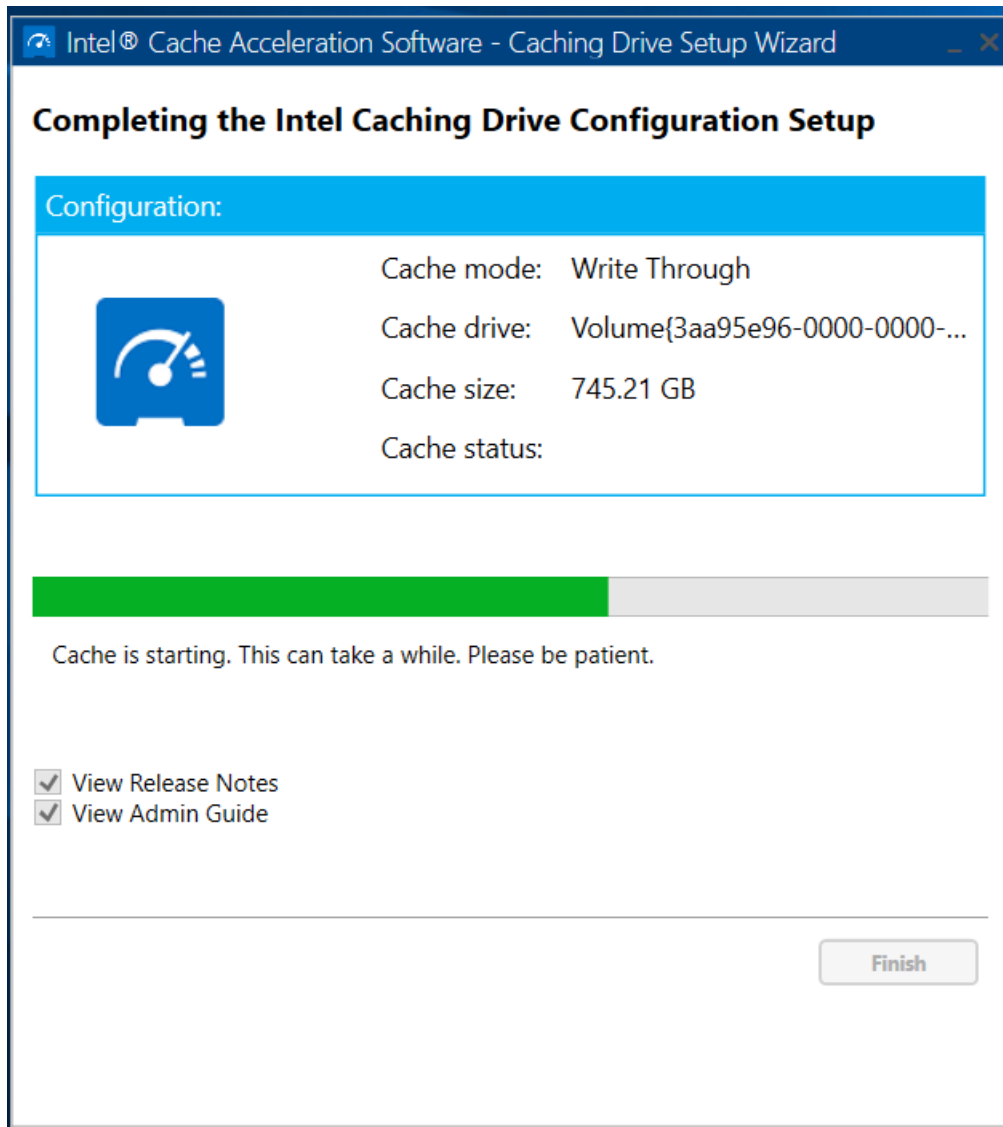




Figure 4.1.13 Wait for Setup to Complete





4.2 Configuring with CLI

Intel® CAS also provides command interface to assist scripting of setup and modification of configuration. Administrator privilege is required to use Intel® CAS CLI.

To start CLI, open a command window as Administrator. Change to following path. Then run *IntelCASCLI.exe* with valid command options.

Use *-H* after the command to learn detailed instruction. For example:

```
C:\Program Files\Intel\Cache Acceleration Software\IntelCASCLI.exe -S -H
```

NOTE: Adjust accordingly if using different installation folder.

The available command options are:

Command (short)	Command (long)	Description
-S	--start-cache	Start new cache instance or load using metadata
-T	--stop-cache	Stop cache instance
-Q	--set-cache-mode	Set cache mode
-A	--add-rule	Add new caching rule to cache instance
-R	--remove-rules	Remove caching rules
-L	--list-caches	List all cache instances
-P	--stats	Print statistics for cache instance
-Z	--reset-stats	Reset cache statistics
-X	--list-rules	List all caching rules
-F	--flush-cache	Flush all dirty data from the caching device to core devices
-V	--version	Prints Intel Cache Acceleration Software version
-N	--set-NAS-support	Enable/disable NAS support Valid command line options: --set-NAS-support -N -m -mode<MODE> ON/OFF Ex: "IntelCASCLI.exe --set-NAS-support --mode ON" OR "IntelCASCLI.exe -N -m ON"
-H	--help	Give this help list

4.3 Modifying the Configuration While the Cache is Running

You are not required to stop caching to modify the configuration. However, certain modifications will cause the cache to restart from cold cache.

The following modifications will NOT cause caching to restart from cold cache:

- Adding/removing/modifying a cache rule.

The following modifications will cause caching to restart from cold cache:

- Changing caching from one SSD to another.



- Changing caching from one partition to another on the same SSD.



5 Use Intel® CAS with SAN, NAS, CSVFS

5.1 SAN

SAN by nature is a block device, therefore you can use Intel® CAS with SAN pretty much the same as if it were DAS. The only thing special is that SAN can be connected through a drive letter or NTFS Volume Mount Point.

- SAN attached storage using a drive letter is included the same way as if it were DAS.
- SAN attached storage using NTFS Volume Mount Point is included the same way as if it were a local folder.

5.2 NAS

- Intel® CAS can also support NAS for following two use cases. Any other use cases are not supported.

Use Case1: Caching of NAS-based files with Read-Only Permission (If the file needs to be updated, turn off the caching on all installed machines, update the file, and turn on caching again.)

Use Case2: Caching of NAS-based files with Read/Write Permissions, but only a single machine (physical or virtual) that writes the file can be configured to cache the file. Other non-caching machines can only read the file.

WARNING: Turning on NAS support for use cases other than the two Use Cases identified above could result in data loss or data corruption.

- NAS devices must have static IPs assigned to them. Dynamically assigned IPs are not allowed.
- “Pinning” files from NAS is not supported. Only “include” files from NAS is supported.
- Only write-through mode is available for caching NAS.
- NAS support is turned off by default. If you are using one of the above identified two use cases, you can turn it on by doing following:
 - If using 3.1 or newer releases:
Use CLI to enable/disable NAS support. (See [Configuring with CLI](#))
- NAS attached storage is included in the form \\IP address\Folder Name\...
or \\DNS\Folder Name\...

You can type this syntax in the cache rule box in the Intel® CAS GUI.

5.3 CSVFS

A Cluster Shared Volume is a shared disk containing an NTFS or Resilient FS (ReFS: Windows Server 2012 R2 or newer) volume that is made accessible for read and write operations by all nodes within a Windows Server Failover Cluster.

Cluster Shared Volumes (CSV) is a feature of Failover Clustering for use with the Hyper-V role.

(Cluster Shared Volumes) is a feature in Windows Server in which shared disks are concurrently accessible to all nodes within a failover cluster. The feature was first introduced in Windows Server 2008 R2 as a way to simplify storage with clustered Hyper-V virtual machines (VMs).



6 Monitoring the Cache

6.1 Available Cache Statistics

Intel® CAS provides many statistics about cache. The basic and extended statistics available are shown in the following tables.

Table 6-1 Intel® CAS – Basic Statistics

% Cache Read Hits/sec	Percentage of cache read hits per second
% Cache Read Misses/sec	Percentage of cache read misses per second
% Cache Write Hits/sec	Percentage of cache write hits per second
% Cache Write Misses/sec	Percentage of cache write misses per second
% Cumulative Cache Read Hits	Percentage of total cache read hits
% Cumulative Cache Read Misses	Percentage of total cache read miss
% Cumulative Cache Write Hits	Percentage of total cache write hits
% Cumulative Cache Write Misses	Percentage of total cache write misses
Cache Read hits/sec	Number of read hits per second
Cache Read misses/sec	Number of reads missed per second
Cache Write hits/sec	Number of write hits per second
Cache Write misses/sec	Number of write missed per second
MB Active Cache Size	Total Active Cache size in MB. The amount of data in the cache device.
MB Cache Cleaned	Total dirty data cleaned in MB
MB Cache Cleaned/sec	Dirty data cleaned in MB per sec
MB Cache Freed	Total data evicted from cache in MB
MB Cache Freed/sec	Data evicted from cache in MB per second
MB Cache Read Hits	Total cache read hits in MB
MB Cache Read Hits/sec	Cache read hits in MB per second
MB Cache Read Misses	Total cache read missed in MB
MB Cache Read Misses/sec	Cache read missed in MB per second
MB Cache Write Hits	Total cache write hits in MB
MB Cache Write Hits/sec	Cache write hits in MB per second
MB Cache Write Misses	Total cache write missed in MB
MB Cache Write Misses/sec	Cache write missed in MB per second
Reads	Total Number of read
Reads/sec	Number of read per second
Writes	Total Number of write
Writes/sec	Number of write per second
MB Reads	Total MB of read



MB Reads/sec	MB of read per second
MB Writes	Total MB of write
MB Writes/sec	MB of write per second

Table 6-2 Intel® CAS – Extended Statistics

Average of Page Sizes Read	Average number of 4k-page due to read
Average of Page Sizes Written	Average number of 4k-page due to write
Blocked Requests	Blocked request due to cache contention
Blocks Compulsory Misses	Number of misses in blocks due to the cache being empty
Blocks Conflicts Misses	Number of capacity misses in blocks
Blocks Invalid Misses	Number of misses in blocks because the block is being updated
Blocks Non-sequential Hits	Number of random hits in blocks
Blocks Reads	Number of actual blocks read in blocks
Blocks Sequential Hits	Number of sequential hits in blocks
Blocks Writes	Number of actual write in blocks
Bypassed Read Requests	Number of read request sent to primary storage directly even it might be in include/pin list (ex: error handling)
Bypassed Write Requests	Number of write request sent to primary storage directly even it might be in include/pin list (ex: error handling)
Cache Full Misses	Number of full cache misses
Cache Hits	Number of full cache hits
Cache Non-sequential Hits	Number of non-sequential cache hits
Cache Partial Misses	Number of partial cache misses
Cache Sequential Hits	Number of sequential cache hits
Maximum of Page Sizes Read	Maximum number of 4k-page due to read
Maximum of Page Sizes Written	Maximum number of 4k-page due to write
Minimum of Page Sizes Read	Minimum number of 4k-page due to read
Minimum of Page Sizes Written	Minimum number of 4k-page due to write
Random Requests (128p)	Number of random requests with more than 128-page seeks between the current and previous IO in the primary storage.
Random Requests (16p)	Number of random requests with more than 16-page seeks between the current and previous IO in the primary storage.
Random Requests (1p)	Number of random requests with more than 1-page seeks between the current and previous IO in the primary storage.
Random Requests (32p)	Number of random requests with more than 32-page seeks between the current and previous IO in the primary storage.
Random Requests (64p)	Number of random requests with more than 64-page seeks between the current and previous IO in the primary storage.



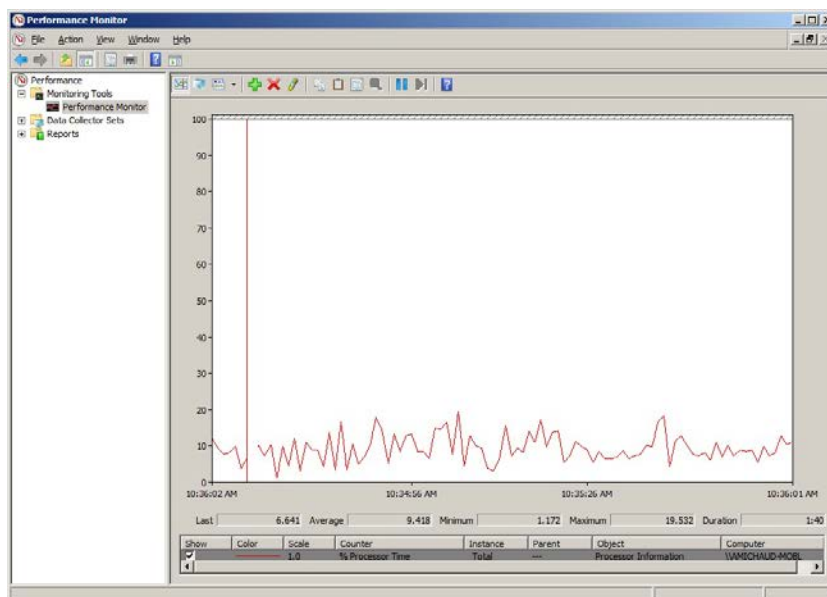
Read Requests	Number of read IO
Sequential Requests (128p)	Number of sequential requests with less than 128-page seeks between the current and previous IO in the primary storage.
Sequential Requests (16p)	Number of sequential requests with less than 16-page seeks between the current and previous IO in the primary storage.
Sequential Requests (1p)	Number of sequential requests with less than 1-page seeks between the current and previous IO in the primary storage.
Sequential Requests (32p)	Number of sequential requests with less than 32-page seeks between the current and previous IO in the primary storage.
Sequential Requests (64p)	Number of sequential requests with less than 64-page seeks between the current and previous IO in the primary storage.
Serviced Requests	Total number of IO not by-passed
Total Requests	Total number of IO (serviced plus by-passed will be total)
Variance of Page Sizes Read	Variance of different page sizes due to read
Variance of Page Sizes Written	Variance of different page sizes due to write
Write Requests	Number of write IO

6.2 Viewing Cache Statistics in Perfmon

The performance and operation statistics of Intel® CAS are managed using Windows* Performance Monitor (perfmon), which is included by default with the supported Windows* operating systems.

To view cache statistics in Performance Monitor:

1. Type *perfmon* in the *Start Search* box, and press *Enter*.
2. Click *Performance Monitor* on the left panel to display Performance Monitor screen.





- Click the green “+” icon on the toolbar to display the *Add Counters* screen.
Scroll down to find *Intel Cache Acceleration Software – xxx Statistics*

Basic Statistics

Extended Statistics

After choosing the basic or extended statistics,
Click **Add** button to add.

Available counters

Select counters from computer:

<Local computer> Browse...

ICMPv6
ICMPv6
Intel® Cache Acceleration Software - Basic St...
Intel® Cache Acceleration Software - Extende...
IPHTTPS Global
IPHTTPS Session
IPsec AuthIP IPv4
IPsec AuthIP IPv6

Instances of selected object:

<All instances>
0
1
10
11
12
13

Search

Add >>

Show description

Help OK Cancel

- Switch view mode to “report”

Switch to “report” view

Performance Monitor

File Action View Window Help

Performance

Monitoring Tools
Performance Monitor
Data Collector Sets
Reports

Line
Histogram bar
Report

100
80
60
40
20
0

11:48:11 PM 11:48:45 PM 11:49:15 PM 11:48:10 PM

Last 0.165 Average 1.179 Minimum 0.000 Maximum 100.000
Duration 1:40

Show	Color	Scale	Counter	Instance	Parent	Object	Compute
✓	Red	1.0	% Processor Time	Total	---	Processor Information	\\APSS14
✓	Green	1.0	MB Active Cache Size	---	---	Intel® Cache Acceleratio...	\\APSS14
✓	Blue	1.0	MB Cache Freed	---	---	Intel® Cache Acceleratio...	\\APSS14
✓	Yellow	1.0	MB Cache Freed/sec	---	---	Intel® Cache Acceleratio...	\\APSS14
✓	Red	1.0	Reads	---	---	Intel® Cache Acceleratio...	\\APSS14
✓	Green	1.0	Reads/sec	---	---	Intel® Cache Acceleratio...	\\APSS14
✓	Blue	1.0	Writes	---	---	Intel® Cache Acceleratio...	\\APSS14
✓	Yellow	1.0	Writes/sec	---	---	Intel® Cache Acceleratio...	\\APSS14



5. View cache statistics

The screenshot shows the Performance Monitor application window. The left-hand pane displays a tree view with 'Performance' expanded, showing 'Monitoring Tools' (containing 'Performance Monitor'), 'Data Collector Sets', and 'Reports'. The main pane displays the 'MAPSS141' performance object, titled 'Intel® Cache Acceleration Software - Basic Statistics'. It contains a list of 28 performance counters, all of which are currently showing a value of 0.000.

MAPSS141	
Intel® Cache Acceleration Software - Basic Statistics	
% Cache Read Hits/sec	0.000
% Cache Read Misses/sec	0.000
% Cache Write Hits/sec	0.000
% Cache Write Misses/sec	0.000
% Cumulative Cache Read Hits	0.000
% Cumulative Cache Read Misses	0.000
% Cumulative Cache Write Hits	0.000
% Cumulative Cache Write Misses	0.000
Cache Read Hits/sec	0.000
Cache Read Misses/sec	0.000
Cache Write Hits/sec	0.000
Cache Write Misses/sec	0.000
MB Active Cache Size	0.000
MB Cache Cleaned	0.000
MB Cache Cleaned/sec	0.000
MB Cache Freed	0.000
MB Cache Freed/sec	0.000
MB Cache Read Hits	0.000
MB Cache Read Hits/sec	0.000
MB Cache Read Miss	0.000
MB Cache Read Miss/sec	0.000
MB Cache Write Hits	0.000
MB Cache Write Hits/sec	0.000
MB Cache Write Miss	0.000
MB Cache Write Miss/sec	0.000
MB Dirty Data Size	0.000
MB Reads	0.000
MB Reads/sec	0.000
MB Writes	0.000



7 Power State

7.1 Standby/Hibernation (S3/S4)

System with Intel® CAS being turned on will continue to be able to do S3/S4. Caching will be turned off before entering S3/S4 and will resume after exiting S3/S4.

7.2 Shutdown (S5)

Cache configuration and content will be kept over power cycle. On next system reboot, cache will restart as warm cache.

7.3 Unexpected Power Loss with Black Screen

After unexpected power loss, cache will be started during next reboot. Cache will be partially warm. In that case cache will be rebuilt only based on dirty data (data which were not synchronized between SSD and HDD in write back mode), so this works for write back mode only (or for a case when cache mode was switched from write back mode to another without flushing dirty data). All data which were marked as cleaned won't be in cache after such OS starts.

This will allow cache to start quickly. OS boot time in that case should take be similar as during typical boot procedure

If using caching in write-through mode, there will be no extra risk of data loss due to caching in unexpected power loss. If using caching in write-back mode, its possible cache can be recovered successfully. But it's also possible cache can't be recovered. So there is increased risk of data loss should unexpected power loss happen. Be cautious when using write-back mode.

To reduce the chance of data loss, consider to disable write back caching in HDDs and use flush command often. To avoid the chance of data loss, consider to use power backup.



8 Appendix

Frequently Asked Questions

A.1 “Functionality” Related

How do I delete all the cache content?

To delete all cache content, click the *Stop Cache* button in the Intel® CAS GUI.

Why can't I make any configuration changes?

You must log on as an administrator or a user with administrator privileges to make any configuration changes.

Why pinning doesn't work for me?

When the files you want to pin are used by other applications, Intel® CAS will not be able to pin them. For example, for files that are locked and in use (such as Microsoft SQL Server database files), we recommend stopping the application before adding those files to the cache.

Can I pin a file larger than cache? What happens when pinned file grows larger than cache?

No, you can't pin a file larger than cache size. Once it exceeds the cache size, cache maintenance will start clearing a portion of the file that is least likely to be used in order for the cache to continue to reflect the hottest data. If you restart the cache, it will then refuse to pin the file.

How to manually install the patch to enable SHA-2 Certificates support on OS Windows Server 2008 R2

- Instructions for manually installing KB3033929 patch from Microsoft:
 - From another computer with access to the following website, enter KB3033929 into the search box
 - <https://www.microsoft.com/en-us/download>
 - Navigate to the version of Windows you wish to update, and click the download button.
 - Click **Save** to copy the download to your computer for installation at a later time and save the downloaded zip file to your USB device
 - Copy the zip file to a temp file on the platform OS, right click on this downloaded KB3033929 zip file and choose to run as an administrator. This will extract the actual hotfix patch onto C:\.
 - Navigate to this .exe file and double click it.
 - This runs the patch update.
 - Once the KB patch is installed successfully, restart the system and install Intel® CAS Software.

My installation on Windows Server 2008 R2 is failing with the message “Your system does not contain up-to date list of trusted Root Certificates and installation cannot be continued...” What should I do?

If you see this message, it means that you do not have the up-to date list of Trusted Root Certificates on your OS. In order to update the list of Trusted Root Certificates you can:

- Connect your machine to internet. This will cause your system to update this list
- If you do not want to connect your machine to the internet you must manually download the missing certificate from the vendor site using other machines connected to network

<https://support.comodo.com/index.php?/Default/Knowledgebase/Article/View/917/91/>

Manually copy certificate file (addtrustexternalcaroot.crt) it into your machine with Intel® CAS



Install this certificate in following way:

- Click on start menu and type: "mmc"
- Click on "File" in the console root
- Choose "Add / Remove Snap-in" from the drop down menu
- Click on "Certificates" in the left menu items
- Click the "Add" button
- Select "Computer account" radio button
- Select "Next"
- "Select Computer" screen appears, select "Finish"
- On "Add or Remove Snap-ins" screen, select "OK"
- Click on "Certificates (Local Computer)" from "Console1 - [Console Root]"
- Right click on "Trusted Root Certification Authorities (outline item)" in "Console1 - [Console Root]"
- Click on "Import..." (menu item)"
- Click "Next" in "Certificate Import Wizard"
- Click "Browse..." (push button)" in "Certificate Import Wizard"
- Navigate to where addtrustexternalcaroot.crt was copied to your machine
- Double click on addtrustexternalcaroot.crt
- Click "Next" in "Certificate Import Wizard"
- Click "Finish" then "OK"
- Then Click on "AddTrust External CA Root (list item)" in "Console1 - [Console Root]\Certificates (Local Computer)\Trusted Root C

Note: If you have machines connected to Active Directory you need to install CAS certificate from Comodo (<https://support.comodo.com/index.php?/comodo/Knowledgebase/Article/View/917/91/>) using 'Group Policy'. Microsoft provides description how to do that:

<https://technet.microsoft.com/en-us/library/cc772491%28v=ws.11%29.aspx?f=255&MSPPErr=-2147217396>

A.2 "Performance" Related

How do I tell what applications need more I/O?

Disk usage statistics are recorded in Windows* Performance Monitor (perfmon), which is included by default with the supported Windows OSes*. Two counters that can be monitored to determine overall disk I/O activity are:

- PhysicalDisk: % Disk Time (percentage of time that the disk is busy with I/O)
- PhysicalDisk: Avg. Disk Queue Length (how many system requests are waiting for disk access)

Individual applications may have specific counters to determine the amount of I/O generated by the application. For example, in Microsoft* SQL Server:

- SQL Server:Buffer Manager:Page reads/sec
- SQL Server:Buffer Manager:Page writes/sec

Refer to "Chapter 6 Monitoring the Caching" for more information on monitoring Intel® CAS performance.

How do I test performance?

In addition to Windows* Performance Monitor, there are several third-party tools which can help you test I/O performance on your applications and system, including IOMeter* (<http://www.iometer.org/>) for overall I/O performance, and sysbench for SQL (<http://dev.mysql.com/downloads/benchmarks.html>)

**Performance is slower than I expect. What can I do?**

- Instead of using default caching everything policy, consider to use a customized cache policy by using include or pin.
- Make sure you have warmed up the cache before taking the performance benchmarking.
- Make sure your workload has “hot spot”, i.e. has data which is used more than once. If your workload has no “hot spot”, Intel® CAS will not be able to boost the performance, which is true for any caching solution.
- If you have pinned files, ensure that their combined size does not exceed the physical cache size since there may be performance penalty if that occurs. You may need to install a larger cache drive to avoid this performance issue.
- If you have pinned file, make sure all the pinned files cached into SSD before starting benchmarking.

My memory is running low after turning on Intel® CAS

Intel® CAS uses memory for metadata. The amount of memory we need is proportional to size of caching. This is true for any caching software solution. You could add more memory or shrink the size of the caching device used for cache.

Intel® CAS performance counters fail. What should I do?

If the exception *Setting up performance counters failed* displays, you must rebuild the configuration registry key by running `lodctr /R` from a Windows* command prompt. Information regarding Performance Monitor Counters is stored in the registry and this exception implies that the configuration registry key is invalid. This is a known issue with Windows* performance counters.

A.3 “Support” Related

How do I contact technical support?

Contact technical support by phone at [1-800-404-2284](tel:1-800-404-2284) or at the following URL:

http://www.intel.com/p/en_US/support/highlights/sftwr-prod/cas

Does Intel® CAS work with any SSD?

By theory, Intel® CAS should work with any SATA or NVMe* SSD. However, following are advantages to use Intel SSDs.

- Optimized performance for Intel SSDs
- Unique features for Intel SSDs (in roadmap already)
- We only validate with Intel SSDs
- Get favorable price with Intel SSD, and even better bundle price with Intel Data Center SSDs.
- The criteria to choose a caching SSD is higher than choosing a regular storage SSD. Caching SSD needs to have:
 - Premium performance
 - Premium endurance
 - Advanced features like power loss protection

What happens when my trial expires?

Intel® CAS will still be running, but only stop cache will be available. All other options will be blocked. User will be able to read data from caching SSD, not be able to write any data to caching SSD. Also when stopping the cache (manually) after trial expires, it is not possible to start it again.

If you have not finished the evaluation, please contact us. We will be happy to extend your trial.

