XMASDEV

XMAS DEV 2025

Crash sotto l’albero: gli elfi del debugging salvano il Natale

Mirco Vanini

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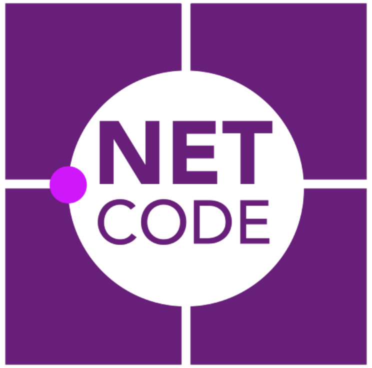
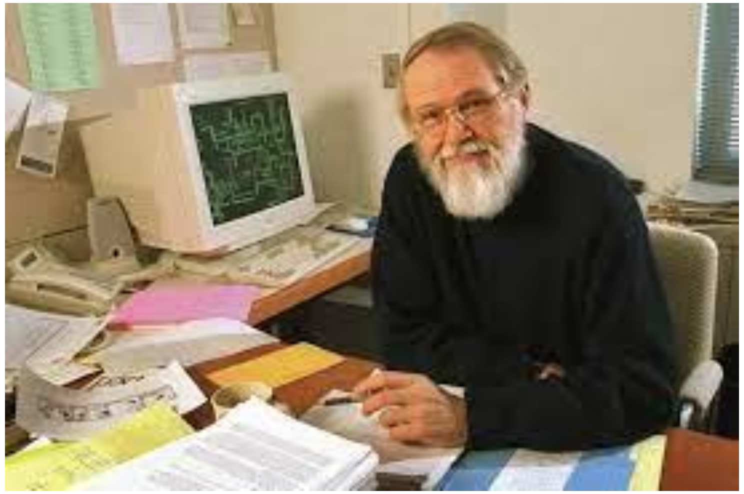


SOFTWARE BUGS ARE EXPENSIVE

“Debugging is twice as hard as writing the code in the first place. Therefore, if you write the code as cleverly as possible, you are, by definition, not smart enough to debug it.”

Brian Kernighan



IMPORTANCE OF DEBUGGING

- Perfect code is an illusion
- Legacy Code
- Deeper Understanding
- Helps you learn & write better code in the future

THE THREE DEBUGGING PHASES

- Isolation
- Replication
- Fix

PRODUCTION DEBUGGING

Requirements

Obtain actionable information about crashes and errors

Obtain accurate performance information

Limitations

Can't install Visual Studio

Can't suspend production servers

Can't run intrusive tools

DUMP FILE

- A user dump is a snapshot of a running process
- A kernel dump is a snapshot of the entire system
- Dump files are useful for post-mortem diagnostics and for production debugging
- Anytime you can’t attach and start live debugging, a dump might help

LIMITATIONS OF DUMP FILES

A dump file is a static snapshot

- You can't debug a dump, just analyze it
- Sometimes a repro is required (or more than one repro)

Sometimes several dumps must be compared

TAXONOMY OF DUMPS

- Crash dumps are dumps generated when an application crashes

- Hang dumps are dumps generated on-demand at a specific moment

- These are just names, the contents of the dump files are the same!

GENERATING A HANG DUMP

Task Manager

right-click and choose “Create Dump File”
Creates a dump in **%LOCALAPPDATA%\Temp**

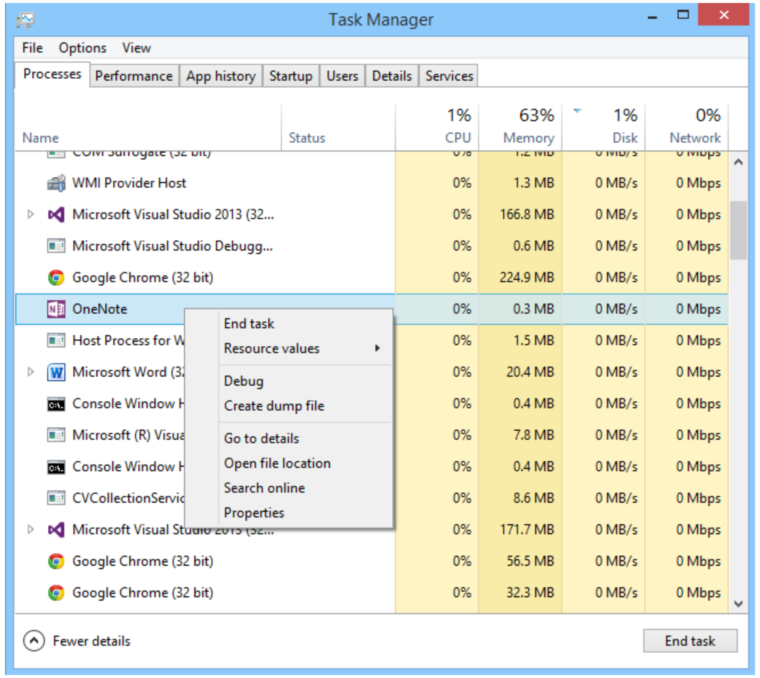
SysInternals - [Procdump]() – [Procdump Linux]()

Sysinternals utility for creating dumps,

Light-weight, no-install utility for generating dumps

[DebugDiag]()

Microsoft tool for monitoring and dump generation



Name	Status	1% CPU	63% Memory	1% Disk	0% Network
COM Surrogate (32 bit)		0%	1.2 MB	0 MB/s	0 Mbps
WMI Provider Host		0%	1.3 MB	0 MB/s	0 Mbps
Microsoft Visual Studio 2013 (32...		0%	166.8 MB	0 MB/s	0 Mbps
Microsoft Visual Studio Debugg...		0%	0.6 MB	0 MB/s	0 Mbps
Google Chrome (32 bit)		0%	224.9 MB	0 MB/s	0 Mbps
OneNote		0%	0.3 MB	0 MB/s	0 Mbps
Host Process for W		0%	1.5 MB	0 MB/s	0 Mbps
Microsoft Word (3		0%	20.4 MB	0 MB/s	0 Mbps
Console Window H		0%	0.4 MB	0 MB/s	0 Mbps
Microsoft (R) Visua		0%	7.8 MB	0 MB/s	0 Mbps
Console Window H		0%	0.4 MB	0 MB/s	0 Mbps
CVCollectionServic		0%	8.6 MB	0 MB/s	0 Mbps
Microsoft Visual Studio 2013 (32...		0%	171.7 MB	0 MB/s	0 Mbps
Google Chrome (32 bit)		0%	56.5 MB	0 MB/s	0 Mbps
Google Chrome (32 bit)		0%	32.3 MB	0 MB/s	0 Mbps

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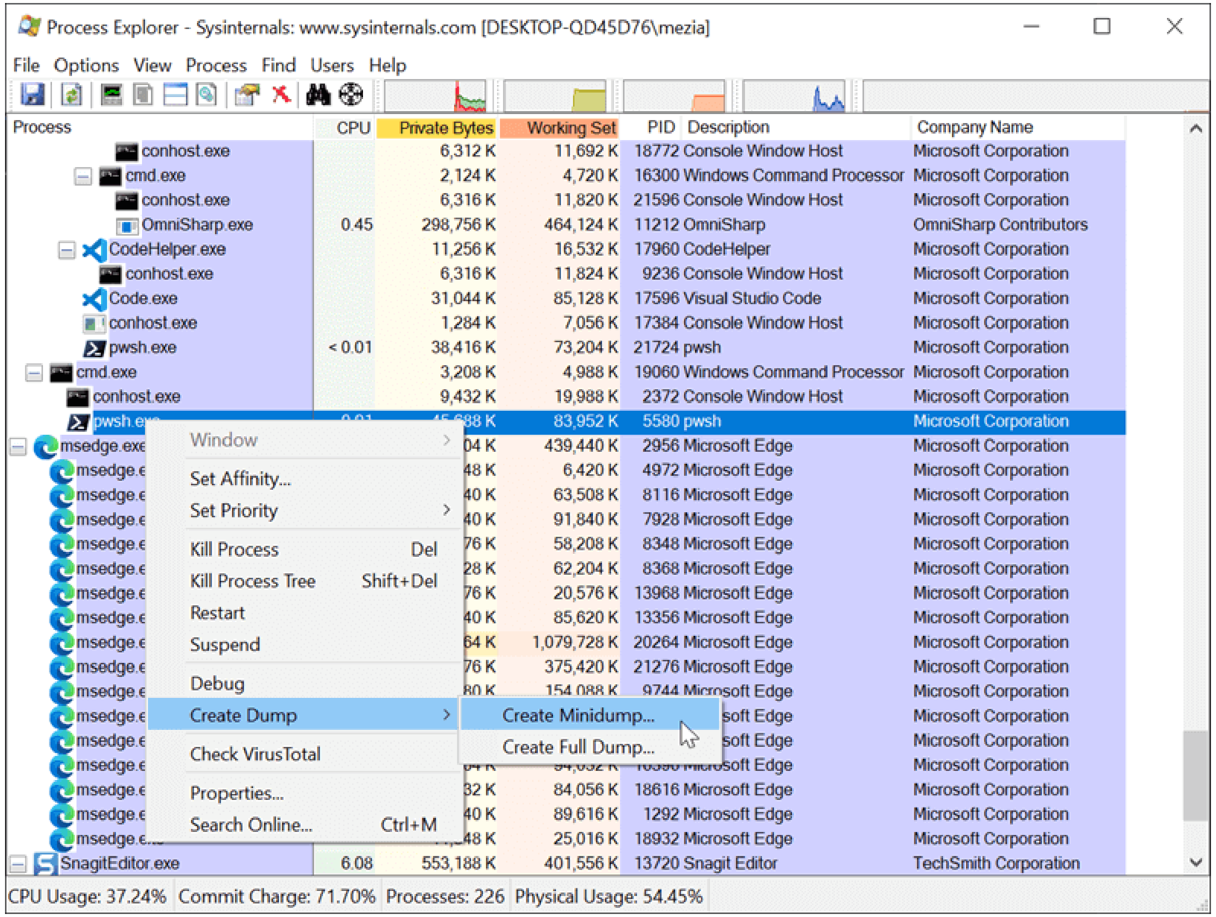
GENERATING A HANG DUMP

SysInternals - Process Explorer

Right-click on the process and select the "Create Dump" menu item



Process	CPU	Private Bytes	Working Set	PID	Description	Company Name
conhost.exe		6,312 K	11,692 K	18772	Console Window Host	Microsoft Corporation
cmd.exe		2,124 K	4,720 K	16300	Windows Command Processor	Microsoft Corporation
conhost.exe		6,316 K	11,820 K	21596	Console Window Host	Microsoft Corporation
OmniSharp.exe	0.45	298,756 K	464,124 K	11212	OmniSharp	OmniSharp Contributors
CodeHelper.exe		11,256 K	16,532 K	17960	CodeHelper	Microsoft Corporation
conhost.exe		6,316 K	11,824 K	9236	Console Window Host	Microsoft Corporation
Code.exe		31,044 K	85,128 K	17596	Visual Studio Code	Microsoft Corporation
conhost.exe		1,284 K	7,056 K	17384	Console Window Host	Microsoft Corporation
pwsh.exe	< 0.01	38,416 K	73,204 K	21724	pwsh	Microsoft Corporation
cmd.exe		3,208 K	4,988 K	19060	Windows Command Processor	Microsoft Corporation
conhost.exe		9,432 K	19,988 K	2372	Console Window Host	Microsoft Corporation
pwsh.exe	0.01	45,688 K	83,952 K	5580	pwsh	Microsoft Corporation
msedge.exe		04 K	439,440 K	2956	Microsoft Edge	Microsoft Corporation
msedge.e		48 K	6,420 K	4972	Microsoft Edge	Microsoft Corporation
msedge.e		40 K	63,508 K	8116	Microsoft Edge	Microsoft Corporation
msedge.e		40 K	91,840 K	7928	Microsoft Edge	Microsoft Corporation
msedge.e		76 K	58,208 K	8348	Microsoft Edge	Microsoft Corporation
msedge.e		28 K	62,204 K	8368	Microsoft Edge	Microsoft Corporation
msedge.e		76 K	20,576 K	13968	Microsoft Edge	Microsoft Corporation
msedge.e		40 K	85,620 K	13356	Microsoft Edge	Microsoft Corporation
msedge.e		64 K	1,079,728 K	20264	Microsoft Edge	Microsoft Corporation
msedge.e		76 K	375,420 K	21276	Microsoft Edge	Microsoft Corporation
msedge.e		80 K	154,088 K	9744	Microsoft Edge	Microsoft Corporation
msedge.e					soft Edge	Microsoft Corporation
msedge.e					soft Edge	Microsoft Corporation
msedge.e		04 K	94,032 K	16390	Microsoft Edge	Microsoft Corporation
msedge.e		32 K	84,056 K	18616	Microsoft Edge	Microsoft Corporation
msedge.e		40 K	89,616 K	1292	Microsoft Edge	Microsoft Corporation
msedge.e		48 K	25,016 K	18932	Microsoft Edge	Microsoft Corporation
SnagitEditor.exe	6.08	553,188 K	401,556 K	13720	Snagit Editor	TechSmith Corporation

CPU Usage: 37.24% Commit Charge: 71.70% Processes: 226 Physical Usage: 54.45%

Minidump: ideal if you need to quickly send a file to a support team or if you only want to analyze stacks and modules.

Fulldump: necessary when the problem is complex and full visibility of the heap, variables, and process state is required.

GENERATING A HANG DUMP

.NET Core diagnostic global tools

dotnet-dump

The dotnet-dump tool is a way to collect and analyze Windows and Linux core dumps without a native debugger.

dotnet-gcdump

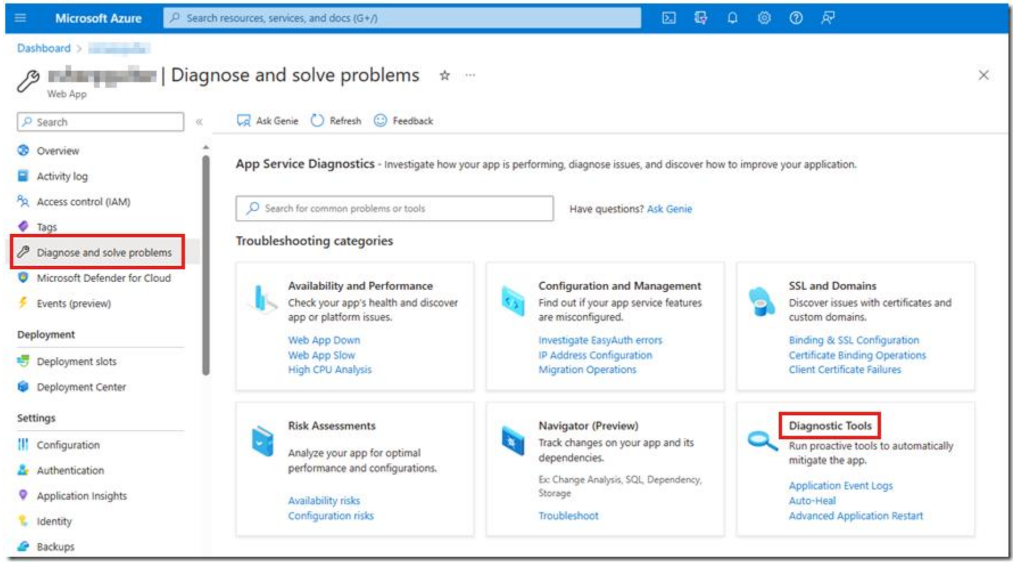
The dotnet-gcdump tool is a way to collect GC (Garbage Collector) dumps of live .NET processes.

GENERATING A HANG DUMP

Azure App Services

Select your App Service
Go to "Diagnose and solve problems"
Select Diagnose Tools

Select "Collect Memory Dump"
Click on the "Collect Memory Dump".
After a few minutes, the dump
is available in the configured
storage account



[redacted] | Diagnose and solve problems

App Service Diagnostics - Investigate how your app is performing, diagnose issues, and discover how to improve your application.

Have questions? Ask Genie

Troubleshooting categories

Availability and Performance
Check your app's health and discover app or platform issues.

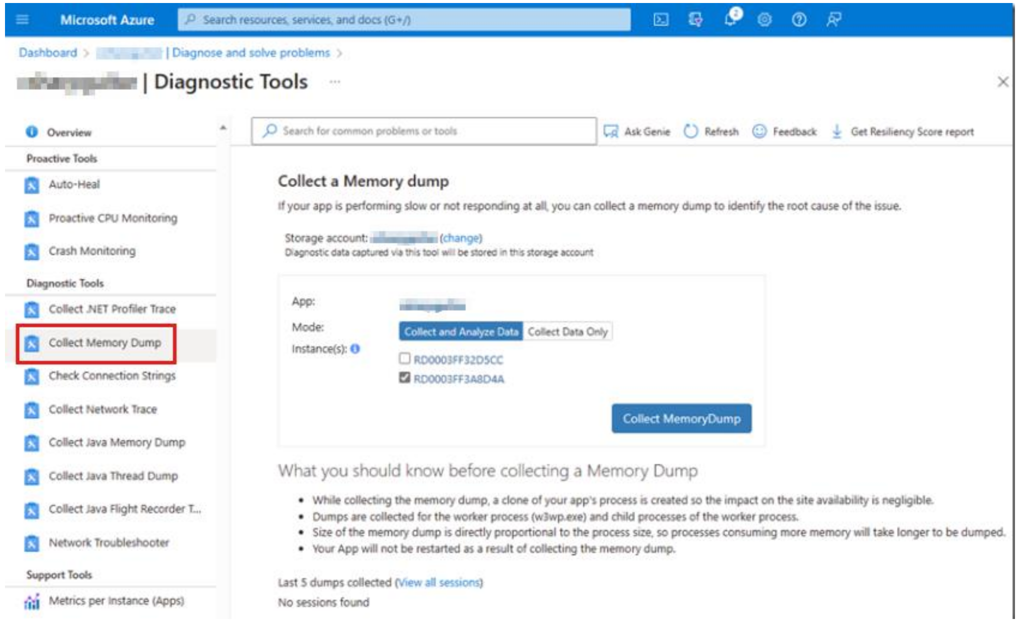
Configuration and Management
Find out if your app service features are misconfigured.

SSL and Domains
Discover issues with certificates and custom domains.

Risk Assessments
Analyze your app for optimal performance and configurations.

Navigator (Preview)
Track changes on your app and its dependencies.
Ex: Change Analysis, SQL, Dependency, Storage

Diagnostic Tools
Run proactive tools to automatically mitigate the app.



[redacted] | Diagnostic Tools

Collect a Memory dump

If your app is performing slow or not responding at all, you can collect a memory dump to identify the root cause of the issue.

Storage account: [redacted] (change)
Diagnostic data captured via this tool will be stored in this storage account

App: [redacted]
Mode: Collect and Analyze Data | Collect Data Only
Instance(s):
☐ RD0003FF32D5CC
☑ RD0003FF3A8D4A

What you should know before collecting a Memory Dump

- While collecting the memory dump, a clone of your app's process is created so the impact on the site availability is negligible.
- Dumps are collected for the worker process (w3wp.exe) and child processes of the worker process.
- Size of the memory dump is directly proportional to the process size, so processes consuming more memory will take longer to be dumped.
- Your App will not be restarted as a result of collecting the memory dump.

Last 5 dumps collected (View all sessions)
No sessions found

Capture memory dumps on the Azure App Service platform

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ANALYZING DUMPS FILE

Native debugger (WinDBG)

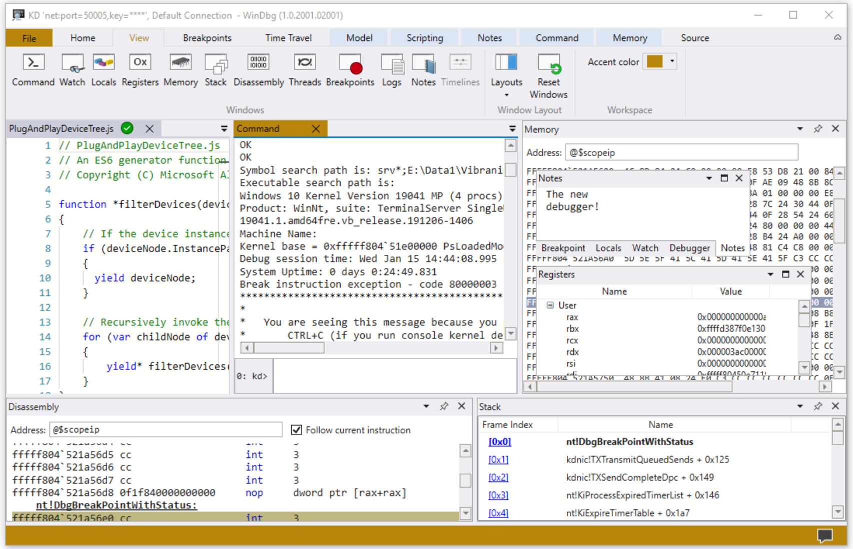
[Analyze crash dump files by using WinDbg]()

DebugDiag

[How to Use Debug Diagnostics to Analyze a Memory Dump]()

Visual Studio

[Dump files in the Visual Studio debugger]()



```
// PlugAndPlayDeviceTree.js
// An ES6 generator function
// Copyright (C) Microsoft Al

function *filterDevices(devic
{
    // If the device instance
    if (deviceNode.InstancePa
    {
        yield deviceNode;
    }

    // Recursively invoke the
    for (var childNode of dev
    {
        yield* filterDevices(
    }
```

```
OK
OK
Symbol search path is: srv*;E:\Data1\Vibrani
Executable search path is:
Windows 10 Kernel Version 19041 MP (4 procs)
Product: WinNt, suite: TerminalServer SingleU
19041.1.amd64fre.vb_release.191206-1406
Machine Name:
Kernel base = 0xfffff804`51e00000 PsLoadedMo
Debug session time: Wed Jan 15 14:44:08.995
System Uptime: 0 days 0:24:49.831
Break instruction exception - code 80000003
*******************************************
*
*   You are seeing this message because you
*       CTRL+C (if you run console kernel de
0: kd>
```

Address: @$scopeip

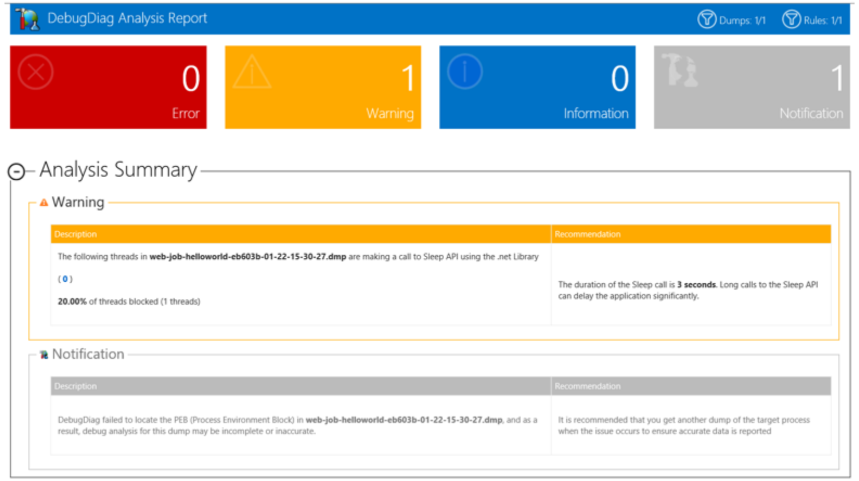
The new
debugger!

Name	Value
⊟ User	
rax	0x000000000000a
rbx	0xffffd387f0e130
rcx	0x0000000000000
rdx	0x000003ac0000
rsi	0x0000000000000

Address: @$scopeip ☑ Follow current instruction

```
fffff804`521a56d5 cc              int     3
fffff804`521a56d6 cc              int     3
fffff804`521a56d7 cc              int     3
fffff804`521a56d8 0f1f840000000000 nop    dword ptr [rax+rax]
   nt!DbgBreakPointWithStatus:
fffff804`521a56e0 cc              int     3
```

Frame Index	Name
[0x0]	**nt!DbgBreakPointWithStatus**
[0x1]	kdnic!TXTransmitQueuedSends + 0x125
[0x2]	kdnic!TXSendCompleteDpc + 0x149
[0x3]	nt!KiProcessExpiredTimerList + 0x146
[0x4]	nt!KiExpireTimerTable + 0x1a7



0	1	0	1
Error	Warning	Information	Notification

Analysis Summary

Warning

Description	Recommendation
The following threads in **web-job-helloworld-eb603b-01-22-15-30-27.dmp** are making a call to Sleep API using the .net Library (0) **20.00%** of threads blocked (1 threads)	The duration of the Sleep call is **3 seconds**. Long calls to the Sleep API can delay the application significantly.

Notification

Description	Recommendation
DebugDiag failed to locate the PEB (Process Environment Block) in **web-job-helloworld-eb603b-01-22-15-30-27.dmp**, and as a result, debug analysis for this dump may be incomplete or inaccurate.	It is recommended that you get another dump of the target process when the issue occurs to ensure accurate data is reported

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NULL REFERENCE EXCEPTIONS, GC HEAP PRESSURE,
OOM EXCEPTIONS, STACK OVERFLOW,
DEAD LOCK, THREADPOOL OUTOFTHREADS

COMMON BUGS

CRASHES

- Check the event viewer
- Capture dump on crash
- Look at the faulting stack

PERFORMMANCE ISSUES

- Capture one or more dumps
- Look at all stacks
- if you can repro in test, consider profiling

- Low CPU
  Waiting for an external resource Deadlock

- High CPU
  Tight loop, High CPU in GC

MEMORY LEAKS

- Capture multiple dumps
- Compare to see what objects are leaking
- Find out why they are still around

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QUESTIONS & DISCUSSION

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