

Description: This Application Note explains how to set up your Windows Performance Monitor to log system information in the event of a crash or memory leak.

OS Requirement: Win 2000 Pro/Server, XP Pro, Server 2003

General Requirement: Administrative access to the computer

Why use the performance monitor?

The performance monitor that comes with Windows can be useful in debugging application crashes and detecting memory leaks. You can set the performance monitor to log information about the health of your computer, and this information can help determine what is causing a crash or memory leak.

How to set up a log?

1. Go to **Start → Settings → Control Panel → Administrative Tools → Performance**.
2. Expand **Performance Logs and Alerts**, right-click **Counter Logs**, and choose **New Log Settings**.

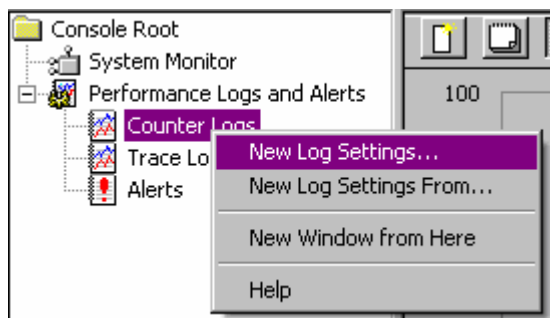


Figure 1 - New Log Settings

3. Enter a name for your log into the dialog box and click OK.
4. Click **Add Counters**.
5. Set up the log as displayed below. Use these settings (refer to Figure 2):
 - a. Use Local Computer Counters
 - b. Set Performance Object to **Process** (you will probably need to change it from "Processor")
 - c. All Instances
 - d. Select the counters: Private Bytes, Thread Count, and Virtual Bytes

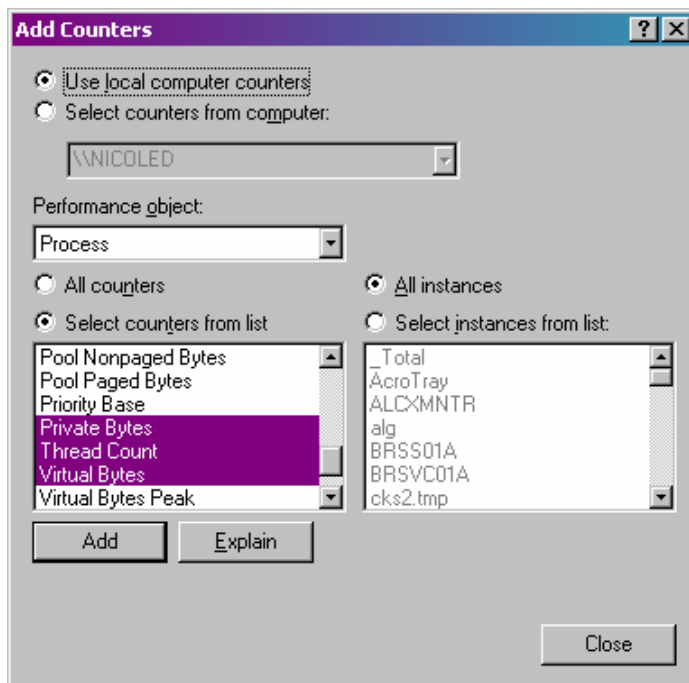


Figure 2 - Add Counters Dialog

6. Click **Add** (nothing will visibly happen), and then **Close**.
7. Set the **Interval** and **Units** appropriately. The shorter the interval the more data you will collect, but the larger hit you will take to your system's overall performance. Select a long interval if you do not know when the problem will occur or you know it will not occur for a while. Select a shorter interval if the problem is frequent or will happen soon. If you are unsure, a good default setting is every 1 minute.

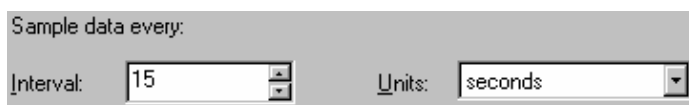


Figure 3 - Collect Data Sample Interval

8. Note that the logging will discontinue after a reboot, so if you reboot and still need to log data, it will be necessary to manually restart logging. To do this, please follow these instructions:
 - a. Go to **Start → Settings → Control Panel → Administrative Tools → Performance**.
 - b. Expand **Performance Logs and Alerts**.
 - c. Right-click your previously created logging settings and choose **Start**.