

6 software to monitor Windows 10 hard drive activity

Too many simultaneous operations on the hard drive can slow down the system and deplete laptop battery, so sometimes you should monitor hard drive activity.

Hard drives on your laptop or desktop computer often work quite positively. Windows reads and writes to the hard drive even if no remarkable software is opened in the taskbar. Background systems process also creates activity on the hard drive. Too many simultaneous operations on the hard drive can slow down the system and deplete laptop battery, so sometimes you should monitor hard drive activity.

Both the laptop hard drive and the desktop computer have a flashing indicator light when the hard drive is operating. On the laptop, you will see the HDD indicator light on the keyboard. On the desktop, this indicator light is on the case.

There are not many software packages that can monitor hard drive activity. There are also a number of utilities that add hard drive activity indicators in the system tray and provide more details about hard drive activity for users. Here are a few programs and tools that you can use to monitor hard drive activity.

Windows 10 Task Manager

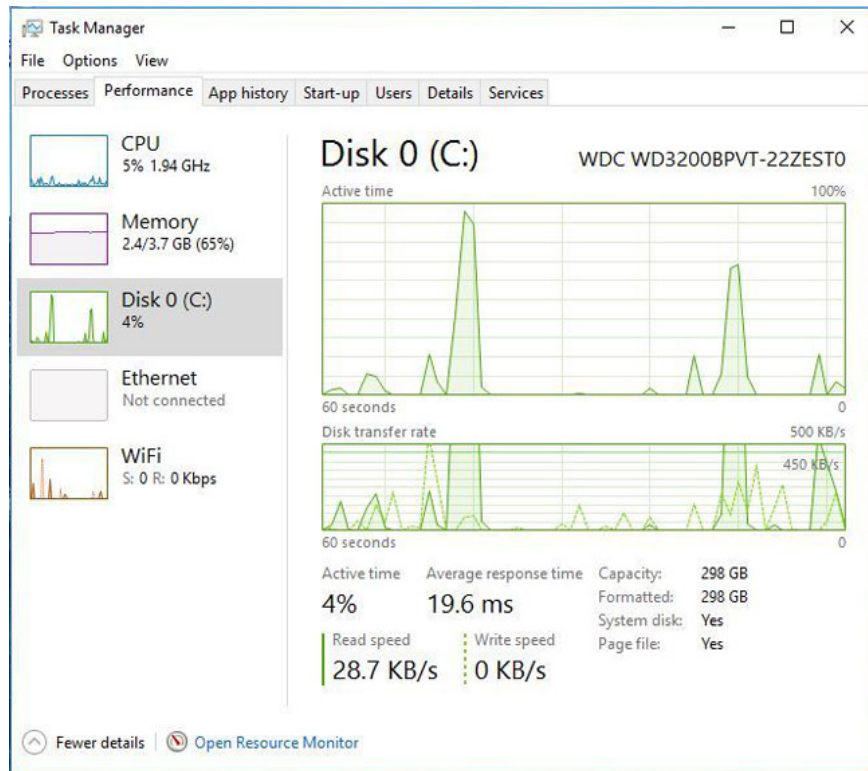
Windows 10 has not only one but two tools to monitor hard drive performance. One of them is Task Manager. You can open Task Manager by right-clicking on the taskbar and selecting **Task Manager** . Then click the **Processes** tab as shown in the image below.

1. All problems about using Task Manager

Name	6% CPU	63% Memory	3% Disk	0% Network
Task Manager	0.5%	11.6 MB	0.1 MB/s	0 Mbps
Google Chrome (32 bit)	0.4%	71.6 MB	0.1 MB/s	0 Mbps
Snipping Tool	0.1%	2.8 MB	0.1 MB/s	0 Mbps
System	0.1%	0.1 MB	0.1 MB/s	0.1 Mbps
Service Host: Local Service (Network Restricted) (6)	0%	5.1 MB	0.1 MB/s	0 Mbps
Windows Explorer	0.8%	19.6 MB	0.1 MB/s	0 Mbps
avast! Service (32 bit)	0.9%	28.1 MB	0.1 MB/s	0 Mbps
Google Chrome (32 bit)	0%	81.9 MB	0.1 MB/s	0.1 Mbps
Client Server Runtime Process	0.1%	0.7 MB	0 MB/s	0 Mbps
AVG Service Process	0%	3.4 MB	0 MB/s	0 Mbps
Service Host: Local System (Network Restricted) (11)	0%	60.7 MB	0 MB/s	0 Mbps
appmodel (2)	0%	4.1 MB	0 MB/s	0 Mbps
System interrupts	0.1%	0 MB	0 MB/s	0 Mbps
SmartScreen	0%	3.2 MB	0 MB/s	0 Mbps
Google Chrome (32 bit)	0.3%	115.6 MB	0 MB/s	0 Mbps

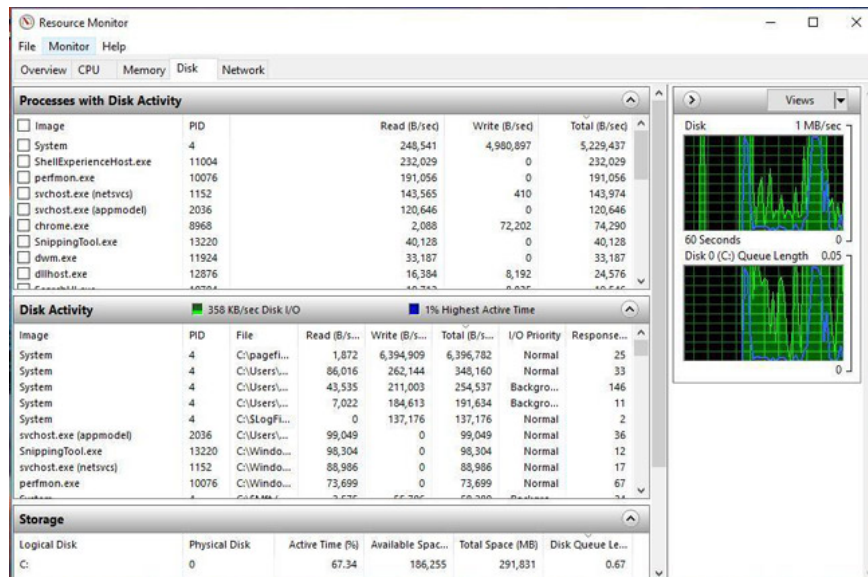
Note: The Processes tab includes the **Disk** column. This column contains information about how programs use the hard drive. Click that column to list the processes for using hard disk resources in ascending order. You can then right-click on a program or process listed there and select **End Task** to close the program.

Click the **Performance** tab to open the charts shown in the snapshot directly below. Note that this tab also includes diagrams of hard drive activity. The first is the activity time chart and the second chart shows the hard drive transfer rate chart showing you the read and write activity on it. Here are some additional statistics about the hard drive.

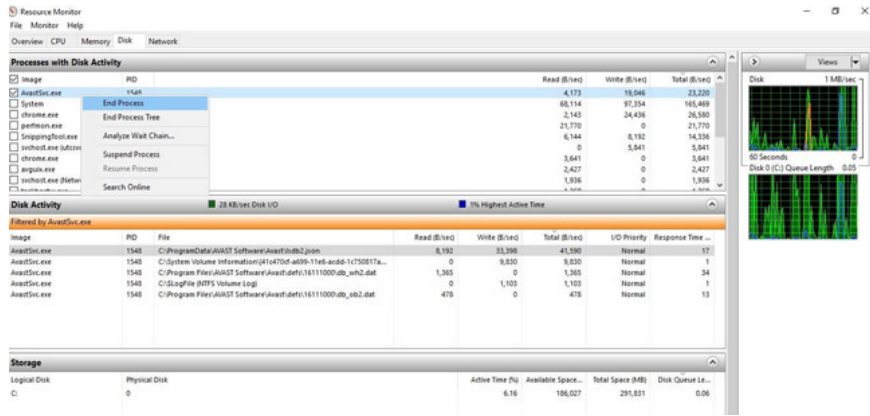


Windows 10 Resource Monitor

Resource Monitor is the second tool to monitor other handy hard drive operations available in Windows 10. You can open it by entering ' **Resource Monitor** ' in the **Cortana search** box. Then click **Disk** on the **Resource Monitor** window to open the tab as shown in the image below.



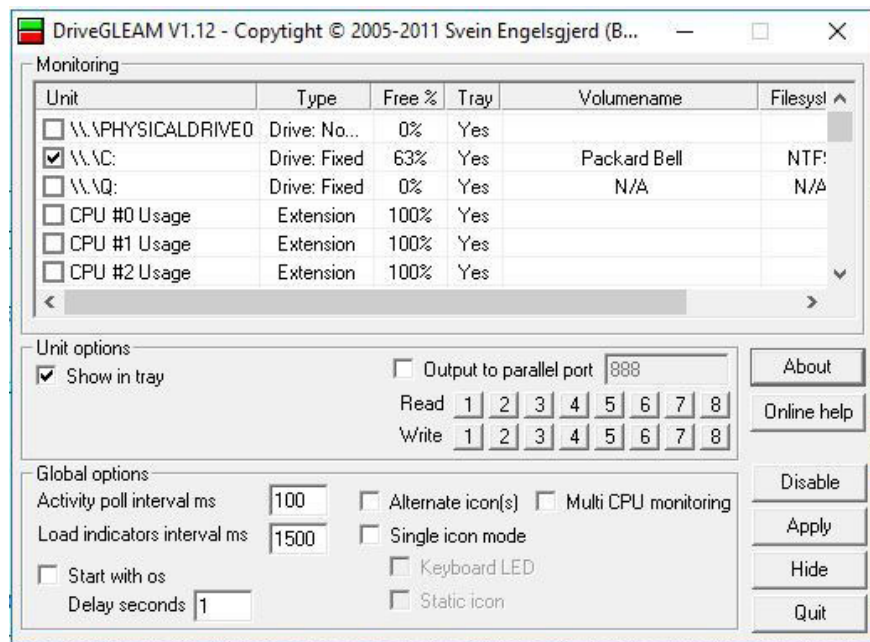
This tab shows how processes are using the hard drive in the **Disk Activity** . Its columns show you the average number of read / write times on the hard drive in real time. You can filter the **Disk Activity** list by selecting a process check box. To close a background process, right-click it and select **End Process** .



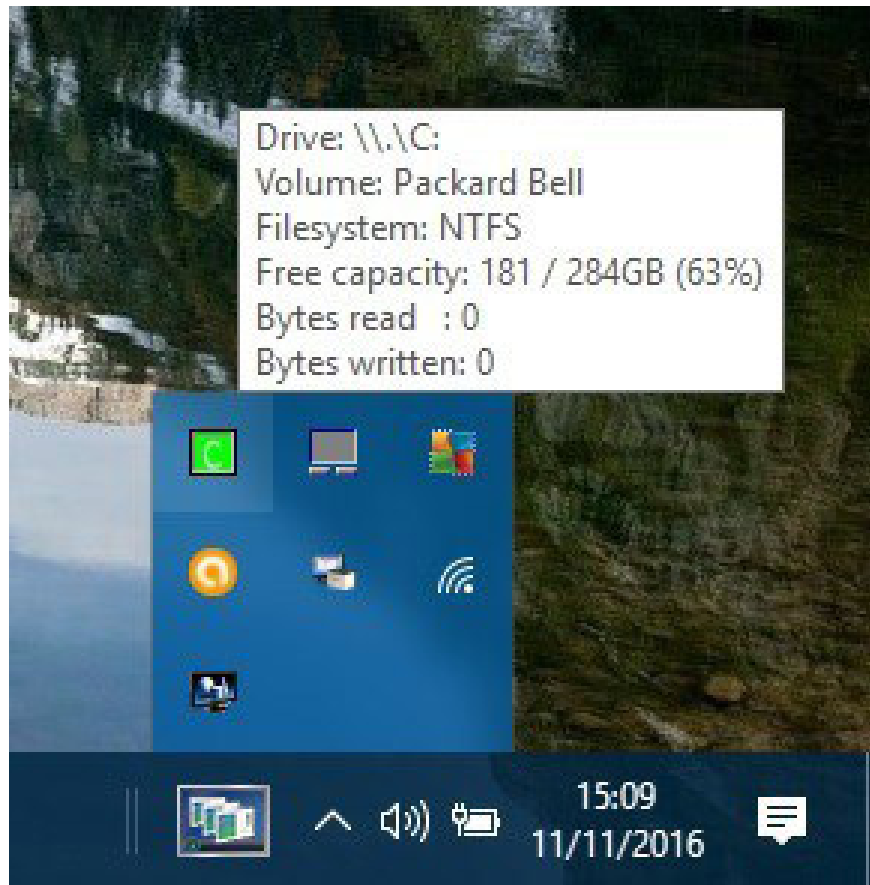
On the right there are two charts. The first is the hard drive usage chart. This chart is really like one of the charts in Task Manager. The second chart shows you the **disk queue length** (the **queue length** in the hard drive).

DriveGLEAM

In addition to the Task Manager and Resource Monitor, you can also add some hard drive monitoring software to Windows 10. One of them is DriveGLEAM, which adds HDD activity indicators to the system tray. Click **Installer** on the software's home page to install it in Windows 10. Then open the software window as shown in the screenshot below.

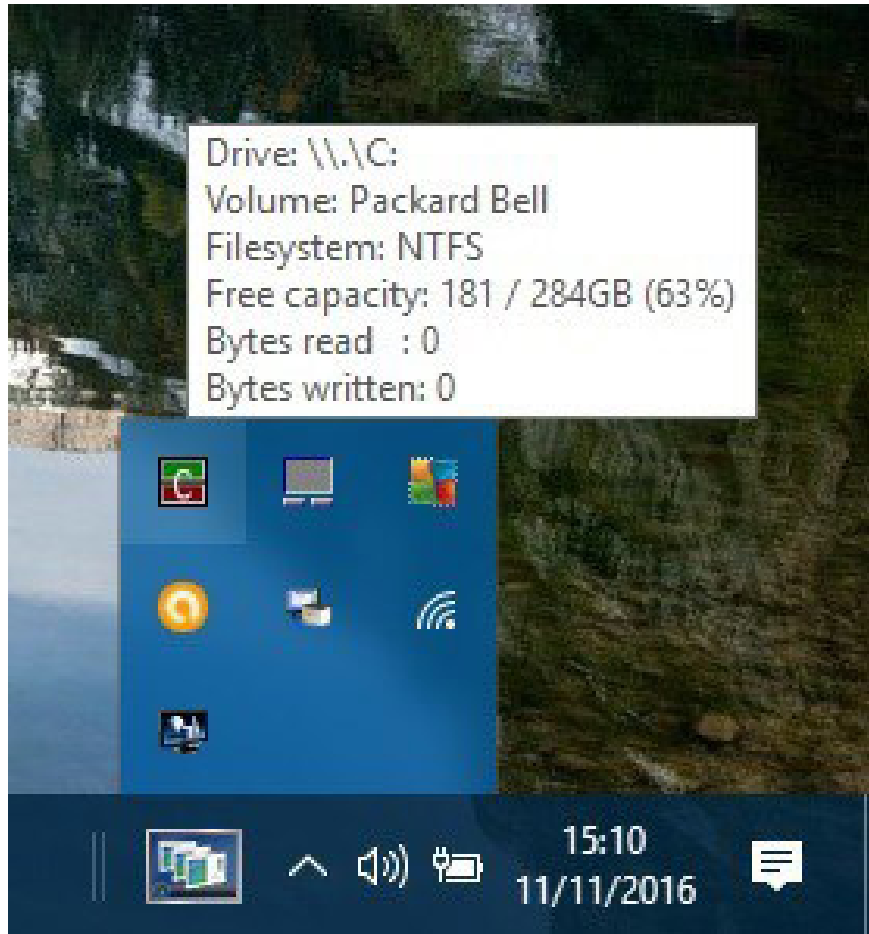


Click the **Show in tray** checkbox if this box is not selected. Then, click on the **C:** checkbox and click the **Apply** button. You will find the new hard drive activity indicator in the system tray as shown below.



The color code for the default indicator is: red = write (write), green = read (read), yellow = read + write (read + write) and blue = idle (no activity).

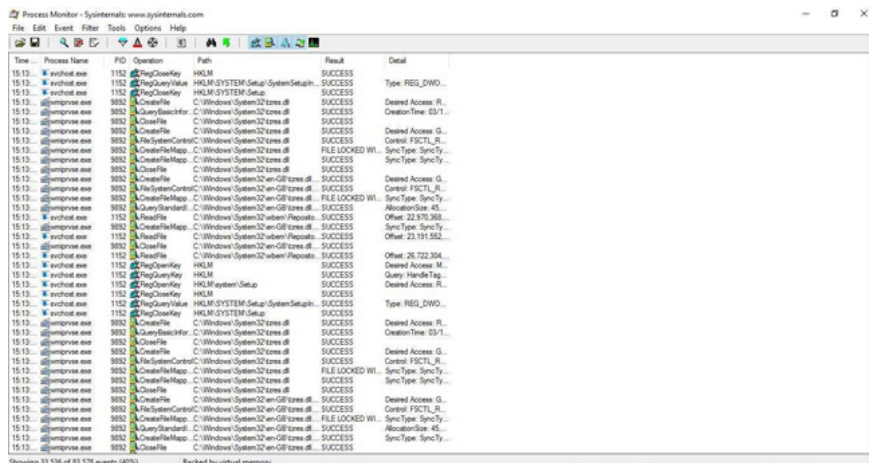
Note : You can also switch the indicator to an alternate indicator by clicking the **Alternative** checkbox on the software window and clicking **Apply** . That will change the HDD indicator to the indicator below.



Link reference: <http://www.dirtcellar.net/software/drivegleam/drivegleam.php>

Process Monitor

Process Monitor is a tool that gives you an overview of hard drive activity in the **File Summary** window. Click **Download Process Monitor** on this page to download the zip file of this software. Then extract the compressed folder in **File Explorer** and open the utility window as shown in the image below.



To track the performance of your hard drive, click **Tools> File Summary** . Then it will open an I / O activity report file as shown below. This shows the user the maximum performance of the hard drive when you open **File Summary** , but does not display in real time. You can also select the **By Folder** and **By Extension** tabs to highlight hard drive activity for folders and file formats like **EXE** .

The screenshot shows a window titled "File Summary" with a table of file access statistics. The table has columns for File Time, Total Events, Opens, Closes, Reads, Writes, Read B..., Write B..., Get ACL, Set ACL, Other, and Path. The data shows various file operations across different paths, with a total of 606 file paths listed at the bottom.

File Time	Total Events	Opens	Closes	Reads	Writes	Read B...	Write B...	Get ACL	Set ACL	Other	Path
45.9691781	20,117	4,490	3,917	1,581	233	13,593...	1,445,448	45	2	9,849	<Total>
0.3206954	6,064	1,516	1,516	0	0	0	0	0	0	3,032	C:\Windows\System32\zres.d
0.2335660	4,548	758	758	0	0	0	0	0	0	3,032	C:\Windows\System32\en-GB
0.0147278	526	151	151	0	0	0	0	0	0	224	C:\
8.6844416	514	0	0	514	0	4,210,688	0	0	0	0	C:\Windows\System32\wbem\
0.0675314	316	0	0	1	0	4,096	0	0	0	315	C:
0.0036161	234	79	78	0	0	0	0	0	0	77	C:\Users
0.0048878	202	72	65	0	0	0	0	0	0	65	C:\Users\Matthew\AppData\L
0.2536405	173	5	2	4	0	110,592	0	0	0	162	C:\Users\Matthew\AppData\L
0.0034770	170	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	166	C:\Users\Matthew\AppData\L
4.3464423	165	0	0	165	0	1,351,680	0	0	0	0	C:\Windows\System32\wbem\
0.0032621	145	54	46	0	0	0	0	0	0	45	C:\Users\Matthew
0.0015706	128	0	0	16	0	256	0	0	0	112	C:\ProgramData\AVAST Softw
0.0017482	126	42	42	0	0	0	0	0	0	42	C:\Users\Public
0.0065959	121	5	1	7	0	229,376	0	0	0	108	C:\Users\Matthew\AppData\L
0.0059617	120	30	30	30	0	101,600	0	0	0	30	C:\Windows\WinSxS\Manifest

DiskMon

DiskMon is a hard drive performance display tool in real time. Click **Download Diskmon** on this page to save the zip file of this software to Windows. Then extract this zip file by clicking the **Extract all** button in **File Explorer** .

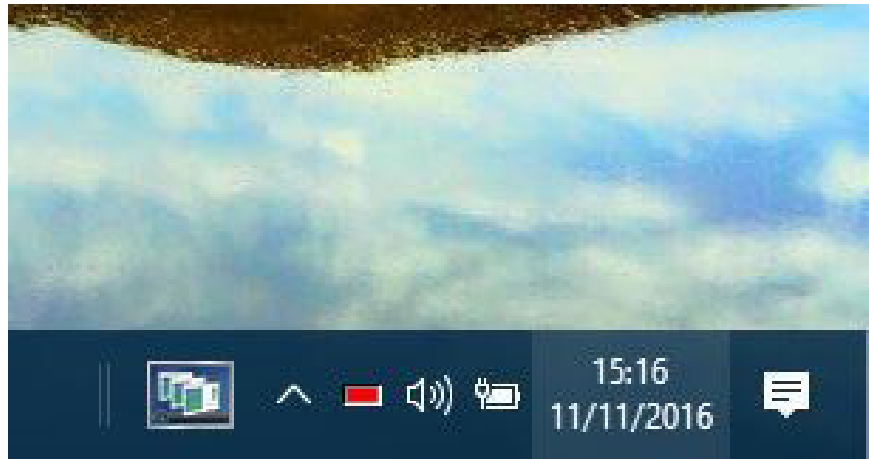
1. Unzip Zip, RAR, . files online without software

To open the software window as shown in the image below, right-click **Diskmon** and select **Run as administrator** from the menu.

The screenshot shows a window titled "Disk Monitor - SystemTools" with a table of disk activity. The table has columns for #, Time, Duration (s), Disk, Request, Sector, and Length. The data shows various disk operations, including reads and writes, across different sectors.

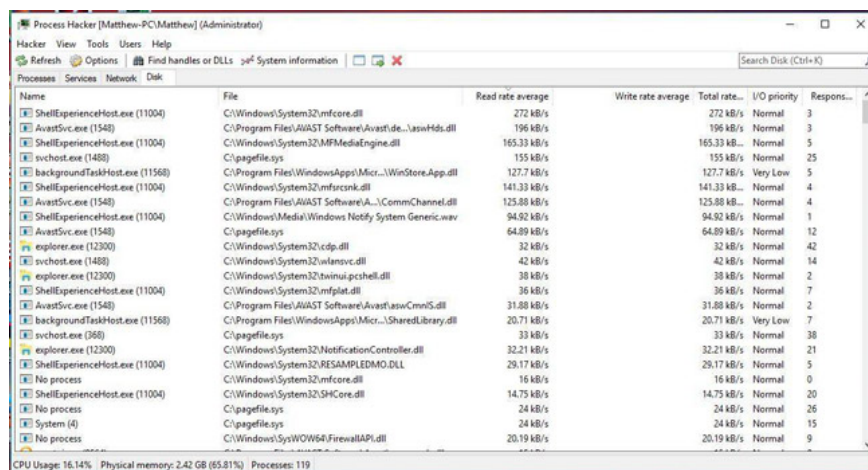
#	Time	Duration (s)	Disk	Request	Sector	Length
94	2.481567	0.0000000	0	Write	15951306	8
95	2.481798	0.0000000	0	Write	15951268	8
96	2.482069	0.0000000	0	Write	15951464	8
97	2.482322	0.0000000	0	Write	15951404	16
98	2.483003	0.0000000	0	Write	15951484	8
99	2.483268	0.0000000	0	Write	15951560	8
100	2.483953	0.0000000	0	Write	15951656	8
101	2.483277	0.0000000	0	Write	15951760	8
102	2.483546	0.0000000	0	Write	15951808	8
103	2.483771	0.0000000	0	Write	15951802	8
104	2.483993	0.0000000	0	Write	15951832	8
105	2.484262	0.0000000	0	Write	15951928	8
106	2.484530	0.0000000	0	Write	15951912	8
107	2.484797	0.0000000	0	Write	15952008	8
108	2.484979	0.0000000	0	Write	15952004	8
109	2.485202	0.0000000	0	Write	15952030	8
110	2.485462	0.0000000	0	Write	15952072	8
111	2.485696	0.0000000	0	Write	15952072	8
112	2.486146	0.0000000	0	Write	16141608	8
113	2.486546	0.0000000	0	Write	23405996	8
114	2.486993	0.0000000	0	Write	33480996	8
115	2.487393	0.0000000	0	Write	33481024	16
116	2.487830	0.0000000	0	Write	33481024	16
117	2.470196	0.0000000	0	Read	28959064	64
118	2.487629	0.0000000	0	Read	16348708	64
119	2.488180	0.0000000	0	Read	16348840	64
120	2.488488	0.0000000	0	Read	16348528	64
121	2.500410	0.0000000	0	Read	15245176	40
122	2.515290	0.0000000	0	Read	24767974	64
123	2.530411	0.0000000	0	Read	16348474	64
124	2.514249	0.0000000	0	Read	28868816	32
125	2.514650	0.0000000	0	Write	41708176	32
126	2.515107	0.0000000	0	Write	41708148	32
127	2.515528	0.0000000	0	Write	26868760	296
128	2.517860	0.0000000	0	Write	26868796	296
129	2.519141	0.0000000	0	Write	26868792	296
130	2.520344	0.0000000	0	Write	15292624	296
131	2.524216	0.0000000	0	Write	15292600	296
132	2.525926	0.0000000	0	Write	15292616	296

Note : DiskMon does not indicate which program or file is using the hard drive. It only provides details on hard drive performance. However, this is a useful tool that allows you to minimize the HDD indicator to the system tray by pressing **Ctrl + M**. Green light highlights the read operation and red indicates the write operation on the hard drive.



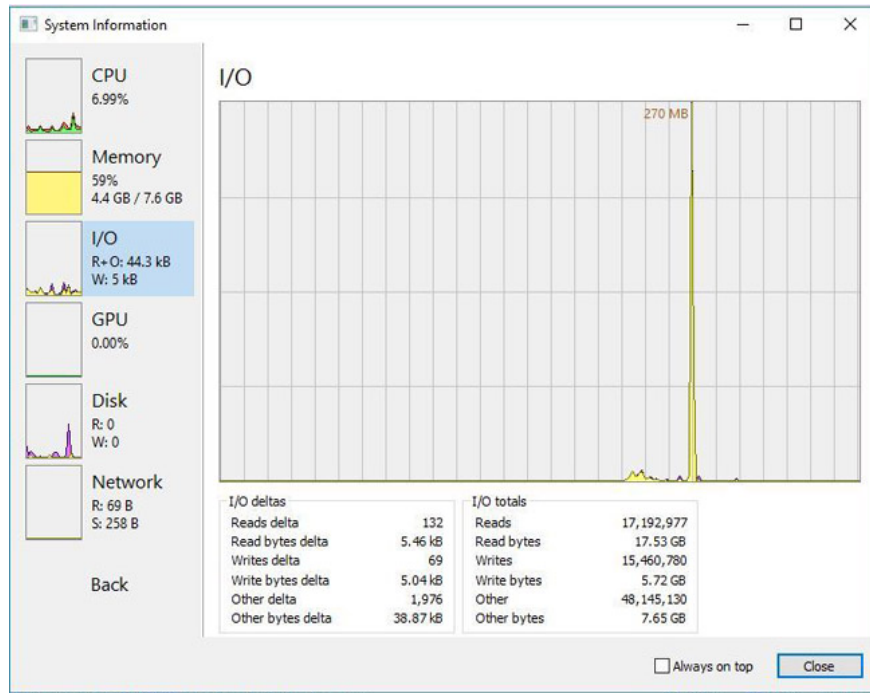
Process Hacker

Process Hacker is a system resource utility similar to **Task Manager** . Therefore, this software also includes a tab to monitor hard drive activity and other handy options. Click the **Installer** button on the website: <https://processhacker.sourceforge.io/> to save the Process Hacker setup guide and add it to Windows. Then open the window as shown below. Note that you will need to run the program as an administrator to check the operation on the hard drive.

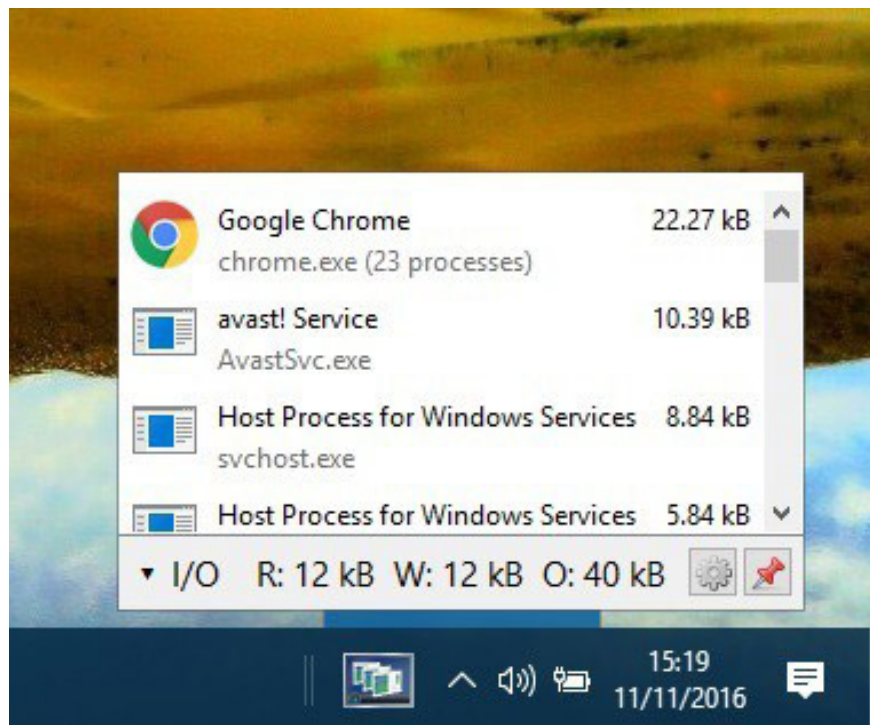


Now click the **Disk** tab on the window to open the hard drive access details in real time as above. This tab lists the software and procedures for using the hard drive on the left. Details of hard drive usage for reading and writing are also displayed in separate columns. You can terminate any software and processes listed there by selecting them on the tab and clicking the **X** button on the toolbar.

Click **System Information** to open a chart group as shown below. This group includes an I / O chart showing the hard drive's performance and statistics. Click the I / O box to expand the hard drive chart.



Process Hacker can also display hard drive activity in the system tray. Click **View > Tray icons** and then select both **I / O history** and **Disk history** from the submenu. Then you will find I / O history and Disk history in the system tray. Hover over one of the icons to expand the list of hard drive activities as shown below. You can right-click the software listed there for more options.



Here are six programs and tools to help monitor hard drive performance in Windows 10. They provide information about hard drive performance and highlight software that is using the hard drive. The best option of this is Process Hacker because it includes a lot of handy options and a **Disk** tab in detail.

See more:

1. Computer hard drive is fast, why?
2. 3 ways to check hard drive effectively to help periodically check the hard drive
3. Increase capacity and speed for hard drives

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