

How to debug a Windows application with Process Monitor

One way to get around the problem is to use a free official Microsoft utility called Process Monitor. This tool will help you diagnose and debug any Windows application errors or problems.

Do you have Windows 10 apps that aren't working as expected? Maybe it's too slow, crashes suddenly, or has loads of problems to pinpoint. One way to get around the problem is to use a free official Microsoft utility called Process Monitor. This tool will help you diagnose and debug any Windows application errors or problems.

Download and install Process Monitor

SysInternals's Process Monitor (ProcMon) utility has been around since 2006 and does a lot more than diagnose application problems. It provides the ability to view all registry keys, file system locations and network traffic.

However, it does not capture mouse pointer movements or hardware-related changes. If your goal is to capture malware, identify troubled applications, or have a high level overview of your Windows PC, then ProcMon is the most advanced tool to have.

[Download Process Monitor here](#)

No settings involved, but you must agree to the SysInternals software license terms while running the .exe file.

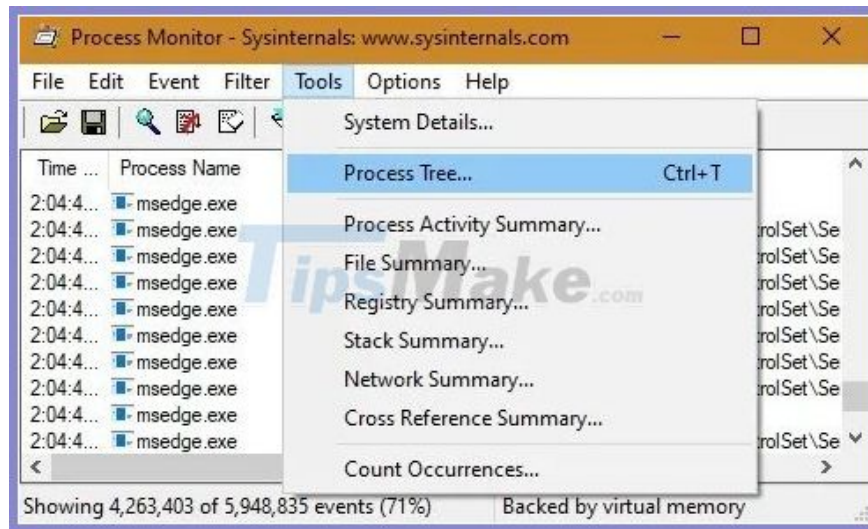
Let Process Monitor list all the events in your Windows system. All running programs are automatically analyzed.

Diagnose problems with Windows Process Monitor

When the program lists insights, you can be overwhelmed to see so many rows and columns. There are millions of entries. You don't have to care about everything, just pay attention to the following:

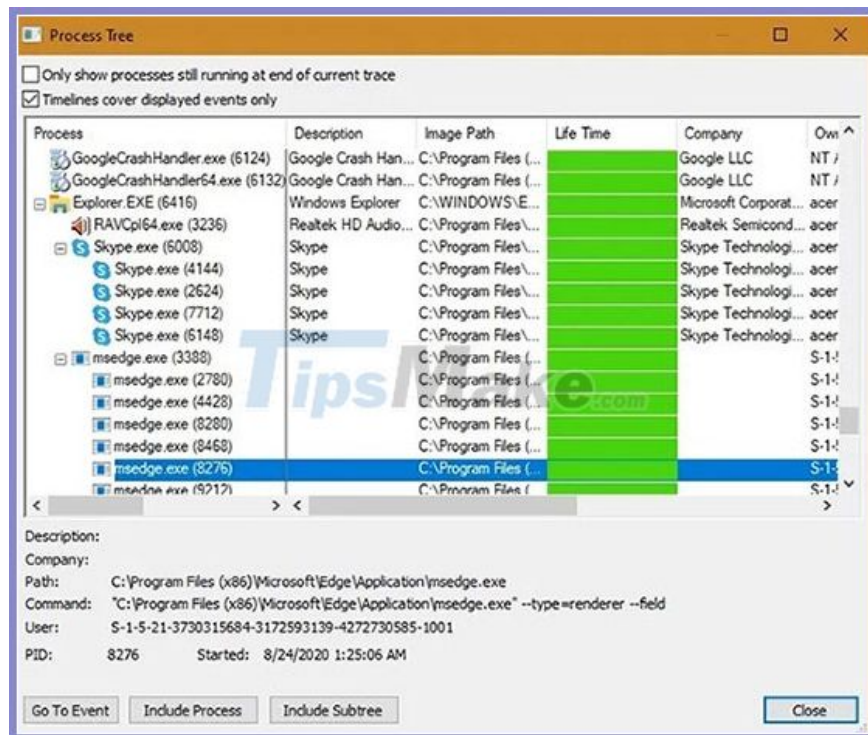
1. Process name
2. Process ID (PID) - Process ID: A four or five digit number
3. File path
4. Result code: 'Success' or more entries, such as 'name not found', 'Reparse', etc.

To quickly jump to troubled apps, go to **Tools> Process Tree** .



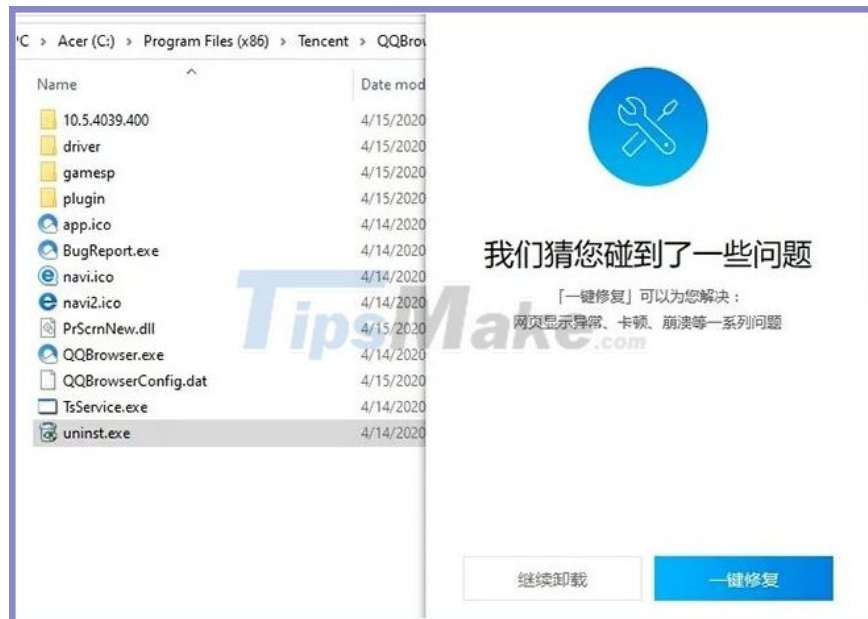
The dashboard will have all the applications open and running in your system. A complete green block in the **'Life Time'** column usually indicates there is no problem in the relevant application.

If Windows 10 programs and system are up to date, many registry errors and file health problems won't cause any trouble. For updated related issues, you can use another utility called SetUpDiag.

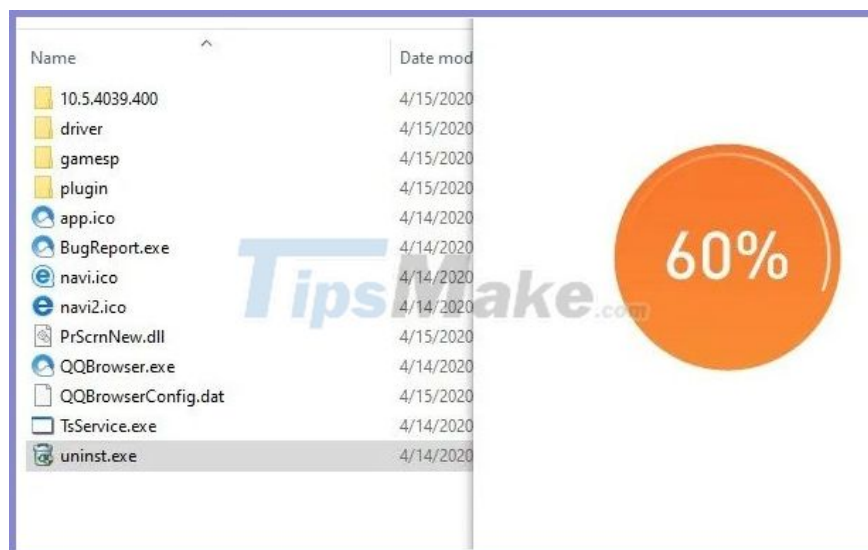


Scroll down to the problematic event and click **'Go to Event'** to navigate to the problem. In the next screen, ProcMon diagnosed many problems with Tencent's QQ Browser. You can recognize a process ID ('3428') by its .exe file.

Once the problem source is identified, you need to use an option called **'Filters'**. By right-clicking and adding a **'Include'** filter for a particular executable, you focus on just a specific app, then apply the filter. Depending on the number of entries, it may take some time. There are already thousands of entries for this filter.



Clicking on the uninstaller removed the program completely.



The uninstallation step is a nuclear option ("extreme" option) but it works with programs that have too many files missing.

When re-opening ProcMon with the same filter presets, the problem with Tencent's QQ Browser is gone.

You can use Windows Process Monitor to diagnose Windows application errors and resolve problems. It only takes a little bit of work to identify the source of the main problem.

You finished reading the article "**How to debug a Windows application with Process Monitor**" edited by the [TipsMake](#) team. We hope this article has provided you with many useful tech tips and tricks. You can search for similar articles on tips and guides. Thank you for reading and for following us regularly.