How to Take Advantage of the Performance Tab in Task Manager

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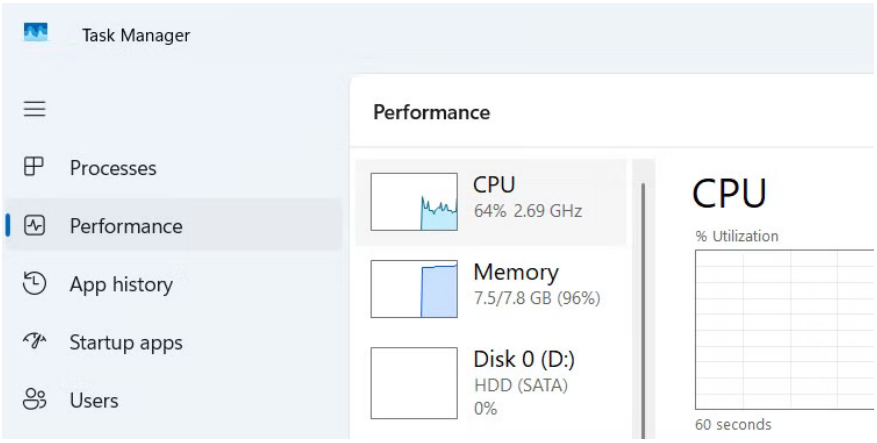
When your computer is having trouble, seeing how things are running can help you troubleshoot. And when things are running smoothly, this information can also help you optimize your system. It's all in the Performance tab of Task Manager—as well as more advanced options.

What is the Performance tab in Task Manager?

The Performance tab in Task Manager provides a comprehensive, real-time overview of your Windows computer's resource usage. It displays graphs and other useful data, allowing you to monitor system performance, identify bottlenecks, and effectively manage resource-intensive applications.

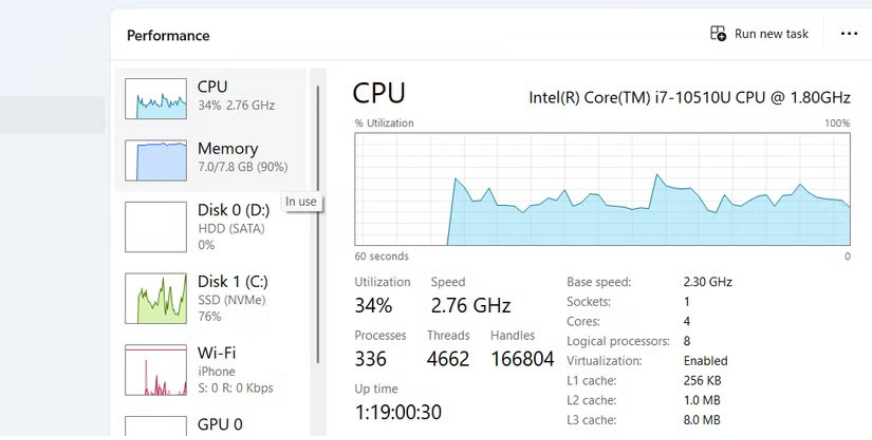
You can access the Performance tab by right-clicking an empty part of the taskbar and selecting **Task Manager** or by pressing **Ctrl + Shift + Esc** at any time. In Task Manager, click **Performance** on the left menu to access the tab.



Learn about the Performance tab and how to use it effectively

The Performance tab is divided into several sections; which sections appear depends on your settings. Here's what you'll typically see, along with examples of common usage scenarios.

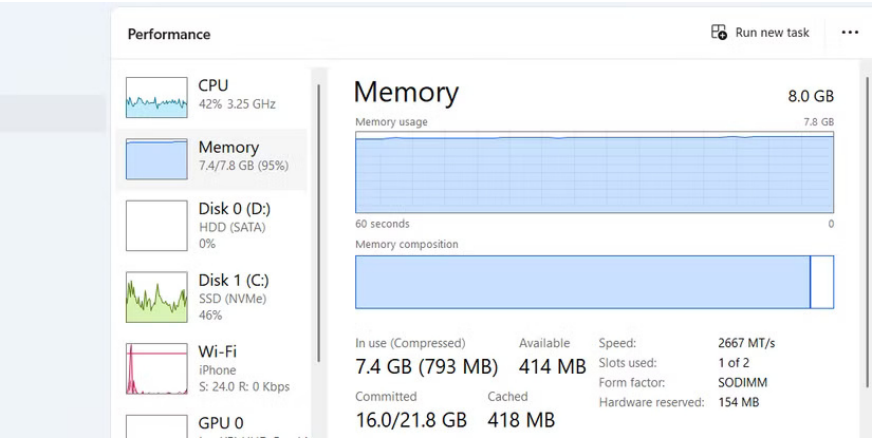
CPU



This section shows real-time CPU usage through graphs and percentages. This section shows detailed information about the processor, including name, cores, threads, and clock speed. You can also use this section to monitor system uptime and monitor running processes.

A common reason to visit the **CPU** tab is if you notice your PC slowing down while doing heavy work, such as gaming or video editing. If this section shows high usage (90 – 100%), that indicates a bottleneck. From there, you can learn how to fix high CPU usage on your Windows computer.

Memory

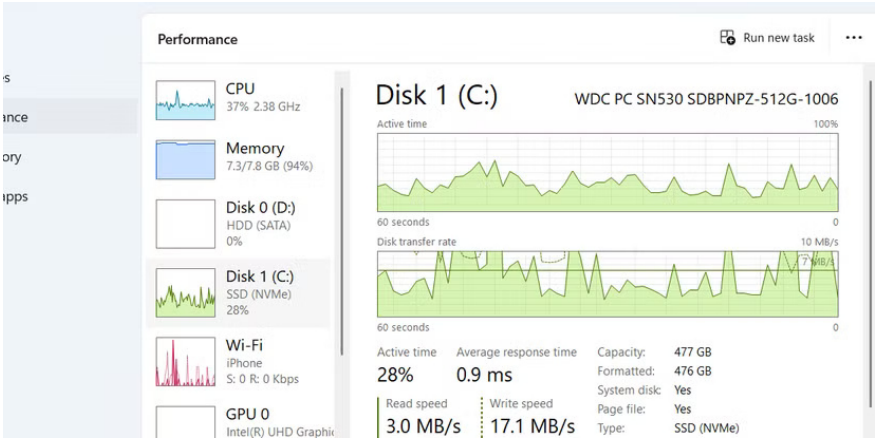


Random Access Memory (RAM), or simply "memory," is the fast, temporary memory that your PC uses to keep programs running. This section shows your computer's total RAM, including both in use and available.

Committed refers to the memory in question, while **Paged pool** shows how much of the storage drive Windows will use as a page file (a portion of the drive used as virtual RAM when physical memory runs low). Other useful information includes the memory speed and RAM slots used and available on the computer.

The memory section is most useful when you notice your computer slowing down when multitasking. When memory usage is around 90–100%, you need to do something to determine what is causing the high RAM usage and fix it. This usually means closing memory-intensive applications like Chrome and Blender.

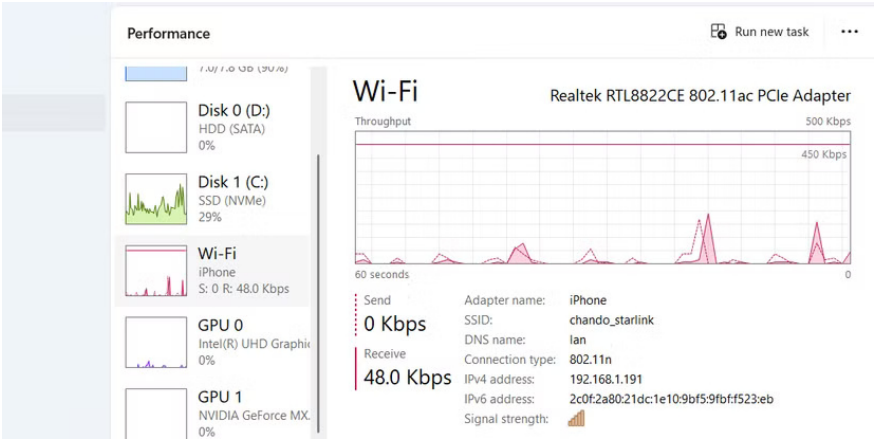
Disk



If you have more than one storage drive on your computer, each drive will have its own section in Task Manager (for example, **Disk 0** and **Disk 1**). This section shows the drive's activity, with separate graphs for uptime and transfer speeds. It also shows information like the capacity, drive type, read/write speeds, and whether it's **a System disk** (the drive where Windows is installed).

High disk usage can indicate bottlenecks, especially when transferring or loading files. The information in this section can also help you troubleshoot applications that are causing high disk usage. Studying this information will also help you make an informed decision about whether you need to upgrade your storage or switch to an SSD to speed things up.

Wi-Fi/Ethernet

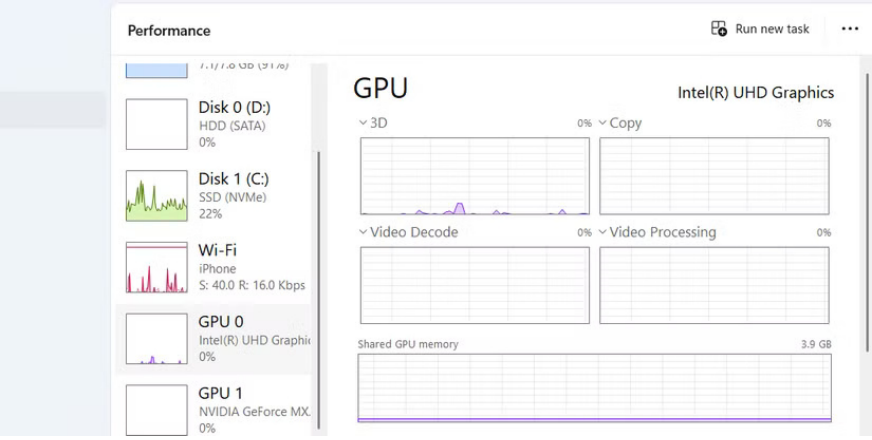


The Wi-Fi or **Ethernet** section (depending on your connection type) shows you real-time network usage data, including data sending/receiving speeds. You also get useful information like adapter name, local IP address ,

and signal strength.

This network tab is useful when you're having connection issues or slow internet speeds - you can easily check if your connection is stable or running at the expected speed. You can also use this section to identify bandwidth-hungry applications. Additionally, it's useful as a way to monitor signal strength when optimizing your router placement .

GPU



Like **Disk** , you'll see multiple **GPU tabs if you have more than one video card installed in your computer. Each tab shows** GPU usage statistics across various processes, including 3D rendering, video processing, and video decoding. It also shows specific information about the GPU itself, such as model and dedicated/shared memory.

The GPU section is important for monitoring graphics performance, especially when gaming or editing videos. It also helps you check if your graphics card is working properly. Furthermore, it can help you understand your GPU usage patterns so you know if you need to upgrade your hardware or optimize your software.

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