

Querying Event Logs

I noticed that there is a huge speed difference between using an XML Query and PowerShell Get-EventLog piped through Where-Object to filter event logs. Thanks to [this article](#), I learned how to use the XML Query via PowerShell, so you get the best of both worlds.

Know your version

Here's different commands that will show you which version PowerShell you're running.

```
$PSVersionTable.PSVersion
```

```
Get-Host
```

```
$host
```

```
$host.version
```

General concepts

There are two different cmdlets for accessing Windows Event Logs. Get-WinEvent is a newer version of Get-EventLog.

Get-WinEvent

- You have access to more information
- Because you have more information, it might take more effort to filter the data

Get-EventLog

- One clear advantage: you can use the **-After** and **-Before** attributes to easily filter results by date

Filtering results

If you want to know how to filter the results, simply pipe the cmdlet to Get-Member:

The output of the command clearly shows you the methods and properties returned:

```
PS C:\> Get-EventLog system -newest 1 | Get-Member
```

```
TypeName: System.Diagnostics.EventLogEntry#system/nhi/1074012975
```

| Name | MemberType | Definition |
|---------------------------|------------|--|
| ---- | ----- | ----- |
| Disposed | Event | System.EventHandler Disposed(System.Object, System.EventArgs) |
| CreateObjRef | Method | System.Runtime.Remoting.ObjRef CreateObjRef(type requestedType) |
| Dispose | Method | void Dispose(), void IDisposable.Dispose() |
| Equals | Method | bool Equals(System.Diagnostics.EventLogEntry otherEntry), bool Equals(System.Object obj) |
| GetHashCode | Method | int GetHashCode() |
| GetLifetimeService | Method | System.Object GetLifetimeService() |
| GetObjectData | Method | void ISerializable.GetObjectData(System.Runtime.Serialization.SerializationInfo info, System.Runtime.Serialization.StreamingContext context) |
| GetType | Method | type GetType() |
| InitializeLifetimeService | Method | System.Object InitializeLifetimeService() |
| ToString | Method | string ToString() |
| Category | Property | string Category {get;} |
| CategoryNumber | Property | int16 CategoryNumber {get;} |
| Container | Property | System.ComponentModel.IContainer Container {get;} |
| Data | Property | byte[] Data {get;} |
| EntryType | Property | System.Diagnostics.EventLogEntryType EntryType {get;} |
| Index | Property | int Index {get;} |
| InstanceId | Property | long InstanceId {get;} |
| MachineName | Property | string MachineName {get;} |
| Message | Property | string Message {get;} |
| ReplacementStrings | Property | string[] ReplacementStrings {get;} |
| Site | Property | System.ComponentModel.ISite Site {get;set;} |
| Source | Property | string Source {get;} |
| TimeGenerated | Property | datetime TimeGenerated {get;} |
| TimeWritten | Property | datetime TimeWritten {get;} |

```
UserName                Property      string UserName {get;}
EventID                  ScriptProperty System.Object EventID {get=$this.get_EventID() -band
0xFFFF;}
```

Get-EventLog Examples

```
# Show available event logs and stats
Get-EventLog -List
```

```
# get the most recent 10 system log entries
# just change the LogName from System to Application, Security, etc. to access other logs
Get-EventLog -LogName System -Newest 10
```

```
# get all system logs from the last 4 hours
Get-EventLog -LogName System -After (Get-Date).AddHours(-4)
```

```
# get all system logs from the last 24 hours
Get-EventLog -LogName System -After (Get-Date).AddDays(-1)
```

```
# View specific event using the event Index
Get-EventLog -LogName System -Index [Event_Index_Number] | Format-List
```

```
# get the most recent 10 entries from a specific source
Get-EventLog -LogName System -Source Kerberos -Newest 10
Get-EventLog -LogName System -Source Microsoft-Windows-WLAN-AutoConfig -Newest 10
```

```
# Get system logs from the last 24 hours from Source WLAN-AutoConfig
Get-EventLog -LogName system -After (Get-Date).AddDays(-1) -Source Microsoft-Windows-WLAN-
AutoConfig
```

```
# get the most recent 10 Error entries
Get-EventLog -LogName Application -EventType Error -Newest 10
Get-EventLog -LogName Security -EventType Error -Newest 10
Get-EventLog -LogName System -EventType Error -Newest 10
```

```
# Get list of Event Log Sources from the System log from the last 8 hours sorted by log count
Get-EventLog -LogName System -after (Get-Date).AddHours(-8) | Group-Object -Property Source -
NoElement | Select-Object -Property Count, Name | Sort-Object -Descending Count
```

```
# Find logins in the last 24 hours
Get-EventLog system -after (get-date).AddDays(-1) | where {$_.InstanceId -eq 7001}
```

```
# Find last computer start
$today = get-date -Hour 0 -Minute 0;
Get-EventLog system -after $today | sort -Descending | select -First 1
```

```
# Find logins and logoffs in the last 7 days
$log = get-eventlog system -source Microsoft-Windows-Winlogon -After (Get-Date).AddDays(-7);
$res = @(); ForEach ($log in $logs) {if($log.instanceid -eq 7001) {$type = "Logon"} Elseif
($log.instanceid -eq 7002){$type="Logoff"} Else {Continue} $res += New-Object PSObject -
Property @{Time = $log.TimeWritten; "Event" = $type; User = (New-Object
System.Security.Principal.SecurityIdentifier
$Log.ReplacementStrings[1]).Translate([System.Security.Principal.NTAccount])}};
$res
```

Get-WinEvent Examples

```
# Get user Logon / Logoff events
Get-WinEvent -FilterHashtable @{
    LogName='System'
    ProviderName='Microsoft-Windows-Winlogon'
    ID=7001,7002
}
```

```
Get-WinEvent -FilterHashtable @{
    LogName='Application'
    ProviderName='.NET Runtime'
    Keywords=36028797018963968
    ID=1023
    Level=2
}
```

```
}
```

Formatting output

[Source](#)

You can see what formatters are available on any system using the following command

```
Get-Command -Verb Format -Module Microsoft.PowerShell.Utility
```

Below is the output on Windows 11 as of 10/31/2023

```
PS C:\> Get-Command -Verb Format -Module Microsoft.PowerShell.Utility
```

| CommandType | Name | Version | Source |
|-------------|------------------------------|---------|--------|
| ----- | ---- | ----- | ----- |
| Function | Format-Hex | 3.1.0.0 | |
| | Microsoft.PowerShell.Utility | | |
| Cmdlet | Format-Custom | 3.1.0.0 | |
| | Microsoft.PowerShell.Utility | | |
| Cmdlet | Format-List | 3.1.0.0 | |
| | Microsoft.PowerShell.Utility | | |
| Cmdlet | Format-Table | 3.1.0.0 | |
| | Microsoft.PowerShell.Utility | | |
| Cmdlet | Format-Wide | 3.1.0.0 | |
| | Microsoft.PowerShell.Utility | | |

You also have access to the following cmdlets for other output formats

[Export-CliXml](#)

```
# Export-Clixml exports an XML representation of an object or objects and stores it in a file
Get-Acl C:\Windows | Export-CliXml -Path .\c-windows-acl.xml
```

```
# You can use Import-CliXml to save the stored object or objects back to a variable
$WindowsFolderACL = Import-CliXml -Path .\c-windows-acl.xml
```

[Export-Csv](#)

```
# Export-Csv - Add an example later
```

Redirecting data with Out-* cmdlets

[Source](#)

```
Out-Host -Paging
```

```
Get-Process | Out-Host -Paging | Format-List
```

```
Get-Process | Format-List | Out-Host -Paging
```

```
Get-Command | Out-Null
```

```
Get-Command Get-Command | Out-Printer -Name 'Microsoft Office Document Image Writer'
```

```
Get-Process | Out-File -FilePath C:\temp\processlist.txt
```

```
Get-Command | Out-File -FilePath c:\temp\output.txt -Width 2147483647
```

```
Get-EventLog -LogName System -After (Get-Date).AddDays(-1) -EntryType Error | Out-GridView
```

Grouping output

Remember to use the Get-Member cmdlet to see what properties you can use with Sort-Object and -GroupBy

```
Get-Service -Name win* | Sort-Object StartType | Format-Table -GroupBy StartType -AutoSize
```

```
PS C:\> Get-Service -Name win* | Sort-Object StartType | Format-Table -GroupBy StartType -
AutoSize
```

StartType: Automatic

| Status | Name | DisplayName |
|---------|-----------|--------------------------------------|
| Running | Winmgmt | Windows Management Instrumentation |
| Running | WinDefend | Microsoft Defender Antivirus Service |

StartType: Manual

| Status | Name | DisplayName |
|---------|---------------------|---|
| Stopped | WinRM | Windows Remote Management (WS-Management) |
| Running | WinHttpAutoProxySvc | WinHTTP Web Proxy Auto-Discovery Service |

Querying for specific logs

System uptime related logs

For the actual current system uptime via PowerShell, [look here](#). The code below will show actual related event log entries.

Use this XML Filter in the Windows Event Viewer to create a custom filtered view of Kernel-General "The operating system started at system time..." events.

| Event ID | Description |
|----------|--|
| 12 | |
| 13 | |
| 41 | The system has rebooted without cleanly shutting down first. This error could be caused if the system stopped responding, crashed, or lost power unexpectedly. |
| 1074 | Logged when an app (ex: Windows Update) causes the system to restart, or when a user initiates a restart or shutdown. |
| 6006 | Logged as a clean shutdown. It gives the message "The Event log service was stopped". |

6008

Logged as a dirty shutdown. It gives the message "The previous system shutdown at time on date was unexpected".

```
$query = @"
<QueryList>
  <Query Id="0" Path="System">
    <Select Path="System">*[System[(EventID='12')]]</Select>
    <Select Path="System">*[System[(EventID='13')]]</Select>
    <Select Path="System">*[System[(EventID='41')]]</Select>
    <Select Path="System">*[System[(EventID='1074')]]</Select>
    <Select Path="System">*[System[(EventID='6006')]]</Select>
    <Select Path="System">*[System[(EventID='6008')]]</Select>
  </Query>
</QueryList>
"@
```

```
Get-WinEvent -FilterXml $query | Format-List
```

Finding account lockouts.

XML Query

Use this XML Filter in the Windows Event Viewer to create a custom filtered view displaying account lockouts.

```
<QueryList>
  <Query Id="0" Path="Security">
    <Select Path="Security">
      *
      System[(EventID='4740')]
    </Select>
  </Query>
</QueryList>
```

PowerShell Script - Slow method

```
Get-EventLog -LogName Security | Where-Object {$_.EventID -eq 4740} |
  Select-Object -Property TimeGenerated, Source, EventID, InstanceId, Message
```


PowerShell Script - Fast method

```
$query = @"
<QueryList>
  <Query Id="0" Path="Security">
    <Select Path="Security">
      *
      [
        System[ (EventID= '4740' ) ]
      ]
    </Select>
  </Query>
</QueryList>
"@

Get-WinEvent -FilterXml $query | Format-List
```

Finding account lockouts for a particular user.

XML Query

Use this XML Filter in the Windows Event Viewer to create a custom filtered view displaying account lockouts for the administrator user.

```
<QueryList>
  <Query Id="0" Path="Security">
    <Select Path="Security">
      *
      [
        EventData[Data[@Name='TargetUserName']='administrator']
        and
        System[ (EventID= '4740' ) ]
      ]
    </Select>
  </Query>
</QueryList>
```

PowerShell Script - Fast method

```
$query = @"
<QueryList>
  <Query Id="0" Path="Security">
```

```

<Select Path="Security">
  *
  EventData[Data[@Name='TargetUserName']='administrator']
  and
  System[(EventID='4740')]
]
</Select>
</Query>
</QueryList>
"@

```

```
Get-WinEvent -FilterXml $query | Format-List
```

NPS + Azure MFA Logs - XML Query

XML Filter for custom filtered view that suppresses accounting event logs.

```

<QueryXML>
  <QueryList>
    <Query Id="0" Path="System">
      <Select Path="System">*[System[Provider[@Name='NPS']]]</Select>
      <Select Path="Security">*[System[Provider[@Name='Microsoft-Windows-Security-Auditing'] and
Task = 12552]]</Select>
      <Suppress Path="Security">*[System[Provider[@Name='Microsoft-Windows-Security-Auditing'] and
Task = 12552 and (Data='Network Policy Server discarded the accounting request for a
user.')]</Suppress>
      <Select Path="Security">*[System[Provider[@Name='Microsoft-Windows-Security-Auditing']] and
*[EventData[Data[@Name='LogonProcessName'] and (Data='IAS')]]</Select>
      <Select Path="AuthN0ptCh">*</Select>
      <Select Path="AuthZAdminCh">*</Select>
      <Select Path="AuthZ0ptCh">*</Select>
    </Query>
  </QueryList>
</QueryXML>

```

NPS Logs - XML Query

XML Filter for custom filtered view that suppresses accounting event logs.

```

<QueryXML>
<QueryList>
  <Query Id="0" Path="System">
    <Select Path="System">*[System[Provider[@Name='NPS']]]</Select>
    <Select Path="Security">*[System[Provider[@Name='Microsoft-Windows-Security-Auditing'] and
Task = 12552]]</Select>
    <Suppress Path="Security">*[System[Provider[@Name='Microsoft-Windows-Security-Auditing'] and
Task = 12552 and (Data='Network Policy Server discarded the accounting request for a
user.')]</Suppress>
    <Select Path="Security">*[System[Provider[@Name='Microsoft-Windows-Security-Auditing']]] and
*[EventData[Data[@Name='LogonProcessName'] and (Data='IAS')]]</Select>
  </Query>
</QueryList>
</QueryXML>

```

Disk logs

XML Query

XML Filter for custom filtered view for disk events.

```

<QueryList>
  <Query Id="0" Path="System">
    <Select Path="System">*[System[Provider[@Name='disk']]]</Select>
  </Query>
</QueryList>

```

VPN Client Logs

PowerShell Query

```

$query = @"
<QueryList>
  <Query Id="0" Path="Application">
    <Select Path="Application">*[System[Provider[@Name='RasAuto' or @Name='RasCfg' or
@Name='RasClient' or @Name='Rasman' or @Name='Microsoft-Windows-RasServer' or
@Name='Microsoft-Windows-RasSstp' or @Name='Microsoft-Windows-EapMethods-RasChap' or
@Name='Microsoft-Windows-NcdAutoSetup' or @Name='Microsoft-Windows-NCSI' or @Name='Microsoft-
Windows-NetworkProfile']]]</Select>
  </Query>
</QueryList>

```

```

    <Select Path="System">*[System[Provider[@Name='RasAuto' or @Name='RasCfg' or
@Name='RasClient' or @Name='Rasman' or @Name='Microsoft-Windows-RasServer' or
@Name='Microsoft-Windows-RasSstp' or @Name='Microsoft-Windows-EapMethods-RasChap' or
@Name='Microsoft-Windows-NcdAutoSetup' or @Name='Microsoft-Windows-NCSI' or @Name='Microsoft-
Windows-NetworkProfile']]]</Select>
  </Query>
</QueryList>
"@

$vpnEvents = Get-WinEvent -FilterXml $query -Oldest

# Displays events from the last 24 hours grouped by ProviderName
# This is the best view for easily browsing
$vpnEvents | ?{$_.TimeCreated -ge (Get-Date).Addhours(-24)}

```

```

# Displays events from the last 24 hours as a time sorted list
$vpnEvents | ?{$_.TimeCreated -ge (Get-Date).Addhours(-24)} | Format-List

```

XML Query

```

<QueryList>
  <Query Id="0" Path="Application">
    <Select Path="Application">*[System[Provider[@Name='RasAuto' or @Name='RasCfg' or
@Name='RasClient' or @Name='Rasman' or @Name='Microsoft-Windows-RasServer' or
@Name='Microsoft-Windows-RasSstp' or @Name='Microsoft-Windows-EapMethods-RasChap' or
@Name='Microsoft-Windows-NcdAutoSetup' or @Name='Microsoft-Windows-NCSI' or @Name='Microsoft-
Windows-NetworkProfile']]]</Select>
    <Select Path="System">*[System[Provider[@Name='RasAuto' or @Name='RasCfg' or
@Name='RasClient' or @Name='Rasman' or @Name='Microsoft-Windows-RasServer' or
@Name='Microsoft-Windows-RasSstp' or @Name='Microsoft-Windows-EapMethods-RasChap' or
@Name='Microsoft-Windows-NcdAutoSetup' or @Name='Microsoft-Windows-NCSI' or @Name='Microsoft-
Windows-NetworkProfile']]]</Select>
  </Query>
</QueryList>

```

Searching for Wired/WLAN-AutoConfig related errors

Wired-AutoConfig

```
#Powershell

$addhours = 12;

# Setup filter for error only logs
$filter = @{ LogName = "Microsoft-Windows-Wired-AutoConfig/Operational"
StartTime = [DateTime]::Now.AddHours($addhours*-1)
EndTime = [DateTime]::Now
Level = 2
}

Write-Host ([DateTime]::Now.AddHours($addhours*-1))

Write-Host ([DateTime]::Now)

$Events = Get-Winevent -FilterHashtable $filter


# Parse out the event message data
ForEach ($Event in $Events) {
    # Convert the event to XML
    $eventXML = [xml]$Event.ToXml()
    # Iterate through each one of the XML message properties
    For ($i=0; $i -lt $eventXML.Event.EventData.Data.Count; $i++) {
        # Append these as object properties
        Add-Member -InputObject $Event -MemberType NoteProperty -Force -Name
        $eventXML.Event.EventData.Data[$i].name -Value
        $eventXML.Event.EventData.Data[$i].'#text'
    }
}
```

```
# Show results stored in variable
$Events | Format-List
```

WLAN-AutoConfig

```
#Powershell

$addhours = 12;

# Setup filter for error only logs
$filter = @{ LogName = "Microsoft-Windows-WLAN-AutoConfig/Operational"
StartTime = [DateTime]::Now.AddHours($addhours*-1)
EndTime = [DateTime]::Now
Level = 2
}

Write-Host ([DateTime]::Now.AddHours($addhours*-1))

Write-Host ([DateTime]::Now)

$Events = Get-Winevent -FilterHashtable $filter


# Parse out the event message data
ForEach ($Event in $Events) {
    # Convert the event to XML
    $eventXML = [xml]$Event.ToXml()
    # Iterate through each one of the XML message properties
    For ($i=0; $i -lt $eventXML.Event.EventData.Data.Count; $i++) {
        # Append these as object properties
        Add-Member -InputObject $Event -MemberType NoteProperty -Force -Name
        $eventXML.Event.EventData.Data[$i].name -Value
        $eventXML.Event.EventData.Data[$i].'#text'
    }
}

$Events | Select-Object id, MachineName, ProcessId,TimeCreated, Adapter, LocalMac, SSID,
Cipher, Auth, PeerMac | Format-List
```

```
# Show results stored in variable
$Events | Select-Object id, MachineName, ProcessId,TimeCreated, Adapter, LocalMac, SSID,
Cipher, Auth, PeerMac | Format-List
```

Show available wireless profiles and available wireless networks

```
# show profiles
netsh wlan show profiles

# show available networks
netsh wlan show networks
```

Duo Security Events

```
# Get Duo Security related events
Get-WinEvent -FilterHashtable @{
    LogName='Application'
    ProviderName='Duo Security'
}
```

Internet availability via Universal Telemetry Client

```
$query = @"
<QueryList>
  <Query Id="0" Path="Microsoft-Windows-UniversalTelemetryClient/Operational">
    <Select Path="Microsoft-Windows-UniversalTelemetryClient/Operational">
      *[System[(EventID=55)]] and *[EventData[Data[@Name='State'] and (Data='false')]]
    </Select>
  </Query>
</QueryList>
"@

$Events = Get-WinEvent -FilterXml $query -Oldest

$Events
```

Show network disconnects

```
$query = @"
<QueryList>
  <Query Id="0" Path="Microsoft-Windows-NetworkProfile/Operational">
    <Select Path="Microsoft-Windows-NetworkProfile/Operational">
      *[System[(EventID=10001)]]
    </Select>
  </Query>
</QueryList>
"@

$Events = Get-WinEvent -FilterXml $query -Oldest

$Events
```

netsh wlanreport

netsh will generate an HTML report containing logs of the last 3 days regarding the wireless network interfaces of a device.

```
# The results will be stored here: C:\ProgramData\Microsoft\Windows\WlanReport\wlan-report-
latest.html
netsh wlan show wlanreport
```

Sources: [1](#)

Revision #27

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