
Intel(R) Trace Analyzer and Collector 8.0 Update 3 for Windows* OS
Release Notes

Overview

The Intel(R) Trace Collector is a low-overhead tracing library that performs event-based tracing in applications. You can analyze the collected trace data for performance hotspots and bottlenecks. The product is completely thread safe and integrates with C/C++, FORTRAN and multithreaded processes with and without MPI. It supports binary instrumentation and fail-safe mode. Additionally it can check for MPI programming and system errors. The Intel(R) Trace Analyzer (ITA) provides a convenient way to monitor application activities gathered by the Intel Trace Collector through graphical displays. You can view the desired level of detail, quickly identify performance hotspots and bottlenecks, and analyze their causes.

Bundled together, the Intel(R) Trace Analyzer and Collector provide optimized analysis and visualization capabilities. Together they offer fast graphical rendering of complex profiling data and they easily scale up to hundreds of processes. The tool is available on Linux* OS and Microsoft* Windows* OS.

What's New

The Intel(R) Trace Analyzer and Collector 8.0 Update 3 for Windows* OS is an update release which includes the following new features compared to the Intel(R) Trace Analyzer and Collector 8.0 Update 2 (see product documentation for more details):

- Usability improvements
 - o File descriptor virtualization
 - o Secure DLL loading
 - o Experimental scalable tracefile format
 - o Advanced aggregation
 - o Seek and jump function
- Extended interoperability
 - o Intel(R) Composer XE 2011 Update 6 support

The Intel(R) Trace Analyzer and Collector 8.0 Update 2 for Windows* OS is an update release which includes the following new features compared to the Intel(R) Trace Analyzer and Collector 8.0 Update 1 (all new feature details are listed below; other documents are unchanged):

- Enhanced security options
 - o Secure DLL Loading mode. See more details in the Special Features and Known Issues topic
 - o Intel Trace Analyzer and Collector executables are signed
- Usability improvements
 - o Improved MPI correctness checking trace file creation

- o Fixes to the cache creation process in CLI mode
- o Fixes to the trace merging function
- Extended interoperability
 - o Intel(R) Composer XE 2011 Update 4 support

The Intel(R) Trace Analyzer and Collector 8.0 Update 1 for Windows* OS is an update release which includes the following new features compared to the Intel(R) Trace Analyzer and Collector 8.0 (see product documentation for more details):

- Higher scalability :
 - o Reducing the time spent in application code through merge separation
 - o Decrease in trace load time due to the introduction of intermediate (summary) data reads during startup
- Greater usability :
 - o New Installer technology intergration plus the introduction of a new Intel(R) Trace Analyzer FLEXlm* module
- More support :
 - o Intel(R) Compiler XE 12 Beta

The Intel(R) Trace Analyzer and Collector 8.0 for Windows* OS boasts the following new features compared to previous versions (see product documentation for more details):

- Application Imbalance diagram for simplified application analysis
- Addition of an Ideal Interconnect Simulator (IIS) to understand application balance
- Custom Plug-in Framework (CPF) to simulate application behavior over different interconnects
- Intel(R) Trace Analyzer Projects to save working environment

 Key Features

This release of the Intel(R) Trace Analyzer and Collector supports the following major features:

- Advanced GUI: user-friendly interface, high-level scalability, support of structured trace file (STF) trace data, runs on Linux* OS and Microsoft* Windows* OS
- Aggregating and Filtering: detailed views of runtime behavior grouped by functions or processes
- MPI Communicator: display of communication metrics for an arbitrary time interval for MPI
- Fail-Safe Tracing: improved functionality on prematurely terminated applications with deadlock detection
- Intel(R) MPI Library Interface: support of tracing on internal MPI states, support of MPI-IO
- Correctness checking: check for MPI and system errors at run-time
- ROMIO: extended support of MPI-2 standard parallel file I/O
- Binary instrumentation on the IA32 and Intel(R) 64 architectures
- Comparison feature: compare two trace files and/or two regions (in one or two trace files)

- Counter Timeline: analyze counter data collected through provided Performance Application Programming Interface (PAPI) and OS modules or through manual use of Intel Trace Collector API
- Integrated online help and a separate command line interface for the Intel Trace Analyzer

Product Contents

This Product package contains the following components:

The Intel(R) Trace Analyzer and Collector

Documentation for the Intel(R) Trace Analyzer and Collector can be found at <installation_directory>/doc. The ITA_Reference_Guide.pdf includes a tutorial introduction for the Intel Trace Analyzer and the ITC_Reference_Guide.pdf documents the Intel Trace Collector.

The Intel Trace Analyzer comes with an online help system (html) while the Intel Trace Collector provides man pages on Linux*.

NOTES: Adobe Acrobat Reader* or another pdf reader such as xpdf is required to view the product documentation.

Third-party sources of the components of the Intel Trace Analyzer and Collector, for example those released under GPL, may be downloaded from <ftp://ftp.i kn.intel.com/pub/opensource>.

Installation

To install the Intel(R) Trace Analyzer and Collector, double-click the installer file setup.exe and follow the instructions given during the installation. You will be asked for the location of your license file and which components should be installed. For your convenience, the installer also offers you to register the Trace Analyzer with the trace file extension created by the Trace Collector (*.stf).

After installation, read '<installation_directory>/doc/ITC_Reference_Guide.pdf' and '<installation_directory>/doc/ITA_Reference_Guide.pdf'.

Before using the Intel Trace Collector, you should source <installation_directory>/bin/itacvars.bat to set the appropriate environment variables for smooth functioning of the software.

You can invoke the Intel Trace Analyzer through its entry in the Start Menu, by double-clicking '<installation_directory>/bin/traceanalyzer.exe', or by executing it from a command shell. If you have registered, double-clicking tracefiles (*.stf) opens them with the Intel Trace Analyzer.

----- Installing the license -----

The Intel Trace Analyzer and Collector uses Macrovision Corporation FLEXlm* electronic licensing technology. License management is transparent to you. During the installation you will be prompted for a valid license, which is required to successfully complete the installation of the Intel Trace Analyzer and Collector. On Linux* OS, the provided scripts itacvars.sh or itacvars.csh ensures that the path of your license file is contained in the environment variable INTEL_LICENSE_FILE.

Since the Intel(R) Trace Analyzer uses a time-limited license, the license file must remain in place on the system.

----- Uninstalling the Intel Trace Analyzer -----

Linux* Systems:

To uninstall the Intel Trace Analyzer and Collector run the script '<installation_directory>/uninstall.sh'.

Microsoft* Windows* Operating Systems:

Uninstalling the Intel Trace Analyzer is done in the usual way through the Start->Settings->Control Panel->Add or Remove Programs menu selection. Choose the Intel Trace Analyzer and Collector and select Remove.

Note: Uninstalling the Intel Trace Analyzer and Collector will remove the software components while keeping the license file and other files in <installation_directory> which may have been created by you. It may also not reset its entry in the INTEL_LICENSE_FILE environment variable.

The Intel Trace Analyzer and Collector software and licenses can coexist with previous versions.

----- Special Features and Known Issues -----

The IntelR Trace Analyzer and Collector 8.0 Update 2 for Windows* OS provides enhanced security options. Use HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE\Software\Intel\ITAC registry key to define the following registry entries:

- SecureDynamicLibraryLoading enables the dynamic library loading enhanced security mode. Set the value to enable|yes|on|1. This option is disabled by default.
- VT_MPI_DLL and VT_FMPI_DLL specify the MPI library path to be used in the dynamic library loading enhanced security mode.
- SecurePath specifies additional secure paths to be used in the dynamic library loading enhanced security mode: paths must be separated with semicolon(';'). This option is useful when static tracing library VT*.lib is linked into the executable.

NOTE: the VT_MPI_DLL and VT_FMPI_DLL environment variables have no effect in the dynamic library loading enhanced security mode. See the Intel(R) Trace Analyzer and Collector for Windows* OS Reference Manual for more details on these variables.

The Intel Trace Analyzer may get into an undefined state if too many files are opened at the same time.

Certain versions of ld (for example the ones distributed with Red Hat Enterprise Linux* 4) have problems linking with the Intel Trace Collector shared libraries. As a workaround you can use the static libraries or specify the following options to ld: "-Wl,--allow-shlib-undefined -Wl,--noinhibit-exec" which will result in a correct binary.

In some cases symbols information may appear incorrectly in the Intel Trace Analyzer if you discarded symbols information from object files.

MPI Correctness Checking is available for the Intel(R) MPI Library only.

The Intel Trace Collector for Microsoft* Windows* OS has the following limitations compared to Version for Linux* OS:

- no distributed memory checking
- itcpin is not supported if the "McAfee Host Intrusion Prevention"* antivirus software is active

See the Reference Guides for details.

System Requirements

Supported Hardware

Systems based on Genuine IA-32 processors:

- A system based on the Intel(R) Pentium(R) 4 processor or higher
- Intel(R) Core(TM) i7 processor recommended
- 1 GB of RAM per core
- 2 GB of RAM per core recommended
- 1 GB of free hard disk space

Systems based on Genuine Intel(R) 64 processors:

- Intel(R) Core(TM) processor family or higher
- Intel(R) Xeon(R) 5500 processor series recommended
- 1 GB of RAM per core
- 2 GB of RAM per core recommended
- 1 GB of free hard disk space

Supported Software

Operating Systems

Systems based on the IA-32 architecture:

- Microsoft* Windows 7*

Systems based on the Intel(R) 64 architecture:

Microsoft* Windows HPC Server 2008*

Microsoft* Windows* HPC Server 2008 R2

Microsoft* Windows Server 2008*

Microsoft* Windows* Server 2008 R2

Microsoft* Windows 7*

MPI implementations

Intel(R) MPI Library 3.x

Intel(R) MPI Library 4.x

Technical Support

Your feedback is very important to us. To receive technical support, you need to be registered for an Intel(R) Premier Support account on our secure web site. You can use your Intel(R) Premier Support Account for the Intel(R) Trace Analyzer and Collector to file issues/comments and recommendations for the product.

This package is supported through Intel(R) Premier Support. Direct customer support requests at:

<https://premier.intel.com>

General information on Intel(R) product-support offerings may be obtained at:

<http://www.intel.com/software/products/support>

The Intel(R) Trace Analyzer and Collector home page can be found at:

<http://www.intel.com/go/traceanalyzer>

The Intel(R) Trace Analyzer and Collector support web site,

<http://www.intel.com/software/products/support/itac>

provides top technical issues, frequently asked questions, product documentation, and product errata.

Requests for licenses can be directed to the Registration Center at:

<http://www.intel.com/software/products/registrationcenter>

Before submitting a support issue, see the Intel(R) Trace Analyzer and Collector for Windows* OS Getting Started Guide for details on post-install testing to ensure that basic facilities are working.

When submitting a support issue to Intel(R) Premier Support, please provide specific details of your problem, including:

- The Intel(R) Trace Analyzer and Collector package name and version information
- Host architecture (for example, IA-32 or Intel(R) 64 architecture)
- Compiler(s) and versions
- Operating system(s) and versions
- Specifics on how to reproduce the problem. Include makefiles, command lines, small test cases, and build instructions.

You can obtain version information for the Intel(R) Trace Analyzer and Collector package in the file itacsupport.txt.

Submitting Issues

- Go to <https://premier.intel.com>
- Log in to the site. Note that your username and password are case-sensitive.
- Click on the "Submit Issue" link in the left navigation bar.
- Choose "Development Environment (tools,SDV,EAP)" from the "Product Type" drop-down list. If this is a software or license-related issue, choose the "Intel(R) Trace Analyzer & Collector, Windows*" option from the "Product Name" drop-down list.
- Enter your question and complete the fields in the windows that follow to successfully submit the issue.

Note: Notify your support representative prior to submitting source code where access needs to be restricted to certain countries to determine if this request can be accommodated.

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