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Windows 10 Can Now Show You the Data it's Sending Back to Microsoft

Microsoft's and its partners' engineers use the telemetry data from Windows 10 to diagnose crashes, learn about its users hardware configurations and more. It's on by default and while Microsoft tells you that it collects this data and gives you a choice between basic (the default setting) and "full" diagnostics, it never allowed you to actually see exactly what was being sent back to Redmond. Windows 10 insiders will soon be able to install a new program from the Microsoft Store, the "Windows Diagnostic Data Viewer," that gives them full access to all the diagnostic data from their Windows device. Users can download this free tool without the need for a Microsoft account. What kind of data can you expect to see? Here is Microsoft's list:

1. Common Data, like the Operating System's name, the Version, Device ID, Device Class,
2. Diagnostic level selection and so on.
3. Device Connectivity and Configuration such as device properties and capabilities, preferences and settings, peripherals, and device network information.

4. Product and Service Performance data that show device health, performance and reliability data, movie consumption functionality on the device and device file queries. It's important to note that this functionality is not intended to capture user viewing or, listening habits.

5. Product and Service Usage data includes details about the usage of the device, operating system, applications and services.

6. Software Setup and Inventory such as installed applications and install history, device update information.

While Microsoft hopes that this tool allows users to validate and verify what it has been collecting from machines. Microsoft is also launching a small update to its Privacy Dashboard. Here, the company will now provide a news feed-like view of all the data it collects as you search on Bing, talk to Cortana and use other Microsoft services where you are an authenticated user.