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Using WinDbg to examine ASP.NET applications Posted by Will Steele - 10 Feb 2010 - 23:49

I am trying to really study ASP.NET from a variety of levels. I am trying to answer some simple questions, such as, how can I tell how much memory an application uses upon instantiation? How can I tell where (and how much) data is cached? I just need a starting point to look at this from the WinDbg side of things. Once I get an idea of how to get into the relevant process I can go from there. I tried attaching to the appropriate .exe but couldn't cross-reference the worker processes that were user to handle the request. Thanks for the help.

Re:Using WinDbg to examine ASP.NET applications Posted by Robert Kuster - 18 Feb 2010 - 16:17

Will, Hi.

The worker process for ASP.NET applications is aspnet wp.exe which internally heavily relies on mscorwks.dll.

TODOs:Attach WinDbg to aspnet wp.exeload SOS or SOSEX and examine the process in almost the same way you would any other .NET application

For instance you could use the following WinDbg commands after a successful attach:

- > .loadby sos mscorwks
- > !eeheap -gc

> ...

Also check out: Production Debugging for .NET Framework Applications. You can download the PDF here. It is a must read for any serious IIS and ASP.NET debugging.IISDebugTools: Among others it contains the iisdbg.dll WinDbg extension which helps to extract additional information from IIS (inteinfo.exe). ADPlus: If often is an invaluable help while troubleshooting IIS or its worker processes. I hope this helps,

Robert

Re:Using WinDbg to examine ASP.NET applications Posted by Will Steele - 18 Feb 2010 - 16:43

Awesome. Thanks for the pointers and the link to the PDF. I had not even seen that one yet. Looking forward to working with it. Again, much appreciated.
