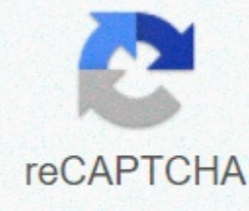




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## Android monitor network traffic per application

Both mobile and broadband data caps have made people very conscientious about their data usage. Windows 10 includes a built-in network usage screen that, unlike its predecessor, is actually a pretty useful way to keep an eye on bandwidth consumption. Read on as we show you how. What does (and not) Windows 10 Network Usage Monitor do? In Windows 8 Microsoft introduced new ways to monitor network usage, albeit the first incarnation of the built-in feature was short-sighted limited to only Windows Store apps (so if you used Skype from the Windows Store it would count this data, but if you used Skype for Desktop, aka normal Skype then it wouldn't). RELATED: How to monitor internet bandwidth usage and avoid overruns of data caps Network usage and bandwidth monitoring in Windows 10 significantly improves on your Windows 8 system by including data for all apps, not just Windows Store-supplied applications. As such, it's an excellent way to easily check which apps use the most (or least) data during the previous 30-day window. As convenient and improved as the Windows 10 network usage apps are, there's one important thing to note: they only monitor, as you would expect, the data usage of the computer on which you access them. If you need more advanced monitoring across the network to keep an eye on all computers and devices on your network (and not just a single PC), we suggest checking out our article: How to monitor internet bandwidth usage and avoid exceeding data caps. However, if all you need is a quick check to see what uses the most bandwidth during the last 30-day period, the built-in tools are fast, easy and always on. How to control network usage in Windows 10 There are two ways to check network usage in Windows 10, but we strongly prefer one method over the other. Nevertheless, we want to highlight both methods and explain why one gives a clear advantage. The first method is a holdover from the Task Manager update in Windows 8. To view network usage through Task Manager, access Task Manager via keyboard shortcut (CTRL+SHIFT+ESC) or type Task Manager in the search box on the Start menu. In Task Manager, select the App History tab. There you will find two columns related to data consumption: Network and Metered Network. (Metered networking was a feature introduced in Windows 8.1 to help manage data usage on restricted/paid data connections, you can read more about it here.) While it's great that this information is right at hand in Task Manager, you'll notice something in our screenshot above. All visible apps are either core apps in the Windows Store, and Windows Store apps are Windows Store apps. Maddeningly, Task Manager still does not show data usage for common old traditional Windows applications. In fact, if we sort the apps into by name and then compares the list to the other location you can check network usage, you will see Chrome appear in the Network Usage list and not in Task Manager. Why they couldn't use the same data they apparently have in both panels is a mystery. As such, if you want to get a better picture of your computer's data usage, you depend on the information in the network settings section. Go to Settings > Network & Internet. In the left navigation pane, select the top item in the Data Usage left navigation pane. Here's a general overview of the last 30 days. The circular graph will show you data used over different connections (in the case of our screenshot we have just used Ethernet, but on a laptop you have used on both wired and Wi-Fi networks, you will see a mix of sources). You can dig deeper and get a more detailed overview by clicking on the small link under the graph labeled Usage Details. Here we find the missing data about apps from outside the Windows Store (which is most of the apps most people use). Chrome, which is missing from the Task Manager list completely, appears at the top as expected. Have an urgent Windows 10 question? Shoot us an email on ask@howtogeek.com and we will do our best to respond to it. There is no shortage of system monitoring apps for Android, ranging from small one-glance widgets to deep dive apps that offer incredible details. To keep an eye on your phone's performance and status, we found Elixir 2 is the best tool for the job. If you want to examine an external PC from an Android phone, PC Monitor is the best way to do it. Elixir 2Platform: Android Price: Free download PagePC MonitorPlatform: Android Price: Free download PageG / O Media can get a commissionAnker Nebula Solar ProjectorElixirOffers detailed information about an Android device hardware, including battery status and remaining charging cycles, wireless network (3G, Wi-Fi and Bluetooth) hardware and status, used and available internal and SD storage, CPU and memory utilization, system settings and other hardware components Allow users to change system settings (brightness, timeout, volume, rings, networks, etc.) enable or disable hardware sensors, and manage installed applications from the information screen inside the appOffers home screen widgets that can be customized to fit on any home screen and provide direct access to frequently used system settings or simply display system performance and resource utilizationOffers optional personal and admin add-on applications that manage contacts, missed calls, SMS messages and tasks at the admin level for users willing to grant multiple permissions. PC Monitor Allows you to monitor system status and performance remotely for multiple remote computers, including CPU utilization, memory allocation and utilization, usage history, and uptimeProspects ping and response time from phone to remote systemOffers access to system services, network and interface status, running processes, and logged-in users. Allows you to browse hard drives and the file system, event logs, system reports, and start/stop/pause commands to system services, logs of users, users, process, supports prompts on remote systems, allows you to manage users (enable/disable/reset passwords) in Active DirectorySelects you to update the system through Windows Update, manage Exchange servers, and manage virtual systems in Hyper-VSends alerts when a remote computer goes down, Starting up, having a low battery, or when services stop unexpectedly, users log in or out, and more, including custom alertsCrypt monitoring traffic between the phone and the remote systemElixir may be overkill for some people who want a system monitor, or a tool to keep an eye on storage or running processes, but it is the sheer amount of information that Elixir collects and presents to you that does best. In addition, because Elixir allows you to manage and change so many system options in the same program, you can not go wrong. Elixir gives you one place to go to learn everything you could possibly want to know about an Android device, and then adjust everything from sensor settings to installed applications, all in one app. PC Monitor provides you with a comprehensive monitoring package to connect and examine remote computers from your Android device. If you manage a Windows or Linux home server (or a few servers in a small business setting) and need to be able to tunnel into them even when you're away from your desktop, PC Monitor gives you quick access to it from your Android phone. It even allows you to manage virtual devices, and control almost every aspect of the remote system. Elixir's real downside is that it is quite resource-intensive by itself. The app starts when your Android phone starts up, and because it touches almost every aspect of your device, it requires some serious permissions. PC Monitor, on the other hand, is really only limited in the fact that it does not support Mac OS in addition to Windows and Linux.When it comes to managing an Android device locally, you have many options. If you don't want something as heavy (or as robust) as Elixir, try the previously mentioned MinInfo, another system administrator who can tell you all about your system with a single glance and has some attractive widgets to boot. It doesn't make as deep a dive as Elixir does, but if you're concerned with the basics like storage, battery and CPU/memory utilization, it's a good option. OS Monitor and Advanced System Monitor Pro are all about running processes, network connectivity and traffic and resource utilization. If you want to see how an app, service, or activity affects your system, they're both good tools, but they're aimed at benchmarkers and system testers, not monitoring. They are weak on widgets and reporting tools, so you need to keep an eye on it manually. Perfect System Monitor, although not so perfect, gives you a good widget on the home screen that displays basic system information and uptime with little configuration. It does not show and it does not let you manage your phone, but it shows a little more than MinInfo, albeit uglier. These apps just scratch the surface of the wealth of system monitoring tools for Android: If none of them catch your fancy, there's likely another just a tap away. When it comes to remote system management, PC Monitor is all about it. There are not lots of external management applications that enable Android devices to manage other systems remotely. There are many apps that act as RDP or VNC clients, or that turn your phone into a remote control or remote viewer for your computer, but not too many that let you monitor one. Lifehacker's App Directory is a new and growing directory of recommendations for the best applications and tools in a variety of given categories. You can now Alan Henry, the author of this post, on alan@lifehacker.com, or even better, follow him on Twitter or Google+. Google+.