

AMERICAS CONTACT support@10zig.com 866.865.5250

Unified Write Filter Configuration

In Windows Embedded Standard 8, Unified Write Filter (UWF) protects volumes from write operations. UWF intercepts write actions and redirects them to overlay storage. With UWF, you can do stateless operations by creating a protected OS image, and you reduce the wear on flash media. UWF supports RAM- and disk-based overlays. Both types of overlay discard all changes on restart. UWF also provides the ability to perform *dynamic protection*, which means adding and removing volumes at run time.

One of the important features of UWF is *intelligent filtering*, which enables specified files and folders as well as certain registry keys to be persisted, while protecting the rest of the volume. The list of these specified files, folders, and registry keys is known as the *exclusion list*. You can use intelligent filtering to persist changes to an antivirus signature file or to a directory such as a user's Documents folder within the protected volume. You can also use intelligent filtering to persist a registry key, such as the Domain Secret key, in a protected system.

You can configure UWF at run time by using either of the following methods:

- UWF manager, a command-line configuration utility (Uwfmgr.exe).
- UWF Windows Management Instrumentation (WMI) provider that uses WMI properties and 1 GB of operating system memory (32-bit system) or 2 GB of operating system memory (64-bit system)

UWF manager provides many options and configuration tasks that do not exist in Enhanced Write Filter (EWF) manager or File-based Write Filter (FBWF) manager, such as adding registry exclusions and adding volumes. UWF manager syntax is very different from both EWF manager and FBWF manager, because it categorizes configuration into six high-level parameters to simplify configuration and avoid parameter or argument overloading.

Lab Exercise Purpose

In this lab exercise, you will learn how to configure UWF at run-time by using UWF manager (Uwfmgr.exe).

Prerequisites

Important Most UWF configuration commands are executed when the next restart happens, so the system must be restarted for the command to take effect.

To perform the steps in this lab exercise, the following hardware and software are required:

- Hardware that meets Standard 8 requirements.
- An installed Standard 8 image that includes UWF.

1 CO2iG TECHNOLOGY Thin Client Technology At Its Peak

10ZiG Technology

EMEA CONTACT support@10zig.eu +44(0) 116.214.8650 AMERICAS CONTACT support@10zig.com 866.865.5250

Note By default, UWF is disabled and there are no protected volumes, files, or folders in the exclusion list.

For more information, see Media and Requirements in the Standard 8 documentation.

Step 1: Ensure that your device will start and perform well after UWF is enabled

In this step, you will change system settings that can prevent your device from starting after UWF is enabled or that can cause poor performance.

- 1. On the embedded device, open a command prompt as an administrator. For Windows Shell, to open a command prompt, do the following:
 - a. In Windows Explorer, navigate to \Windows\System32,right-click cmd.exe, and then click **Run as Administrator**.
 - b. Accept the User Account Control (UAC) prompt.
- 2. To change UWF so that it does not prevent your device from starting, at the command prompt, type the following command:

bcdedit /set {current} bootstatuspolicy ignoreallfailures

3. To disable indexing service, type the following command:

sc config cisvc start= disabled

4. To disable Prefetch/SuperFetch services, type the following command:

sc config sysmain start= disabled

5. To disable system restore, run the following Visual Basic script:

```
strComputer = "."
Set objWMIService = GetObject("winmgmts:" _
    & "{impersonationLevel=impersonate}!\\" _
    & strComputer & "\root\default")
Set objItem = objWMIService.Get("SystemRestore")
```

```
errResults = objItem.Disable("")
```



EMEA CONTACT support@10zig.eu +44(0) 116.214.8650 AMERICAS CONTACT support@10zig.com 866.865.5250

Step 2: Protect a volume on a Standard 8 system

In this step, you will use UWF to protect a volume on a Standard 8 system.

- 1. On the embedded device, open a command prompt as an administrator. For Windows Shell, to open a command prompt, do the following:
 - a. In Windows Explorer, navigate to \Windows\System32, right-click cmd.exe, and then click **Run as Administrator**.
 - b. Accept the UAC prompt.
- 2. To get UWF help, at the command prompt, type uwfmgr.exe.

The following help and usage information for high-level parameters appears.

C41	Administrator: C:\Windows\System32\cmd.exe	x
C:\Windows\system32>u Unified Write Filter (Copyright (C) Microso	wfmgr.exe Configuration Utility version 6.2.8175 ft Corporation. All rights reserved.	^
uwfmgr[.exe] paramete:	r [commands] [arguments]	Ξ
Description: Configures Unified	d Write Filter (UWF) lockdown options.	
Parameter List: filter Config overlay Config volume Config file Config registry Config get-config Displa next sessions. help or ? Displa	gures and displays UWF settings such as filtering state. gures and displays overlay settings. gures and displays volume filtering settings. gures and displays file exclusion settings. gures and displays registry key exclusion settings. ays all configuration information for both the current and ays help for high-level parameters.	a
Examples: uwfmgr.exe get-co uwfmgr.exe filter uwfmgr.exe volume	nfig enable protect c:	
For more information a a parameter immediate	about these UWFMGR parameters and their arguments, specify ly before help (e.g. uwfmgr.exe filter help).	,

Note To get help and usage information for any high-level parameter, run uwfmgr.exe %parameter_name% without any arguments, for example, uwfmgr.exe filter.

3. To check UWF settings, type uwfmgr.exe get-config.

The configuration status for the current session and the next session after restarting appears, including outcome information includes the Filter status, Overlay settings, Volume protection settings including file exclusion, and registry exclusion settings as shown in the following figure.



EMEA CONTACT support@10zig.eu +44(0) 116.214.8650 AMERICAS CONTACT support@10zig.com 866.865.5250

Administrator: C:\Windows\System32\cmd.exe	_ (• X
C:\Windows\system32>uwfmgr.exe get-config Unified Write Filter Configuration Utility version 6.2.8175 Copyright (C) Microsoft Corporation. All rights reserved.		^
Current Session Settings		≡
FILTER SETTINGS Filter state: OFF HORM state: OFF Pending commit: N/A		
OVERLAY SETTINGS Type: RAM Maximum size: 4096 MB Warning Threshold: 512 MB Critical Threshold: 1024 MB		
UOLUME SETTINGS		
REGISTRY EXCLUSIONS		
Next Session Settings		
FILTER SETTINGS Filter state: OFF HORM state: OFF Pending commit: N/A		
OVERLAY SETTINGS Type: RAM Maximum size: 4096 MB Warning Threshold: 512 MB Critical Threshold: 1024 MB		
UOLUME SETTINGS		
REGISTRY EXCLUSIONS		

4. To enable UWF, type uwfmgr.exe filter enable.

After you restart, the filter is enabled for the next session as shown in the following figure.



5. To check UWF status, type uwfmgr.exe get-config.



EMEA CONTACT support@10zig.eu +44(0) 116.214.8650 AMERICAS CONTACT support@10zig.com 866.865.5250

C1.	Administrator: C:\Windows\System32\cmd.exe	۲.
C:\Windows\system32>u Unified Write Filter Copyright (C) Microso	wfmgr.exe get-config Configuration Utility version 6.2.8175 ft Corporation. All rights reserved.	Î
Current Session Setti	ngs	=
FILTER SETTINGS Filter state: HORM state: Pending commit:	OFF OFF N∕A	
OUERLAY SETTINGS Type: Maximum size: Warning Threshold Critical Threshol	RAM 4096 MB = 512 MB d: 1024 MB	
VOLUME SETTINGS		
REGISTRY EXCLUSIONS		
Next Session Settings		
FILTER SETTINGS Filter state: HORM state: Pending commit:	ON OFF N/A	
OVERLAY SETTINGS Type: Maximum size: Warning Threshold Critical Threshol	RAM 4096 MB : 512 MB d: 1024 MB	
VOLUME SETTINGS		
REGISTRY EXCLUSIONS		

6. To protect a volume with UWF, type uwfmgr.exe volume protect C:.

Note This command adds only volumes that exist in the system.

After you restart, the volume is added to the list of protected volumes in the next session, as shown in the following figure.



7. To check UWF status, type uwfmgr.exe get-config.



EMEA CONTACT support@10zig.eu +44(0) 116.214.8650 AMERICAS CONTACT support@10zig.com 866.865.5250

Administrator: C:\Windows\System32\cmd.exe	— 🗆 X
C:\Windows\system32>uwfmgr.exe get-config Unified Write Filter Configuration Utility version 6.2.8175 Copyright (C) Microsoft Corporation. All rights reserved.	
Current Session Settings	=
FILTER SETTINGS Filter state: OFF HORM state: OFF Pending commit: N/A	
OVERLAY SETTINGS Type: RAM Maximum size: 4096 MB Warning Threshold: 512 MB Critical Threshold: 1024 MB	
VOLUME SETTINGS	
REGISTRY EXCLUSIONS	
Next Session Settings	
FILTER SETTINGS Filter state: ON HORM state: OFF Pending commit: N/A	
OVERLAY SETTINGS Type: RAM Maximum size: 4096 MB Warning Threshold: 512 MB Critical Threshold: 1024 MB	
VOLUME SETTINGS Volume Volume{8f53475f-4604-11e1-aeae-806e6f6e6963〉[c:] Volume state: Protected Volume ID: Volume{8f53475f-4604-11e1-aeae-806e6f6e6963〉	
File Exclusions:	
REGISTRY EXCLUSIONS	

8. Restart the system.



EMEA CONTACT support@10zig.eu +44(0) 116.214.8650 AMERICAS CONTACT support@10zig.com 866.865.5250

Step 3: Add file and registry exclusions to a UWF-protected Standard 8 system

In this step, you will add file and registry exclusions to a UWF-protected Standard 8 system.

- 1. On the embedded device, open a command prompt as an administrator. For Windows Shell, to open a command prompt, do the following:
 - a. In Windows Explorer, navigate to \Windows\System32,right-click cmd.exe, and then click **Run as Administrator**.
 - b. Accept the UAC prompt.
- 2. To create sample folders and files to exclude, do the following:
 - a. At the command prompt, type the following commands:

md C:\aa\documents
md C:\mydir
notepad.exe C:\mydir\myfile.txt

b. Save the text file and then close Notepad.

Note Uwfmgr.exe does not support adding files and folders that do not exist yet to the exclusion list.

- 3. To add file and folder exclusions, do the following:
 - a. At the command prompt, type the following commands:

uwfmgr.exe file add-exclusion C:\mydir\myfile.txt

uwfmgr.exe file add-exclusion C:\aa\documents

Note To add an exclusion for a file or a folder that includes a space in the path, enclose the path in quotation marks, for example, "c:\My Files".

After you restart, the specified files and directories are added to the exclusion list in the next session as shown in the following figures.





EMEA CONTACT support@10zig.eu +44(0) 116.214.8650 AMERICAS CONTACT support@10zig.com 866.865.5250



b. To check file exclusion status, type uwfmgr.exe file get-exclusions.



- 4. To add a registry key exclusion, do the following:
 - a. At the command prompt, type

```
uwfmgr.exe registry add-exclusion HKLM\Software\MySoftware\MyApp.
```

Note To add exclusion for a registry key that includes a space, enclose the registry key name in guotation marks.

After you restart, the specified registry key is added to the exclusion list in the next session as shown in the following figure.



b. To check the registry exclusion status, type uwfmgr.exe registry get-exclusions.



EMEA CONTACT support@10zig.eu +44(0) 116.214.8650 AMERICAS CONTACT support@10zig.com 866.865.5250

C81.	Administrator: C:\Windows\System32\cmd.exe		x	
C:\Windows\system32>w Jnified Write Filter (Copyright (C) Microso	wfmgr.exe registry get-exclusions Configuration Utility version 6.2.8175 ft Corporation. All rights reserved.		*	
Current Session Regis	try Exclusions		Ξ	ľ
Next Session Registry HKLM\Software\MyC	Exclusions orp\MySoftware\MyApp			

c. To check UWF status, type uwfmgr.exe get-config.



EMEA CONTACT support@10zig.eu +44(0) 116.214.8650 AMERICAS CONTACT support@10zig.com 866.865.5250



5. Restart the system.



EMEA CONTACT support@10zig.eu +44(0) 116.214.8650 AMERICAS CONTACT support@10zig.com 866.865.5250

Step 4: To configure a UWF overlay for a protected Standard 8 system

In this step, you will configure a *UWF overlay* or a cache for a protected Standard 8 system.

- 1. On the embedded device, open a command prompt as an administrator. For Windows Shell, to open a command prompt, do the following:
 - a. In Windows Explorer, navigate to \Windows\System32,right-click cmd.exe, and then click **Run as Administrator**.
 - b. Accept the UAC prompt.
- 2. To configure the UWF maximum overlay size, do the following:

Note To change maximum overlay size, you must first disable UWF in the current session.

a. At the command prompt, type uwfmgr.exe overlay set-size 2048.

After you restart, the maximum size is set to 2048 MB in the next session, as shown in the following figure.



b. To check the overlay settings status, type uwfmgr.exe overlay get-config.



3. To configure the UWF overlay warning threshold, type

uwfmgr.exe overlay set-warningthreshold 1024.



AMERICAS CONTACT support@10zig.com 866.865.5250

After you restart, the threshold is set to 1024 MB in the next session, as shown in the following figure.



4. To configure the UWF overlay critical threshold, type

uwfmgr.exe overlay set-criticalthreshold 1500.

After you restart, the threshold is set to 1500 MB in the next session, as shown in the following figure.



5. To display the UWF overlay consumption, type uwfmgr.exe overlay get-consumption.

The current overlay consumption displays, as shown in the following figure.



6. To display the UWF overlay available space, type uwfmgr.exe overlay get-consumption.

The current overlay consumption displays, as shown in the following figure.





AMERICAS CONTACT support@10zig.com 866.865.5250

7. To change the overlay type, do the following:

Note To change the overlay type, you must first disable UWF in the current session. To change overlay type to DISK mode, the overlay maximum size must be at least 1024M.

a. To change overlay type from RAM to DISK, type uwfmgr.exe overlay set-type DISK.

C:N.	Administrator: C:\Windows\System32\cmd.exe	x
C:\Windows\sys Unified Write Copyright (C)	tem32>uwfmgr.exe overlay set-type DISK Filter Configuration Utility version 6.2.8400 Microsoft Corporation. All rights reserved.	Â
The overlay ty C:\Windows\sys	pe will be set to DISK after system restart. tem32>	

b. To verify that the overlay type will be DISK in the next session after you restart, type uwfmgr.exe overlay get-config.

Adı Adı	ministrator: C:\Windows\System32\cmd.exe		x
C:\Windows\system32>uwfm Unified Write Filter Com Copyright (C) Microsoft	ngr.exe overlay get-config ofiguration Utility version 6.2.8400 Corporation. All rights reserved.		^
Current Session Overlay Type: Maximum size: Warning Threshold: Critical Threshold:	Settings RAM 1024 MB 512 MB 1024 MB		
Next Session Overlay Set Type: Maximum size: Warning Threshold: Critical Threshold:	tings Disk 1024 MB 512 MB 1024 MB		
C:\Windows\system32>			~



EMEA CONTACT support@10zig.eu +44(0) 116.214.8650 AMERICAS CONTACT support@10zig.com 866.865.5250

Step 5: To configure HORM for a Standard 8 system

In this step, you will configure Hibernate Once/Resume Many (HORM) for a Standard 8 system.

- 1. On the embedded device, open a command prompt as an administrator. For Windows Shell, to open a command prompt, do the following:
 - In Windows Explorer, navigate to \Windows\System32,right-click cmd.exe, and then click **Run as Administrator**.
 - Accept the UAC prompt.
- 2. To enable hibernation on your device, type powercfg /h on.

C:\Windows\system32>powercfg	∕h	on
C:\Windows\system32>		

3. To enable Unified Write Filter (UWF) on your device, type uwfmgr filter enable.

```
C:\Users\admin>uwfmgr filter enable
Unified Write Filter Configuration Utility version 6.2.8441
Copyright (C) Microsoft Corporation. All rights reserved.
Unified Write Filter is enabled after system restart.
```

4. To protect all volumes on your device, type uwfmgr volume protect all.

Note DVD RW Drive and Floppy Drive throws an expected error that can be safely ignored.

C81	Administrator: Command Prompt -		×
C:\Users\admin>uwfmgr volum Unified Write Filter Config Copyright (C) Microsoft Con	me protect all guration Utility version 6.2.8441 rporation. All rights reserved.		^
The volume Volume{2bf6e7cc- fied Write Filter after sys The volume Volume{2bf6e7cb- fied Write Filter after sys Error: Could not protect V d Write Filter (Not support	-c70e-11e1-91a9-806e6f6e6963> will be protected stem restart. -c70e-11e1-91a9-806e6f6e6963> will be protected stem restart. Jolume{2bf6e7d0-c70e-11e1-91a9-806e6f6e6963> by ted>.	by U by U Unif	ni ni ie

5. To restart your device to enable UWF, type shutdown /r/t 0.



6. After your system restarts, to verify the UWF changes that you have made on your device, type uwfmgr get-config.



EMEA CONTACT support@10zig.eu +44(0) 116.214.8650 AMERICAS CONTACT support@10zig.com 866.865.5250



REGISTRY EXCLUSIONS *** No exclusions



AMERICAS CONTACT support@10zig.com 866.865.5250

To enable HORM on your system, type uwfmgr filter enablehorm.
 Note Remove all file and registry exclusions before you enable HORM.

	Administrator: Command Prompt	-		×
C:\lloopo\pdmin\uufmgp_filt	tow open-blouGPM			^
Unified Write Filter Conf Copyright (C) Microsoft C	iguration Utility version 6.2.8441 orporation. All rights reserved.			
Unified Write Filter enab tionality. The system must be hiberna may bring the system into	led HORM. Please hibernate the system to use ated at least once after run enable-horm comm o corrupted state.	HOF and,	RM f , or	unc it

- 8. (Optional) In Control Panel, set the Power Option "When I press the power button" to avoid displaying the Command Prompt when resuming from hibernation, or use a script to close the command prompt on startup.
- 9. To hibernate the system one time to create an initial hibernation file at the command prompt, type shutdown /h.

64.	Administrator: Command Prompt	-	×	<
C:\Users\admin>shutdown /h				^

- 10. Press the power button to wake the system from hibernation.
- After the system starts from hibernation to create an initial hibernation file, to shut down and restart the system, type shutdown /r /t 0.



12. When HORM is enabled, you cannot change the UWF configuration. To make changes, you must first disable HORM. To disable HORM, type uwfmgr filter disablehorm.



13. To restart the system to finish disabling HORM, type shutdown /r /t 0.



AMERICAS CONTACT support@10zig.com 866.865.5250



The system will restart normally with HORM disabled.

Conclusion

After completing this lab exercise, you will be able to do the following:

- Enable or disable a UWF filter.
- Add or remove volume protection.
- Add or remove a file and folder exclusion.
- Add or remove a registry key exclusion.
- Display overlay usage status and adjust its configuration.
- Configure and enable HORM on your device.