

Advanced Forefront TMG debugging

Abstract

This article will show you how to collect advanced Forefront TMG information for documentation and debugging purposes with the TMG Data package and advanced Forefront TMG logging.

Let's begin

Microsoft Forefront TMG creates a large amount of logging data for the Web proxy and Firewall service by default into a local Microsoft SQL 2008 SP1 Server Express instance. These log files should help Firewall Administrators to see what happens at the Firewall to enforce the allowed or disallowed Firewall policy rules and to see the reason why some legitimate traffic is not allowed or vice versa. For general information about the health of the Forefront TMG Server you can use the Forefront TMG dashboard and the Windows event logs.

For some more advanced logging you can use the built in Diagnostic logging in Forefront TMG which collects some more helpful information. If these information are not enough you can use some more advanced tools which are all part of the well-known Microsoft Forefront Best Practices Analyser tool.

The TMG BPA comes with these (and some more tools):

- TMG Data packager
- Isainfo
- ISATrace
- TMGBPApack

In this article I will give you a high level overview about these tools and how to use them but first let us start with the built in Diagnostic Logging in Forefront TMG.

Diagnostic logging

You can start the Forefront TMG Diagnostic logging feature in the Troubleshooting node in the Forefront TMG Management console as shown in the following screenshot.

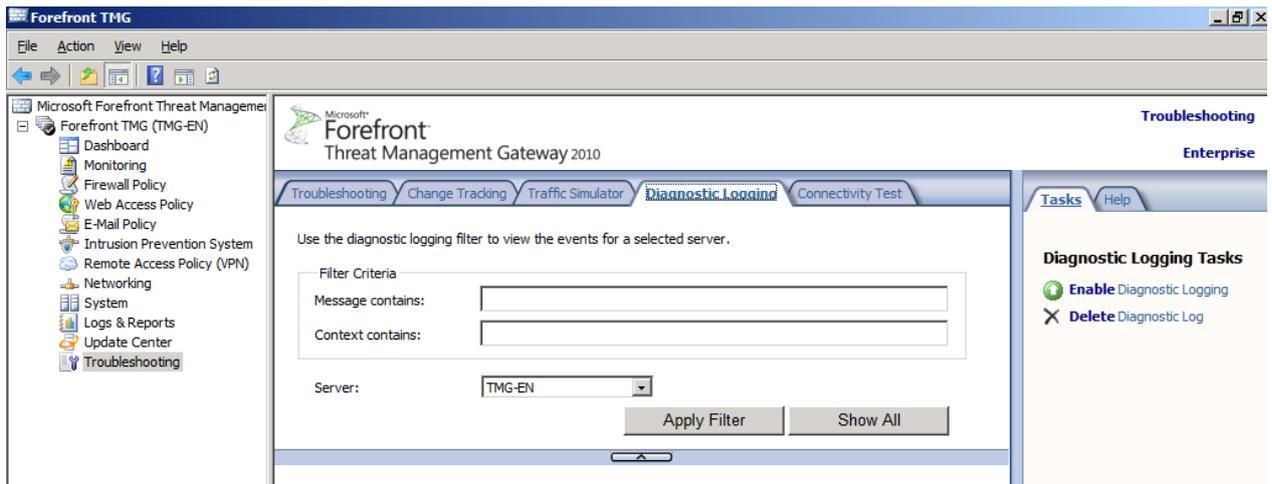


Figure 1: Forefront TMG Diagnostic Logging

Click *Enable Diagnostic Logging* to start the collection process. Forefront TMG starts now collecting running information from the TMG Server. After you decided that the collection process has collect enough data, you must disable the Diagnostic Logging to display the collected information. As shown in the next screenshot, the Diagnostic logging process collected some more information which might be helpful for you to find the cause of a problem with Forefront TMG.

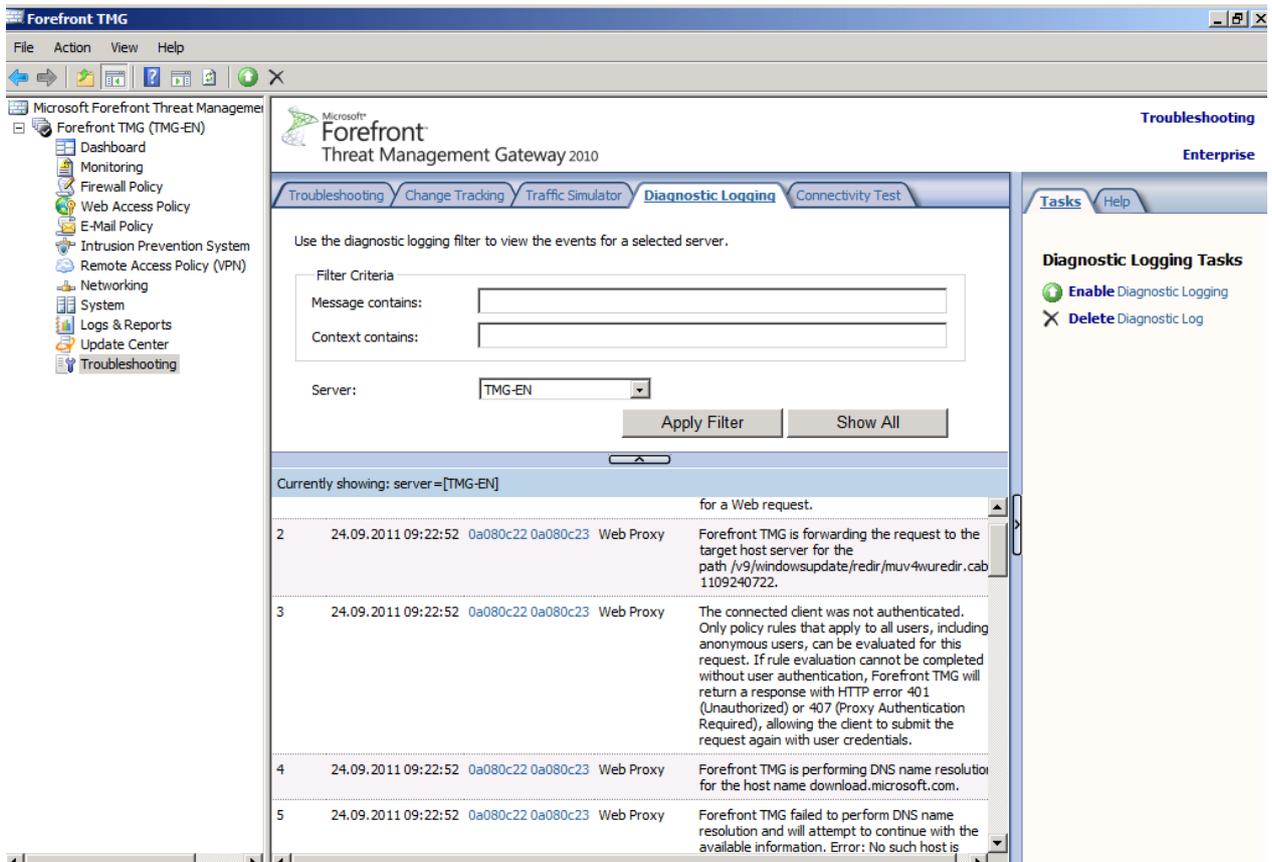


Figure 2: Analyze Forefront TMG Diagnostic Logging

Forefront TMG Data Packager

If the built in Diagnostic logging of Forefront TMG isn't enough, you can use the Forefront TMG Data Packager which is part of the Forefront TMG Best Practices Analyzer. You will find the TMG Data Packager in the installation directory of the TMG BPA. Select the information you want to collect. We are starting with collecting static information. I will give you some information about the repro mode later in this article when we will use the TMGBPAPack.

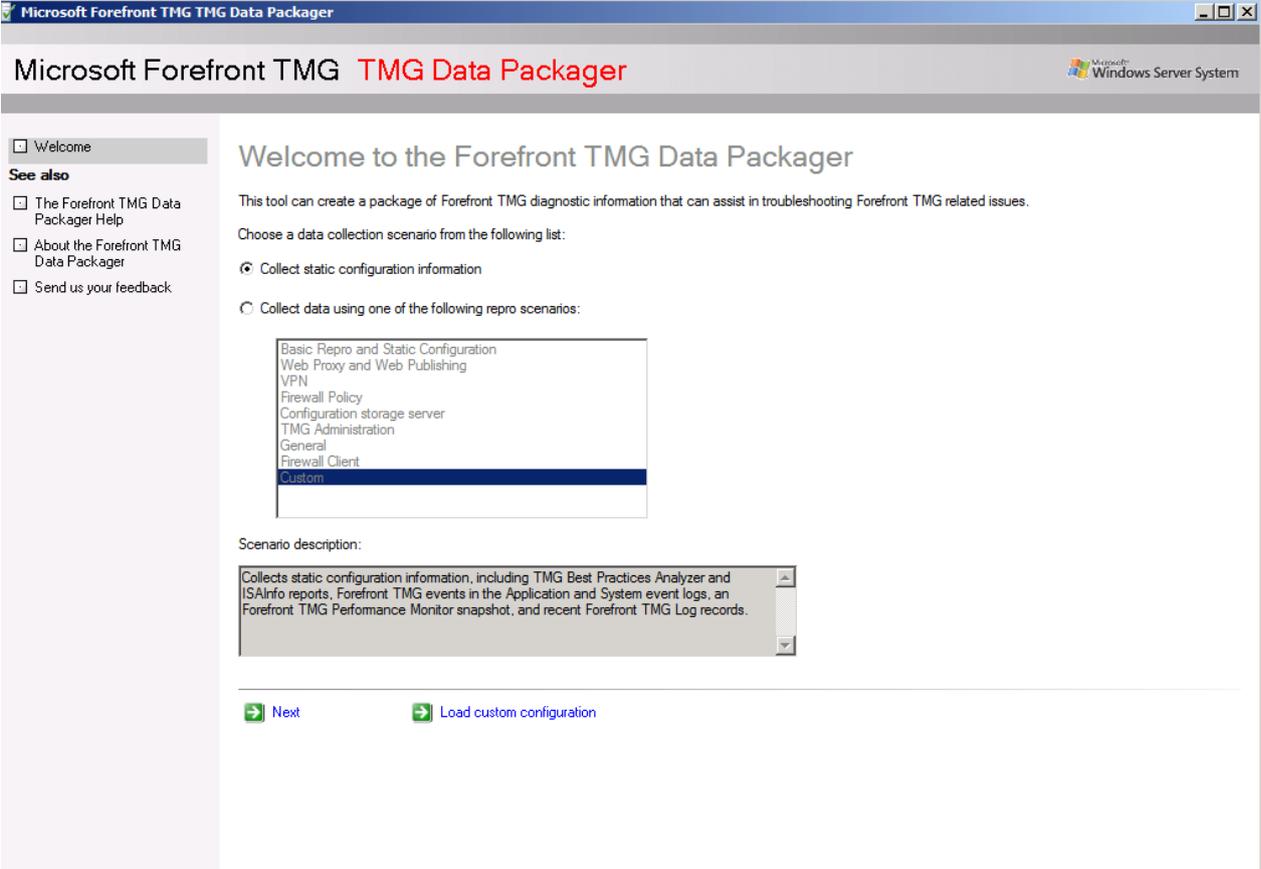


Figure 3: Forefront TMG Data Packager

It is possible to customize which information the TMG Data Packager should collect.

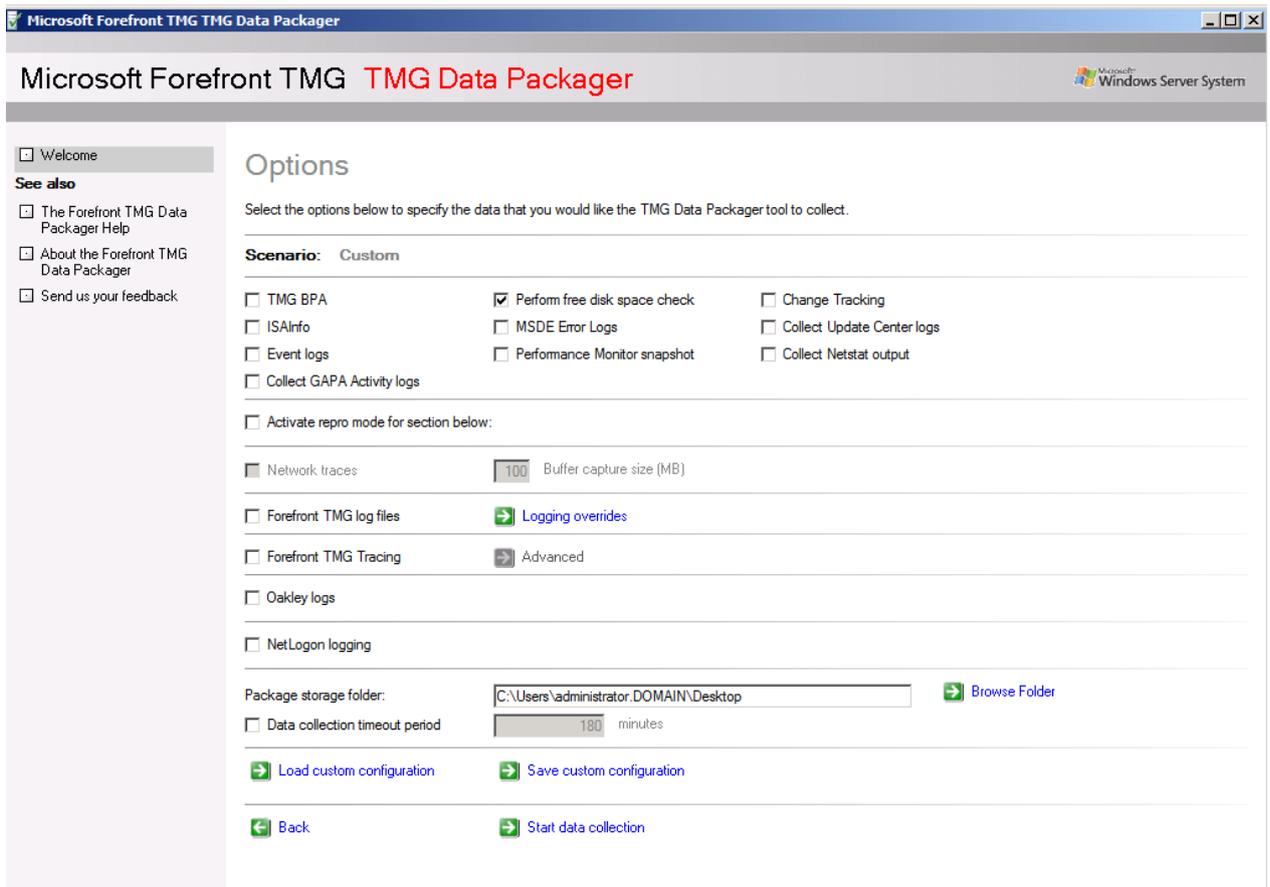


Figure 4: Forefront TMG Data Packager – Specify information to collect

Start Data collection. It could take some times until the TMG Data Packager has collected all information.

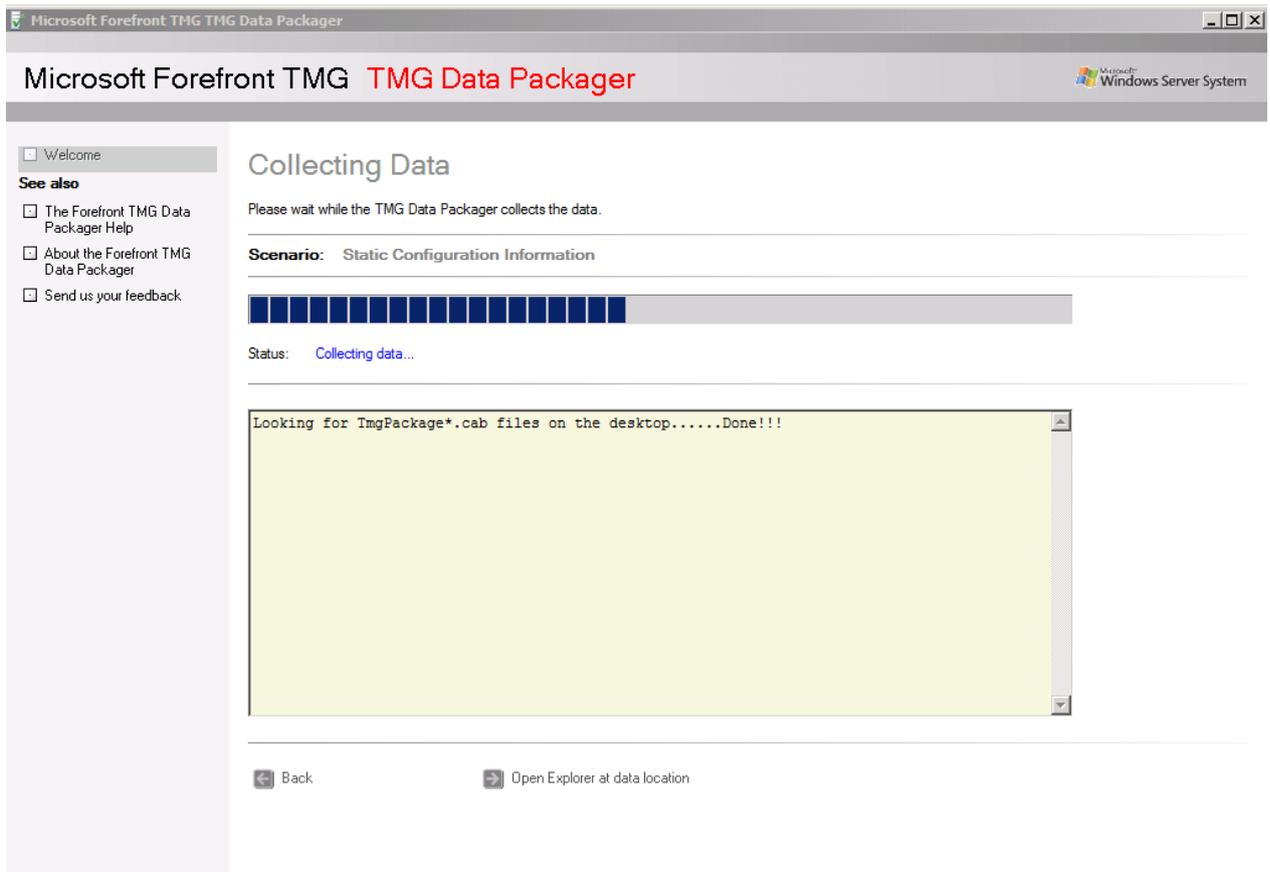


Figure 5: Forefront TMG Data Packager – Collecting data

After the collection process has been finished you will find a .cab file with all collected information in the directory you specified earlier. You can now use this .cab file to archive the information or to send it to Microsoft Product Support service or if you want to analyze the collected information you have to use a tool which extracts the information of the .cab file.

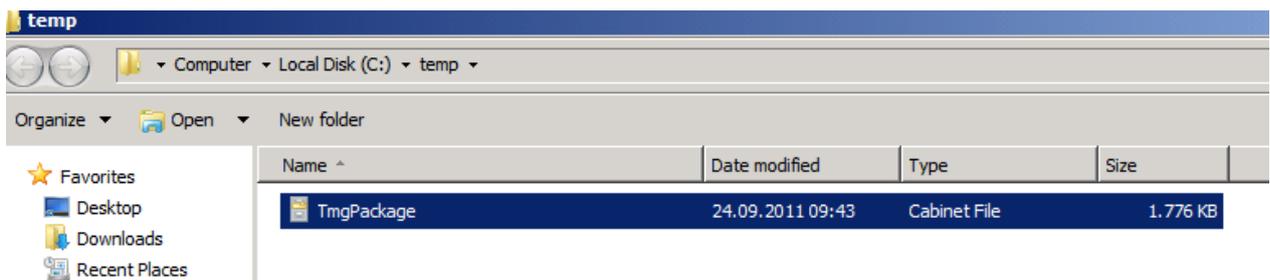


Figure 6: Forefront TMG Data package

As shown in the following screenshot you can see the extracted cab file. I will give you some examples about the content of the cab file in the following screenshots.

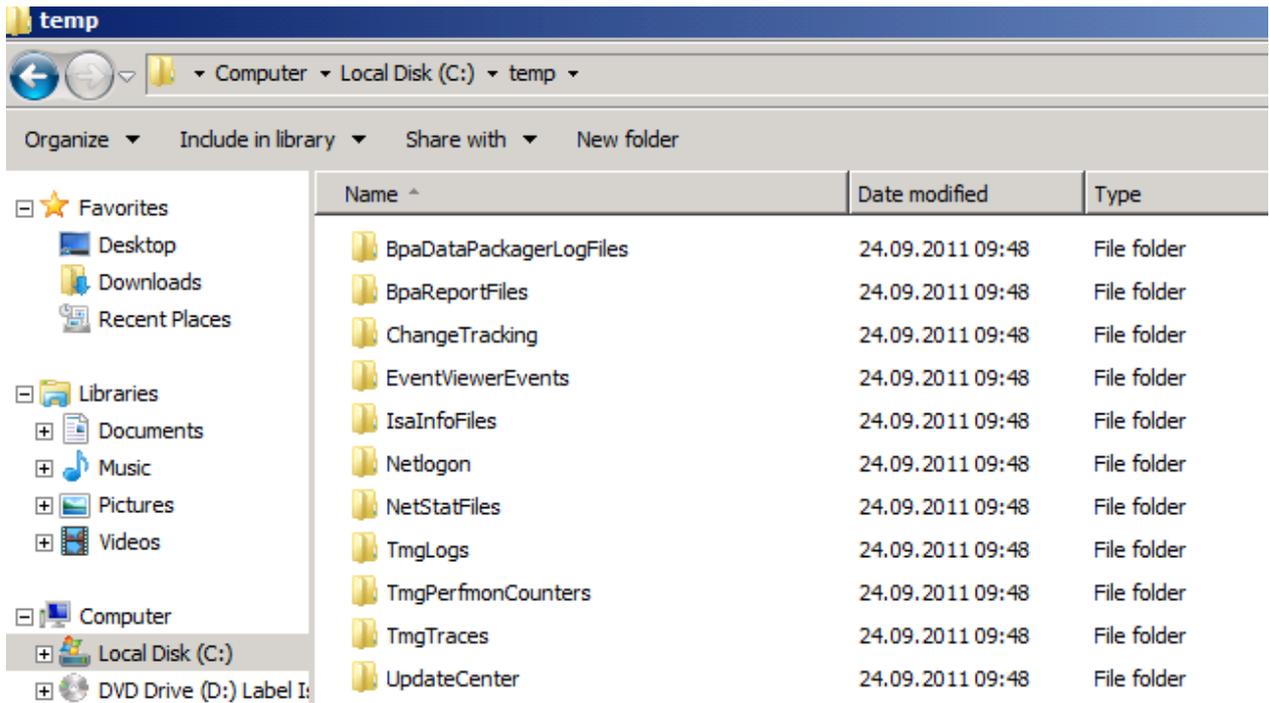


Figure 7: Content of Forefront TMG Data Packager

The TMG Data Packager collects information about the Forefront TMG Change tracking feature which contains all information which Administrator changed the Forefront TMG configuration.

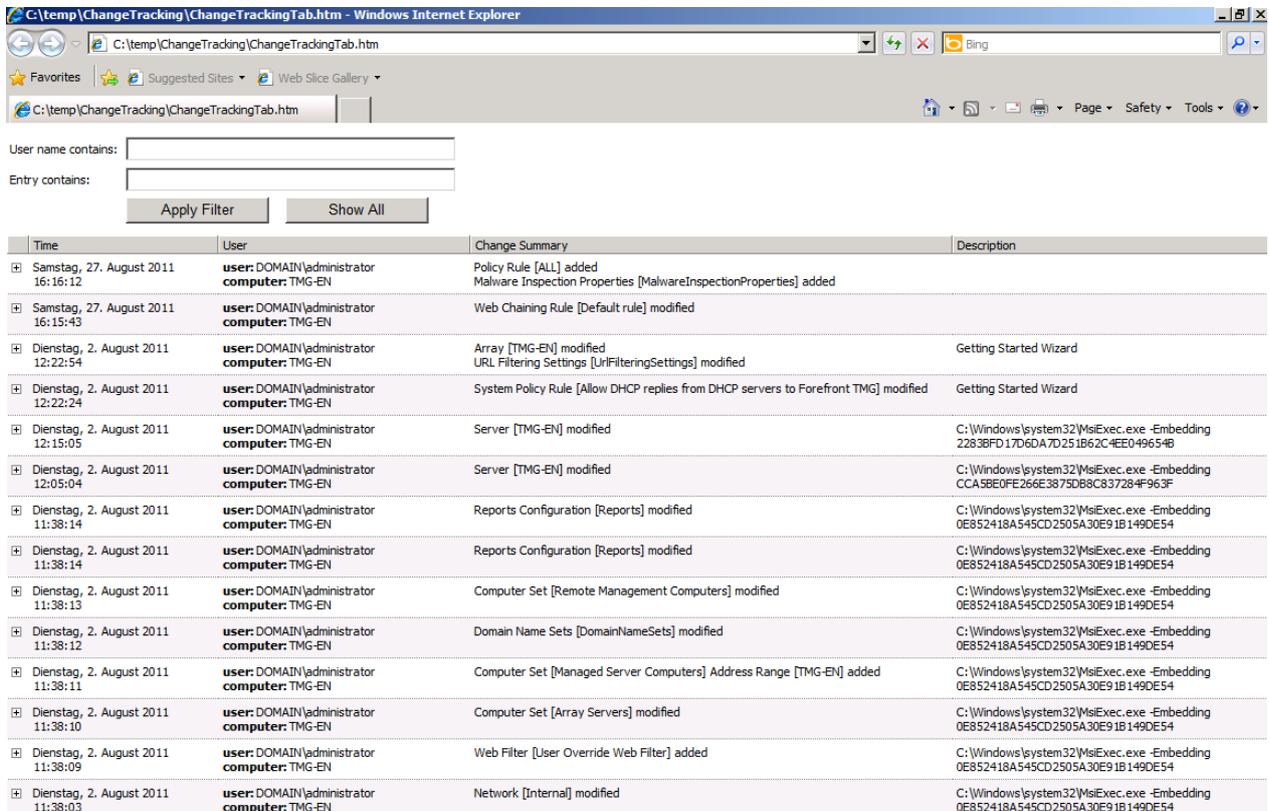


Figure 8: Forefront TMG Change tracking extracted from the TMG Data Packager

The TMG Data Packager also collects log information about the Webproxy and Firewall Service of Forefront TMG.

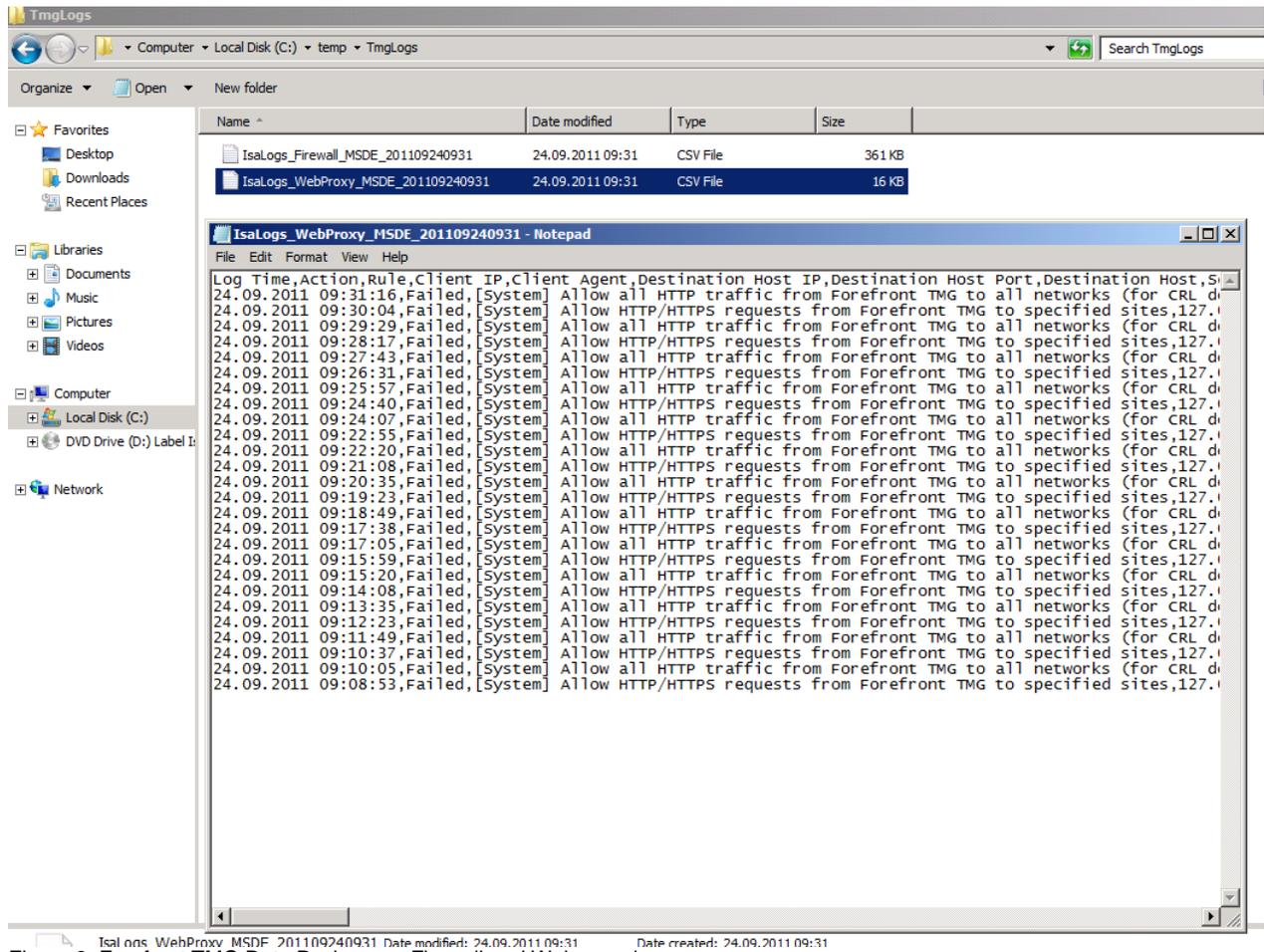


Figure 9: Forefront TMG Data Packager – Firewall and Webproxy log

ISAInfo

The next tool is ISAInfo. Most of you might be familiar with ISAInfo which is available at www.isatools.org. This website is hosted by Jim Harrison. ISAInfo in ISA Server times was a very helpful tool to collect information about your ISA Server machines. This tool is also included in the Forefront TMG Best Practices Analyzer tool.

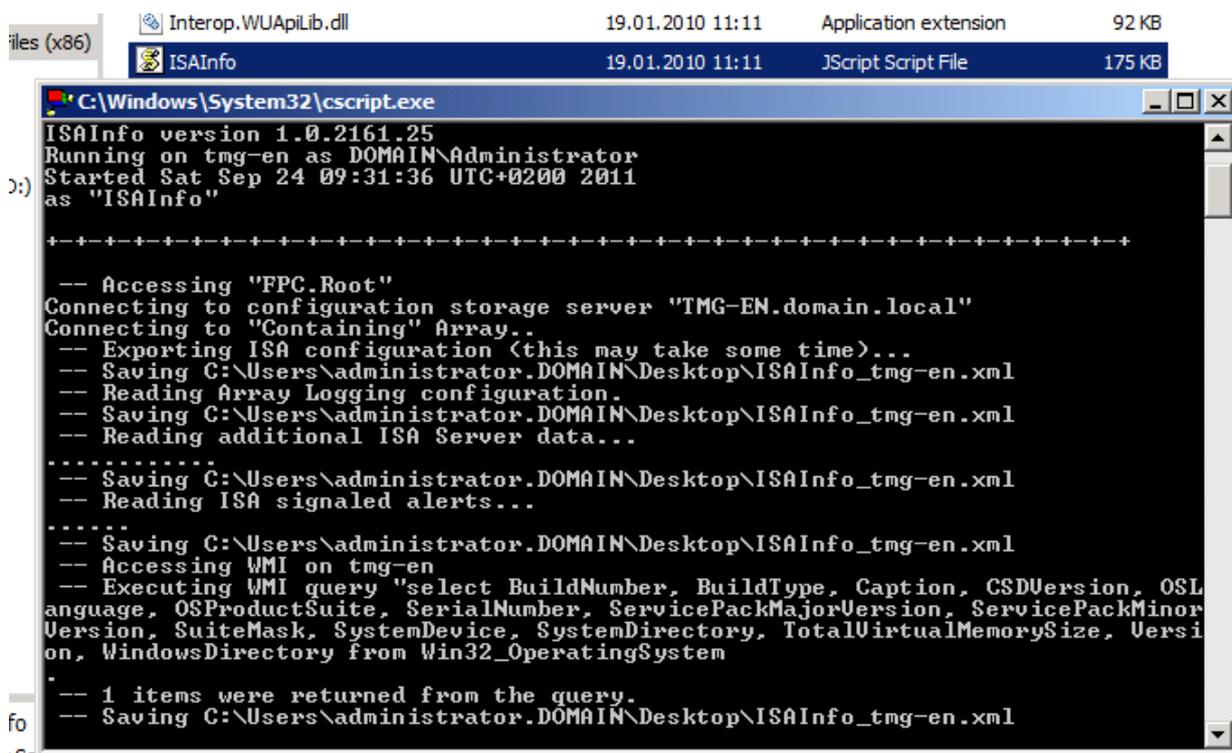


Figure 10: Forefront TMG – ISAInfo is collecting data

Because the tool seems not to be completely redesigned to work with Forefront TMG you will get some error message popup boxes until the ISAInfo collection process is running but you can ignore the messages.

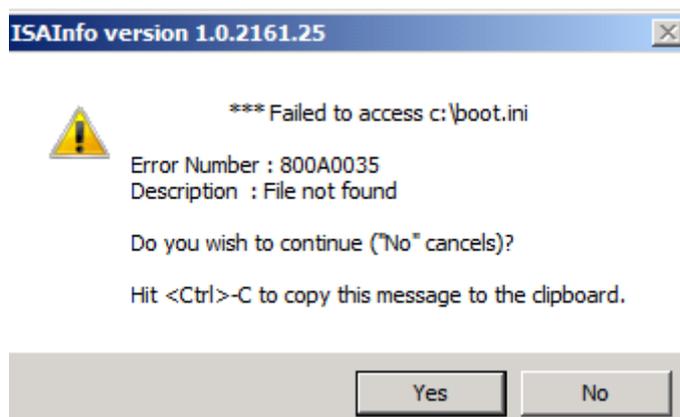


Figure 11: Forefront TMG ISAInfo . Ignore warning message

ISAInfo creates two files. A log file with ISAInfo tools information and a XML file with the entire information about your Forefront TMG Server.

```

ISAInfo_tmg-en - Notepad
File Edit Format View Help
+++++
ISAInfo version 1.0.2161.25
Running on tmg-en as DOMAIN\Administrator
Started Sat Sep 24 09:31:36 UTC+0200 2011
as "ISAInfo"
+++++
[ 09:31:36 UTC+0200 ] -- Accessing "FPC.Root"
[ 09:31:36 UTC+0200 ] Connecting to configuration storage server "TMG-EN.domain.local"
[ 09:31:36 UTC+0200 ] Connecting to "Containing" Array..
[ 09:31:37 UTC+0200 ] -- Exporting ISA configuration (this may take some time)...
[ 09:32:14 UTC+0200 ] -- Saving C:\Users\administrator.DOMAIN\Desktop\ISAInfo_tmg-en.xml
[ 09:32:15 UTC+0200 ] -- Reading Array Logging configuration.
[ 09:32:15 UTC+0200 ] -- Saving C:\Users\administrator.DOMAIN\Desktop\ISAInfo_tmg-en.xml
[ 09:32:15 UTC+0200 ] -- Reading additional ISA Server data...
[ 09:32:15 UTC+0200 ] -- Saving C:\Users\administrator.DOMAIN\Desktop\ISAInfo_tmg-en.xml
[ 09:32:15 UTC+0200 ] -- Reading ISA signaled alerts...
[ 09:32:16 UTC+0200 ] -- Saving C:\Users\administrator.DOMAIN\Desktop\ISAInfo_tmg-en.xml
[ 09:32:16 UTC+0200 ] -- Accessing WMI on tmg-en
[ 09:32:17 UTC+0200 ] -- Executing WMI query "select BuildNumber, BuildType, Caption, CSDVersion, OSLanguage, OSProductSuite, SerialNumber,
-- 1 items were returned from the query.
[ 09:32:17 UTC+0200 ] -- Saving C:\Users\administrator.DOMAIN\Desktop\ISAInfo_tmg-en.xml
[ 09:32:17 UTC+0200 ] -- Executing WMI query "select Compressed, FileSize, FSName, InitialSize, MaximumSize, Name from Win32_PageFile
-- 0 items were returned from the query.
[ 09:32:17 UTC+0200 ] -- Saving C:\Users\administrator.DOMAIN\Desktop\ISAInfo_tmg-en.xml
[ 09:32:18 UTC+0200 ] -- Executing WMI query "select Description, HotFixID from Win32_QuickFixEngineering where HotFixID != "File 1"
-- 47 items were returned from the query.
[ 09:32:22 UTC+0200 ] -- Saving C:\Users\administrator.DOMAIN\Desktop\ISAInfo_tmg-en.xml
[ 09:32:23 UTC+0200 ] -- Executing WMI query "select DisplayName, Description, Name, PathName, Started, StartMode, StartName, State from Win
-- 221 items were returned from the query.
[ 09:32:34 UTC+0200 ] -- Saving C:\Users\administrator.DOMAIN\Desktop\ISAInfo_tmg-en.xml
[ 09:32:34 UTC+0200 ] -- Executing WMI query "select DisplayName, Description, Name, PathName, ProcessID, StartMode, StartName, State from W
-- 136 items were returned from the query.
[ 09:32:38 UTC+0200 ] -- Saving C:\Users\administrator.DOMAIN\Desktop\ISAInfo_tmg-en.xml
[ 09:32:39 UTC+0200 ] -- Executing WMI query "select CreationDate, ExecutablePath, HandleCount, KernelModeTime, Name, ParentProcessID, Prior
-- 60 items were returned from the query.
[ 09:32:42 UTC+0200 ] -- Saving C:\Users\administrator.DOMAIN\Desktop\ISAInfo_tmg-en.xml
[ 09:32:43 UTC+0200 ] -- Reading c:\boot.ini
[ 09:32:43 UTC+0200 ] *** Failed to access c:\boot.ini
Error Number : 800A0035
Description : File not found
[ 09:34:04 UTC+0200 ] -- Executing WMI query "select Bootupstate, CurrentTimeZone, Description, Domain, DomainRole, Manufacturer, Model, Numl
-- 1 items were returned from the query.
[ 09:34:04 UTC+0200 ] -- Saving C:\Users\administrator.DOMAIN\Desktop\ISAInfo_tmg-en.xml
[ 09:34:04 UTC+0200 ] -- Executing WMI query "select Availability, CapabilityDescriptions, Caption, Description, DeviceID, InterfaceType, La

```

Figure 12: Forefront TMG – ISAInfo log file

ISATRACE

The next tool is ISATRACE. Beginning with ISA Server 2004 SP2 (if I remember correctly), Microsoft started to collect advanced ISA information in a .bin file on the local file system (ISALOG.BIN). The Forefront TMG Best Practices Analyzer contains a GUI tool which you can use to customize the amount of information which should be logged. You can find the tool in the directory named *Tracing* under the installation directory of the TMG BPA.

The tool allows you to select if you want to collect information for the several Forefront TMG components like Firewall service, Webproxy service, Firewall Control Channel (client), User Interface and many more. It is also possible to change the default directory for the log file and the size of the ISATRACE file.

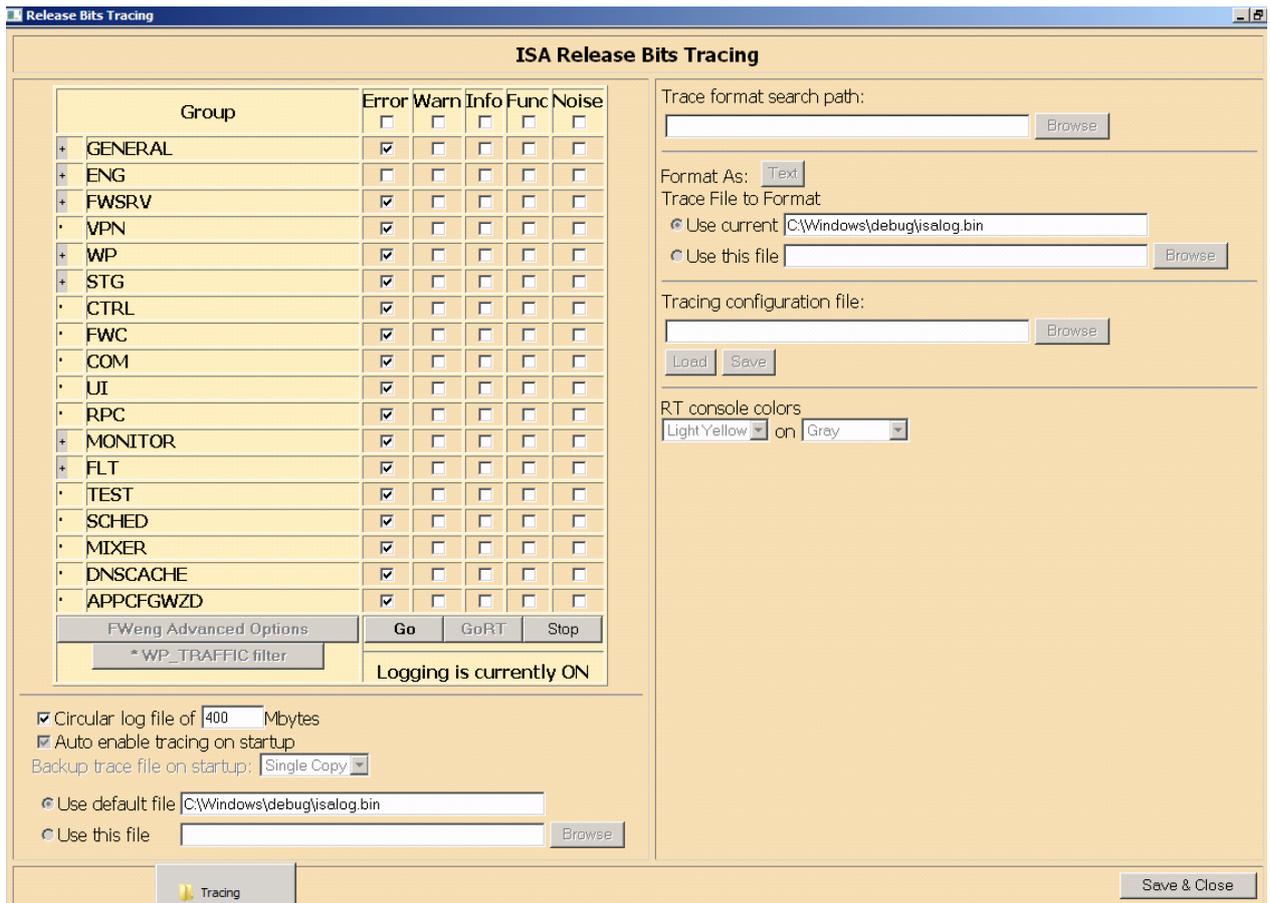


Figure 13: Forefront TMG – “ISA” Release Bits tracking

TMGBPAPack

The TMGBPAPack is also part of the Forefront TMG Best Practices Analyzer. It is a command line tool very similar to the TMG Data Packager with some exceptions (the only difference I’m aware of is that this tool also collects network traffic with the help of Microsoft Netmon 3.3). If you enable the Repro Mode all network traffic will be captured into Netmon trace files.

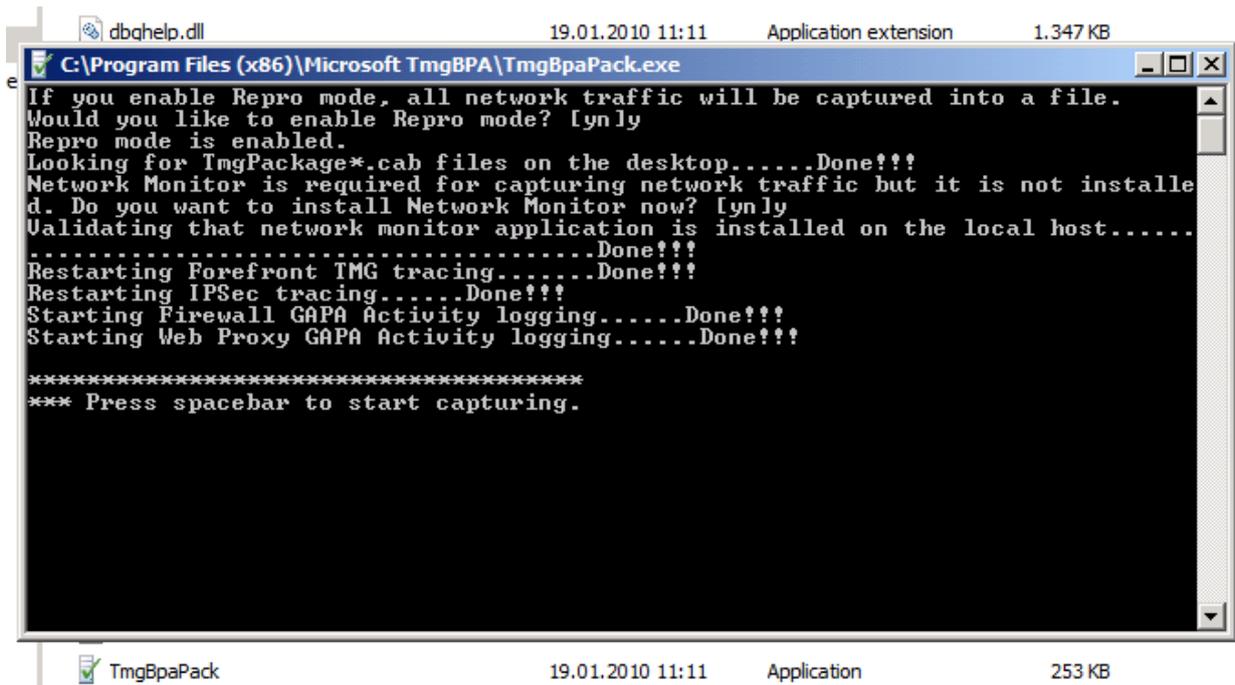


Figure 14: Forefront TMG BPA Pack is collecting informations

If the Microsoft Network Monitor is not installed, the TMGBPA Pack installs Microsoft Netmon 3.3 (the latest available version of Netmon on the Internet is 3.4). After you stopped the Netmon trace, the TMGDATAPack creates a single .cab file on the Desktop which you can extract to the local file system and there you will find one additional directory called *NetworkCaptures* which contains the Netmon Capture files.

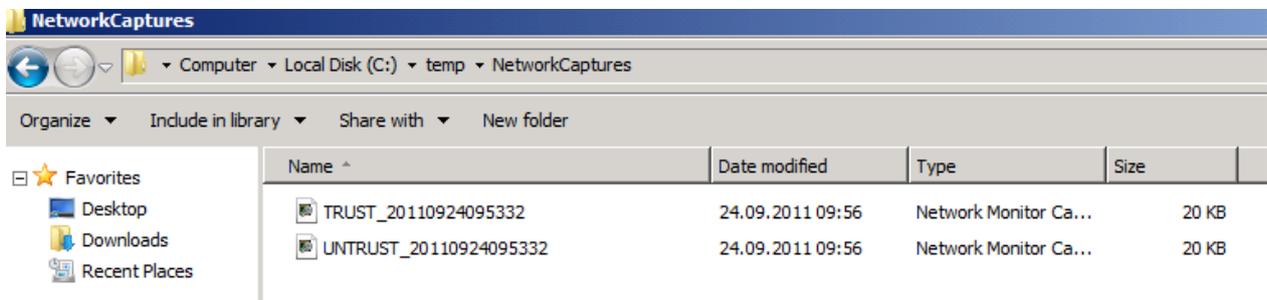


Figure 15: Forefront TMG BPA Pack – collected Netmon traces

You can now use the installed version of the Microsoft Network Monitor to analyze the Netmon capture files as shown in the following screenshot.

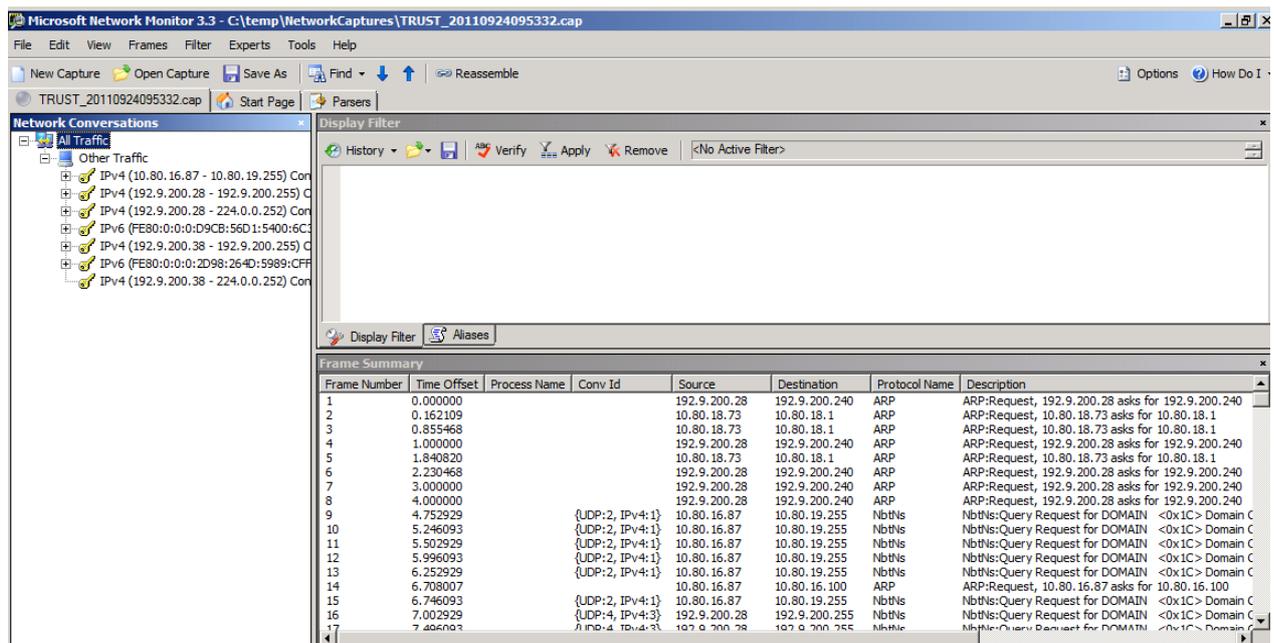


Figure 16: Microsoft Netmon 3.3 trace of Forefront TMG traffic on the internal network interface

Conclusion

In this article I tried to show you how to use several helpful tools of Forefront TMG and the TMG Best Practice Analyser to collect advanced information about the Forefront TMG configuration and the log files generated from Forefront TMG or the underlying Windows operating system. You can use this information for documentation purposes or to analyse problems with the TMG configuration. The created data is also helpful for Microsoft if you open a case with the Microsoft product support.

Related links

Forefront TMG BPA Download

<http://www.microsoft.com/download/en/details.aspx?id=17730>

Forefront TMG Best Practices Analyzer

<http://www.isaserver.org/tutorials/Microsoft-Forefront-TMG-Best-Practice-Analyzer.html>

New Options on TMG Data Packager

<http://blogs.technet.com/b/yuridiogenes/archive/2010/03/07/new-options-on-tmg-data-packager.aspx>

Using TMG BPA Data Packager to Troubleshoot Exchange / Lync / Sharepoint connectivity

<http://blogs.technet.com/b/brennan-crowe/archive/2011/03/02/using-tmg-data-packager-to-troubleshoot-exchange-web-lync-web-and-sharepoint-connectivity.aspx>