



MILESTONE XPROTECT

Activity Collector

User Guide

Collect motion activity from an XProtect VMS · Windows · single executable

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XProtect Activity Collector — User Guide

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Overview

A Windows tool that asks your XProtect VMS one question: *when did things actually move?* It answers with a plain-language camera health report.

No install. No Python. No .NET. No MIP SDK. One `.exe`, one click, one HTML file you can email to anyone.

Do this now (3 steps, ~2 min + collection time)

1. Download `ActivityCollector.exe` from the [latest release](#) and put it in its own folder (it writes files next to itself).
2. Double-click it. Fill in **Server URL**, pick an **Auth type**, click **Start Collection**.
3. When the status line turns green, click **Open Camera Health Report**. That's the plain-language report with your real camera names on it.

Everything below is detail you only need when something surprises you.

1. The window

First launch shows a splash while the bundled SDK and browser engine unpack out of the `.exe` . On a cold start this takes 10–30 seconds. It is not stuck.



XProtect Activity Collector

Setting up...



First launch may take a moment while components load



XProtect Activity Collector
Collect motion activity data from your XProtect VMS

CUSTOMER INFO

Customer name

e.g. Milestone Systems

Vertical

e.g. Office Building

CONNECTION

Server URL

https://

Username

Password

Auth type

☒ Windows (current user)

☐ Windows (domain\user)

☐ Basic user

COLLECTION

Duration

168

Hours back to retrieve. Default 168h = 7 days. Supports: 30m, 2h, 1d12h.

Start Collection

Stop & Generate

Ready. Fill in details and click Start.

Fields

Field	Required	What it does
Customer name	no	Prefixes every output filename.
Vertical	no	Also prefixes filenames (e.g. Office Building).
Server URL	yes	Your Management Server, e.g. https://vms.example.com .
Username / Password	depends	Enabled only for the two explicit auth modes.
Auth type	yes	See below.
Duration	yes	How far back to look. Default 168 = 7 days.

Auth type: pick the first one that applies:

- **Windows (current user):** you are already logged into Windows as an account with VMS access. Nothing to type. Username and password stay greyed out.
- **Windows (domain\user):** explicit domain credentials. Type them as `DOMAIN\username` .
- **Basic user:** an XProtect *basic* user created in Management Client.

Duration accepts more than hours. A bare number means hours; otherwise use units and combine them freely:

You type	You get
168	168 hours (7 days), the default
7d	the same 7 days, easier to read
2h	last 2 hours
30m	last 30 minutes
1d12h30m	last 36.5 hours

A filled-in form ready to go:



XProtect Activity Collector

Collect motion activity data from your XProtect VMS

CUSTOMER INFO

Customer name

Optional

Vertical

Optional

CONNECTION

Server URL

Username

Password

Auth type
☐ Windows (current user)
☐ Windows (domain\user)
☒ Basic user

COLLECTION

Duration

Hours back to retrieve. Default 168h = 7 days. Supports: 30m, 2h, 1d12h.

Start Collection

Stop & Generate

Ready. Fill in details and click Start.

2. Collecting

Click **Start Collection**. The tool logs in, enumerates every camera, then walks them one at a time. The bar shows real progress (Camera 9/20), not a guess.

The image displays two side-by-side screenshots of the XProtect Activity Collector web interface, illustrating the process from data collection to dashboard generation.

Left Screenshot (During Collection):

- Header:** XProtect Activity Collector. Collect motion activity data from your XProtect VMS.
- CUSTOMER INFO:** Customer name (e.g. Milestone Systems), Vertical (Optional, e.g. Office Building).
- CONNECTION:** Server URL (https://vms.example.com), Username, Password, Auth type (Windows (current user) selected, Windows (domain\user), Basic user).
- COLLECTION:** Duration (168). Hours back to retrieve. Default 168h = 7 days. Supports: 30m, 2h, 1d12h.
- Buttons:** Start Collection (active), Stop & Generate.
- Progress:** A blue progress bar is shown at the bottom, labeled "Camera 9/20 (45%)".

Right Screenshot (After Collection):

- Header:** XProtect Activity Collector. Collect motion activity data from your XProtect VMS.
- CUSTOMER INFO:** Same as the left screenshot.
- CONNECTION:** Same as the left screenshot.
- COLLECTION:** Same as the left screenshot.
- Buttons:** Start Collection (disabled), Stop & Generate (active).
- Message:** Done! Dashboard generated.
- Actions:** Open Camera Health Report, Open Technical Dashboard, Open Folder.

Rough timing: a few seconds per camera. 20 cameras over 7 days is typically 1–3 minutes; several hundred cameras can run 20 minutes or more.

Want to stop early? Click **Stop & Generate**. Cameras already processed are kept and the dashboard is built from those. A partial run is still a useful run.

3. Your files

Everything lands next to the `.exe` :

```
ActivityCollector.exe
activity_collector.log      <- diagnostics, paste this into bug reports
cameras.csv                <- camera GUID -> camera name (stays local)
camera_health.html         <- open this, real camera names, see below
output/
  motion_events.csv        <- one row per MotionStart and MotionStop
  camera_settings.csv      <- per-camera recording / buffer / detection config
  site_info.json           <- collection metadata (window, rule buffers)
  dashboard.html           <- GUID-only technical view, internal use only
```

If you entered a customer or vertical, both are prefixed:

```
output/Milestone Systems-Office Building-dashboard.html
Milestone Systems-Office Building-camera_health.html
```

Blank fields become `no company` / `no vertical`, so the `Customer-Vertical-` shape never breaks.

When collection finishes, three buttons appear. No need to go hunting for files:

- **Open Camera Health Report:** opens `camera_health.html` in your browser.
- **Open Technical Dashboard:** opens `dashboard.html` (GUID-only, internal use).
- **Open Folder:** opens the folder containing everything above, in case you need to email or zip a file directly.

Both HTML files are also single self-contained files if you'd rather find them yourself later: drop them in Teams, open them on any machine. `dashboard.html` pulls the Plotly chart library from the internet on first open, so the machine viewing it needs a network connection. `camera_health.html` has no charts and no external dependency; it opens the same with or without internet access.

Privacy

`dashboard.html` contains **camera GUIDs only**, never the camera names your VMS uses. It lives in `output/`, which is safe to zip and send externally. `camera_health.html` is the opposite: it has your customer's real camera names and IPs on it, because that's the point. It's the file you actually hand to the customer. That's also why it sits next to the `.exe` instead of in `output/`: it, like `cameras.csv`, is not something you casually zip up and forward.

All times are UTC

There is no timezone picker. Every timestamp and every chart axis is UTC, so a dashboard reads identically for everyone who opens it. Offset in your head when comparing against local site activity.

4. The Camera Health Report

camera_health.html is written in plain language so you can hand it straight to the customer. It opens with the same stat cards as the dashboard (**Total / Active / Critical Alerts**), then three tabs:

- **Overview** — every camera, searchable and sortable, with a **Status** and **Notes** column per row explaining what to do about it.
- **What To Check** — only the cameras that need attention, split into three issue types:
- **Not recording** — zero events all period. Check power, network, and online status in Management Client.
- **High activity** — events far above the estate average. Could be a genuinely busy area, or sensitivity set too high.
- **Long events** — any single event over a threshold you can adjust yourself (default 300s). Usually a monitor, flicker, fan, or spider web holding detection open. Click a camera to see exactly when each long event started and stopped.

The tab badge shows the total issue count, or **OK** if there's nothing to look at. - **Working Normally** — every other camera, with an activity bar per row.

Milestone Systems Camera Health

Generated 2026-09-01 23:35

TOTAL CAMERAS

6

ACTIVE CAMERAS

4

67% active

CRITICAL ALERTS

2

6+ days no record

OVERVIEW6

WHAT TO CHECK2

WORKING NORMALLY4

Q Search cameras...

Flat ListBy XProtect Group

All 6 cameras. Click column headers to sort.

Camera	IP	Model	Group	Events	Status	Notes
● Loading Dock	192.168.1.12	Demo Driver	Building A/Ground Floor	147	OK	Working as expected
● Front Entrance	192.168.1.10	Demo Driver	Building A/Ground Floor	137	OK	Working as expected
● Parking Lot	192.168.1.13	Demo Driver	Building A/Ground Floor	134	OK	Working as expected
● Lobby	192.168.1.11	Demo Driver	Building A/Ground Floor	132	OK	Working as expected
● Server Room	192.168.1.14	Demo Driver	Building A/Server Room	0	Not recording	Check power, cable, and XProtect status
● Back Entrance	192.168.1.15	Demo Driver	Building B/Entrance	0	Not recording	Check power, cable, and XProtect status

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SYSTEM STATUSDOCUMENTATIONSUPPORT

Milestone Systems Camera Health

Generated 2026-09-01 23:35

TOTAL CAMERAS

6

ACTIVE CAMERAS

4

67% active

CRITICAL ALERTS

2

⚠ 6+ days no record

OVERVIEW 6

WHAT TO CHECK 2

WORKING NORMALLY 4

By Issue Type

By XProtect Group

2 not recording • 4 working normally

NOT RECORDING (2 CAMERAS)

These cameras have not recorded any activity in 6 days. Check that each camera is powered on, the network cable is connected, and that it shows as online in XProtect Management Client.

Camera	IP	Model
• Back Entrance	192.168.1.15	Demo Driver
• Server Room	192.168.1.14	Demo Driver

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SYSTEM STATUS DOCUMENTATION SUPPORT

Grouping by XProtect Camera Group

If cameras belong to **Camera Groups** in Management Client (Basics > Camera Groups), every tab gets a **By XProtect Group** toggle next to **Flat List** / **By Issue Type**. On the Overview and Working Normally tabs this reorganizes the same table into one block per group. On **What To Check**, the three issue types stay exactly as they are, same headers, same descriptions. The toggle just re-sorts the camera list inside each one by group, with a group divider row instead of a per-row column. Cameras with no group show under **Ungrouped**.

Milestone Systems Camera Health

Generated 2026-09-01 23:35

TOTAL CAMERAS

6

ACTIVE CAMERAS

4

67% active

CRITICAL ALERTS

2

⚠ 6+ days no record

OVERVIEW 6

WHAT TO CHECK 2

WORKING NORMALLY 4

By Issue Type

By XProtect Group

NOT RECORDING (2 CAMERAS)

These cameras have not recorded any activity in 6 days. Check that each camera is powered on, the network cable is connected, and that it shows as online in XProtect Management Client.

Camera	IP	Model
BUILDING A/SERVER ROOM		
• Server Room	192.168.1.14	Demo Driver
BUILDING B/ENTRANCE		
• Back Entrance	192.168.1.15	Demo Driver

5. When it goes wrong

Errors appear in red at the bottom of the window. Full detail (stack traces included) is always in `activity_collector.log` next to the `.exe`.



XProtect Activity Collector

Collect motion activity data from your XProtect VMS

CUSTOMER INFO

Customer name

e.g. Milestone Systems

Vertical

Optional
e.g. Office Building

Optional

CONNECTION

Server URL

https://vms.example.com

Username

Password

Auth type

☒ Windows (current user)
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☐ Basic user

COLLECTION

Duration

168

Hours back to retrieve. Default 168h = 7 days. Supports: 30m, 2h, 1d12h.

Start Collection

Stop & Generate

Error: Could not connect to https://vms.example.com (login failed)

What you see	What it means	Fix
Login to ... failed – IsLoggedIn returned false	Credentials rejected, or the account has no SDK access.	Re-check auth type. For domain accounts use DOMAIN\username . Confirm the user can log into Management Client.
LoginSettingsCache.GetLoginSettings(...) returned None	Reached the host but couldn't resolve the site.	Check the URL is the Management Server , not a Recording Server. Try with and without the port.
Could not find MIP SDK assemblies	You're running from source without the SDK.	Run python download_mip_sdk.py once. (Never happens with the .exe – the SDK is inside it.)
No motion sequences found. First camera has N recording sequences.	Connected fine, but no motion metadata. If N > 0, recording works and motion metadata specifically is missing.	Enable motion detection / motion metadata recording in Management Client, then re-run.
Events file not found / No events found in the CSV	Zero events collected, so there's nothing to chart.	Widen Duration , or fix the cause above.
Nothing happens for 30+ seconds on launch	Cold-start extraction of the bundled SDK and Chromium.	Wait. Second launch is much faster.
Charts are blank rectangles	The dashboard loads Plotly from the internet.	Open dashboard.html on a machine with network access.

6. FAQ

Does this touch my VMS configuration? No. Every operation is a read.

Does it pull video? No. Only motion sequence metadata: timestamps. Nothing is exported, nothing is streamed.

Can I run it while the VMS is live? Yes. It's the same read path MilestonePSTools' `Get-SequenceData` uses. Long windows across large estates do put query load on the Recording Servers, so prefer off-peak for a first big run.

Can I re-run it and compare? Yes. Copy `ActivityCollector.exe` into a separate folder for each run (it always writes to its own local `output/`, with no way to point it elsewhere), and use different **Customer** / **Vertical** values too so filenames stay obviously distinct if you ever consolidate them.

What's the longest window I can ask for? Whatever your VMS retains. Past retention you'll get empty days.

Who do I send the results to? Zip `output/`. It has no camera names in it. Send it back to whoever asked you to run the tool, or to loab@milestone.dk.