Improving user security and Windows performance

How to understand the notation used on the following slides

- When you see something like “Alt+F4“ that means that you press the Alt key and the F4 key at the same time (i.e. press Alt, keep it down and press F4).
- Similarly for 3 keys, e.g. Ctrl+Shift+Esc means press down and hold Ctrl, then press and hold Shift, then press Esc
- When you see something like “Settings/Accounts/”Other Users” that means you launch Settings (from Start menu or with Win+I) and then choose “Accounts” and then choose “Other Users”

Improving user security

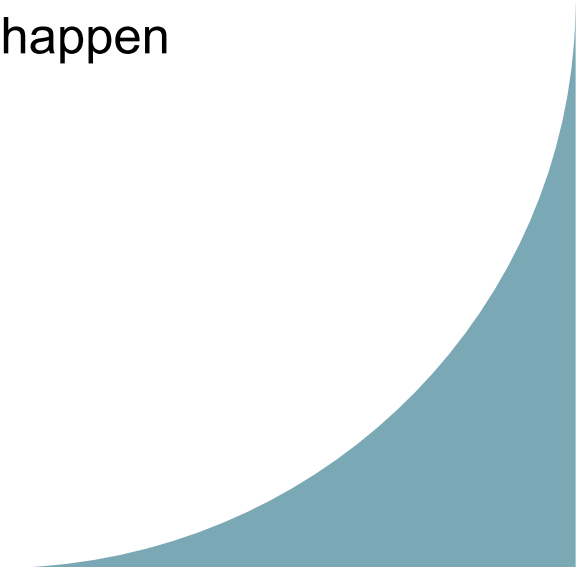
- By default your Microsoft Windows user account has ”Admin” privileges
  - This makes life very convenient for you, BUT
  - It also makes it easier for malware to install on your computer
- Better option is to create a separate Admin account and make your user account a normal user
  - How to do that (see the first option here https://www.howtogeek.com/ways-to-create-a-local-user-account-on-windows-11/)

Improving user security (cont'd)

- After you have created the new Admin account, log out from your normal account and then make sure you can log in as your new Admin user by pressing Alt+F4 and choosing "Switch User" from the dropdown and clicking OK
- When you are logged in as the new Admin:
  1. **go to Settings/Accounts/"Other Users"**
  2. **Click on your normal user**
  3. **Click on "Change account type"**
  4. **Choose "Standard User" from the dropdown**
  5. **Click OK**

Improving user security (cont'd)

- You can now switch user back to your normal account (using Alt+F4) and carry on working.
- Now that your main account is not an admin account you will be prompted whenever an admin privilege is required and you have the option to say "no" if you were not expecting that to happen



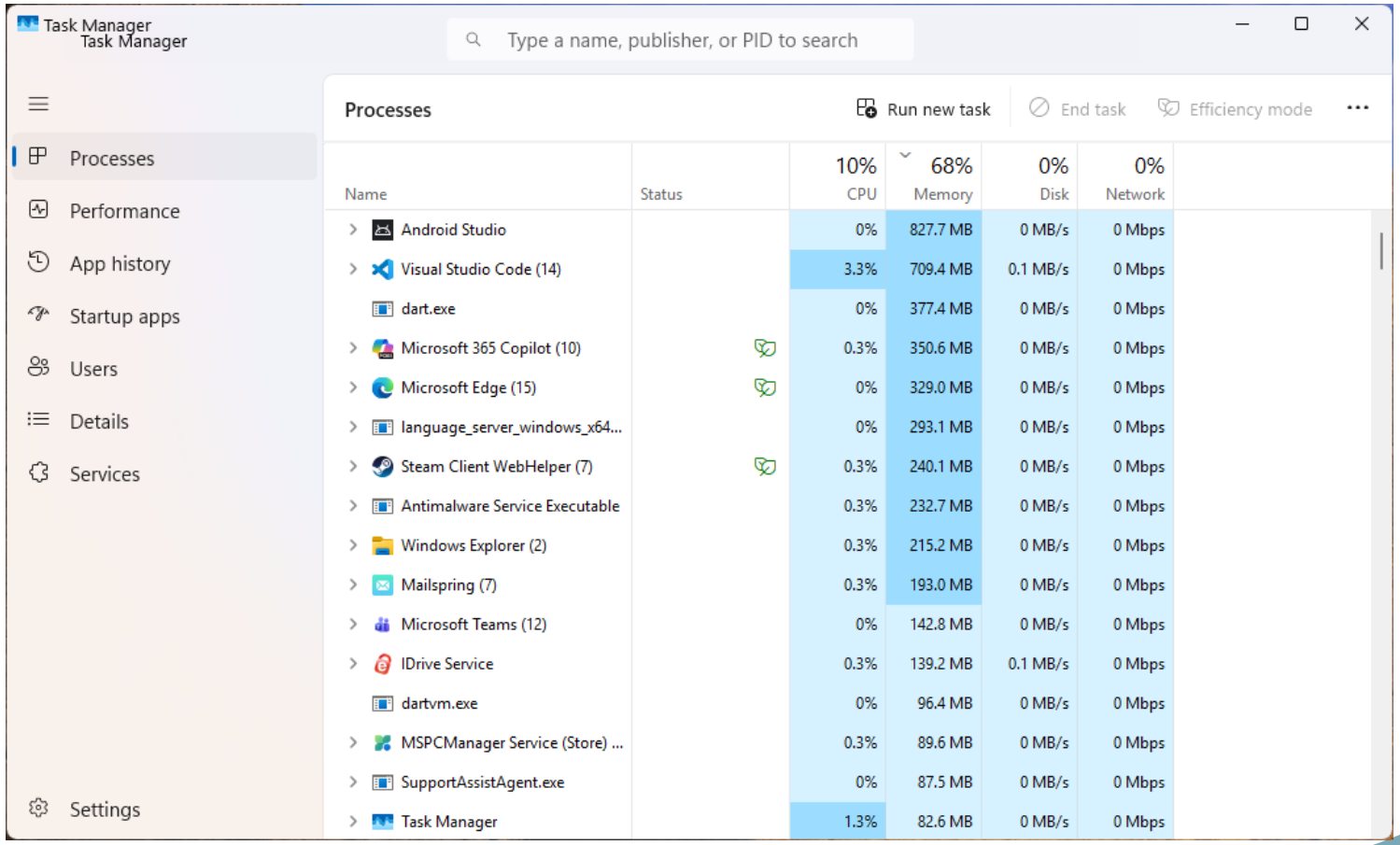
Improving Windows Performance

- Using Task Manager to look at resource usage
- How to find out what applications are launching at startup and how to change that

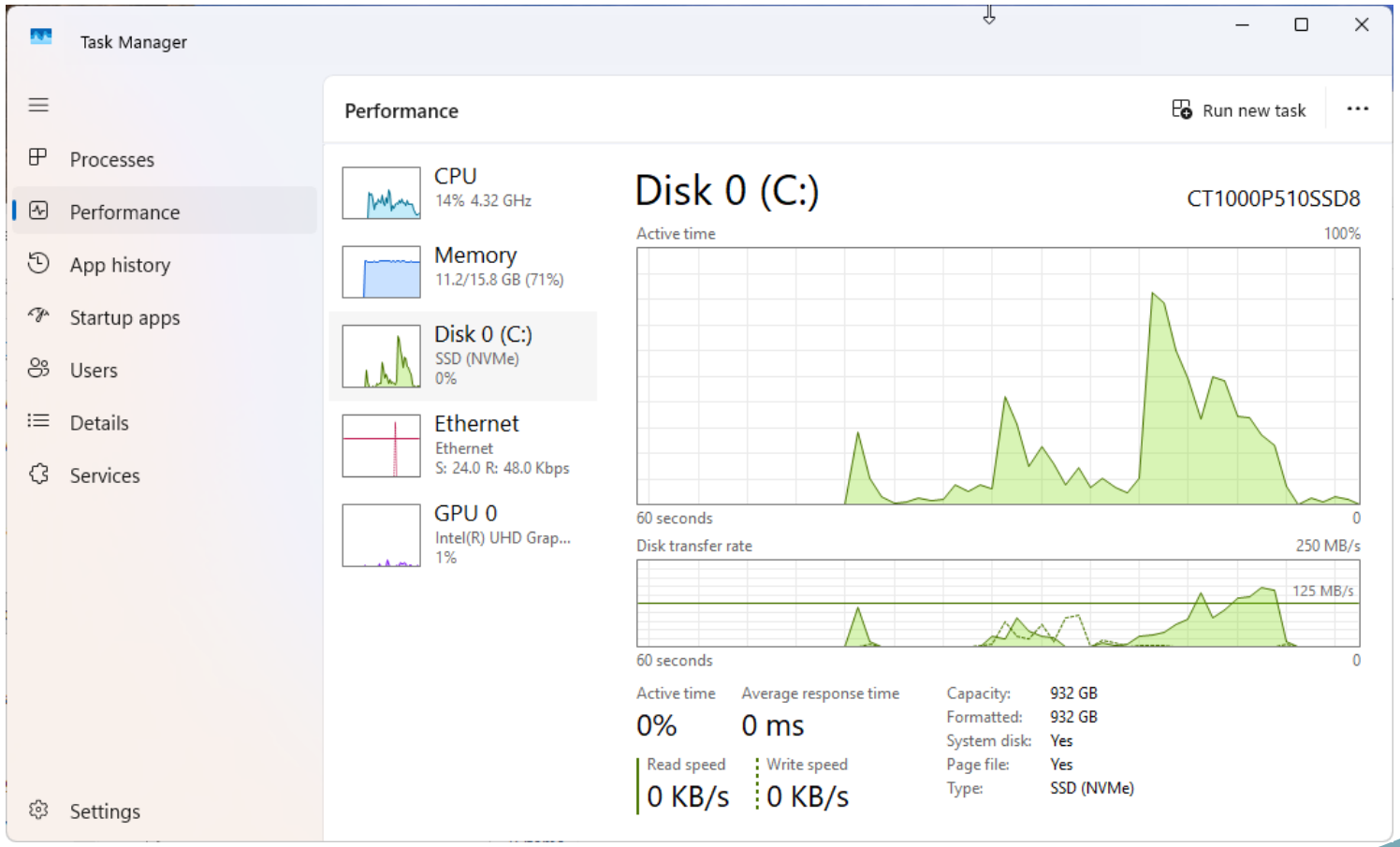
Using Task Manager

- To launch Task Manager:
  - Right click on the Taskbar and choose Task Manager, or
  - Right click on Start and choose Taks Manager, or
  - Press Ctrl+Shift+Esc

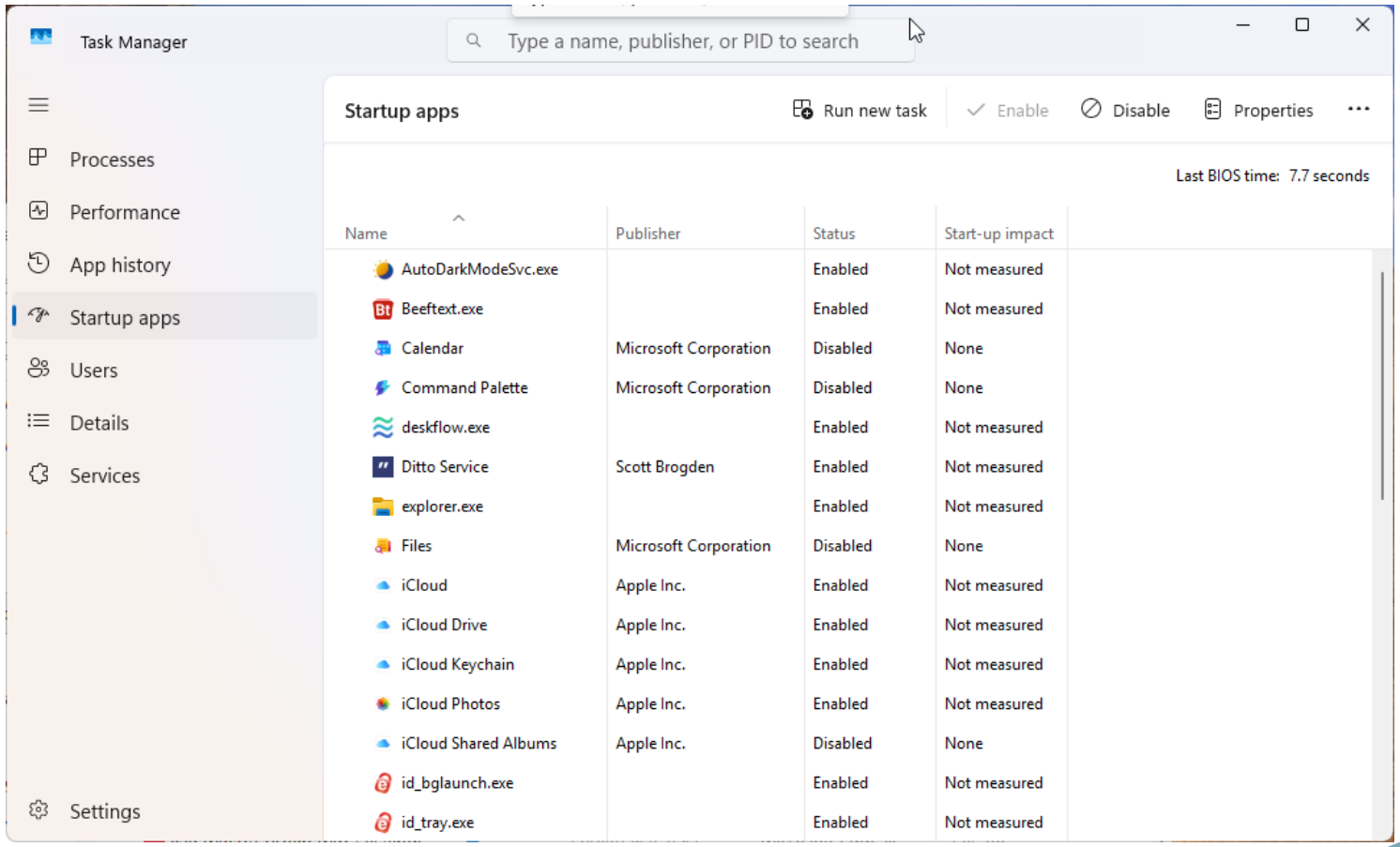
Using Task Manager (Processes)



Using Task Manager (Performance)



Using Task Manager (Startup Apps)



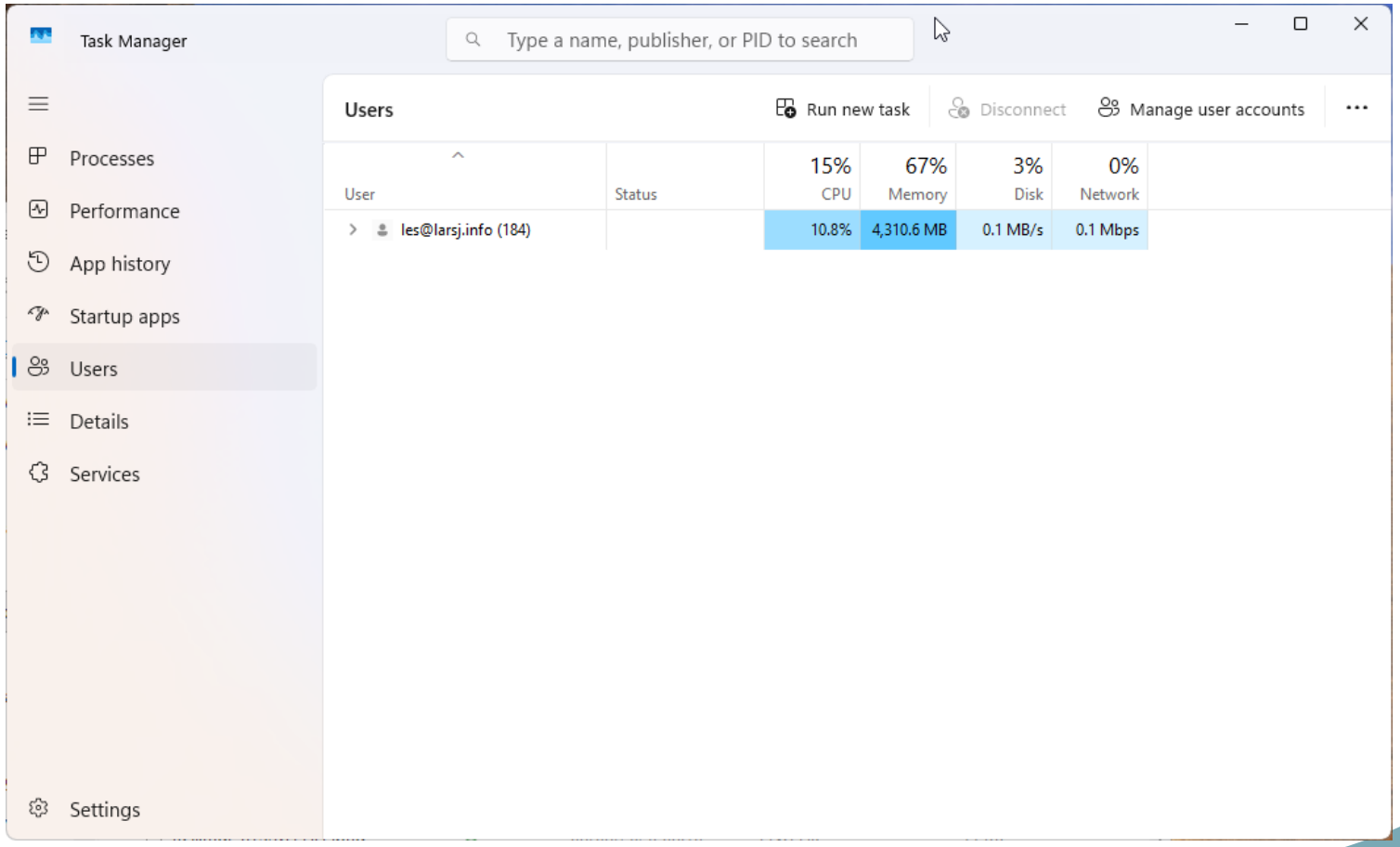
Startup Apps (cont’d)

- See also:

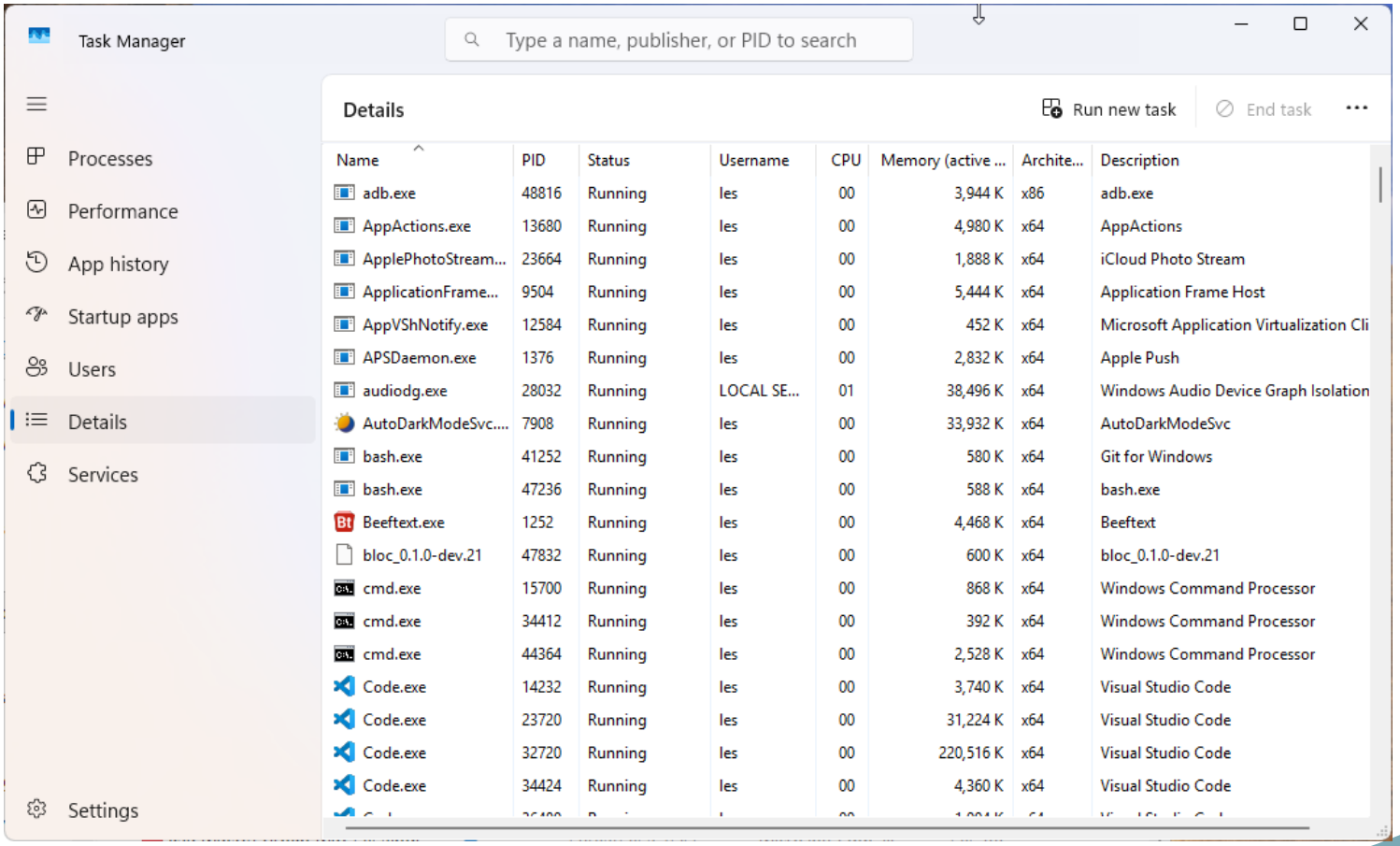
  Settings/Apps/Startup

- to turn off/on startup apps
- If you turn them off you can always start them when you need them…

Using Task Manager (Users)

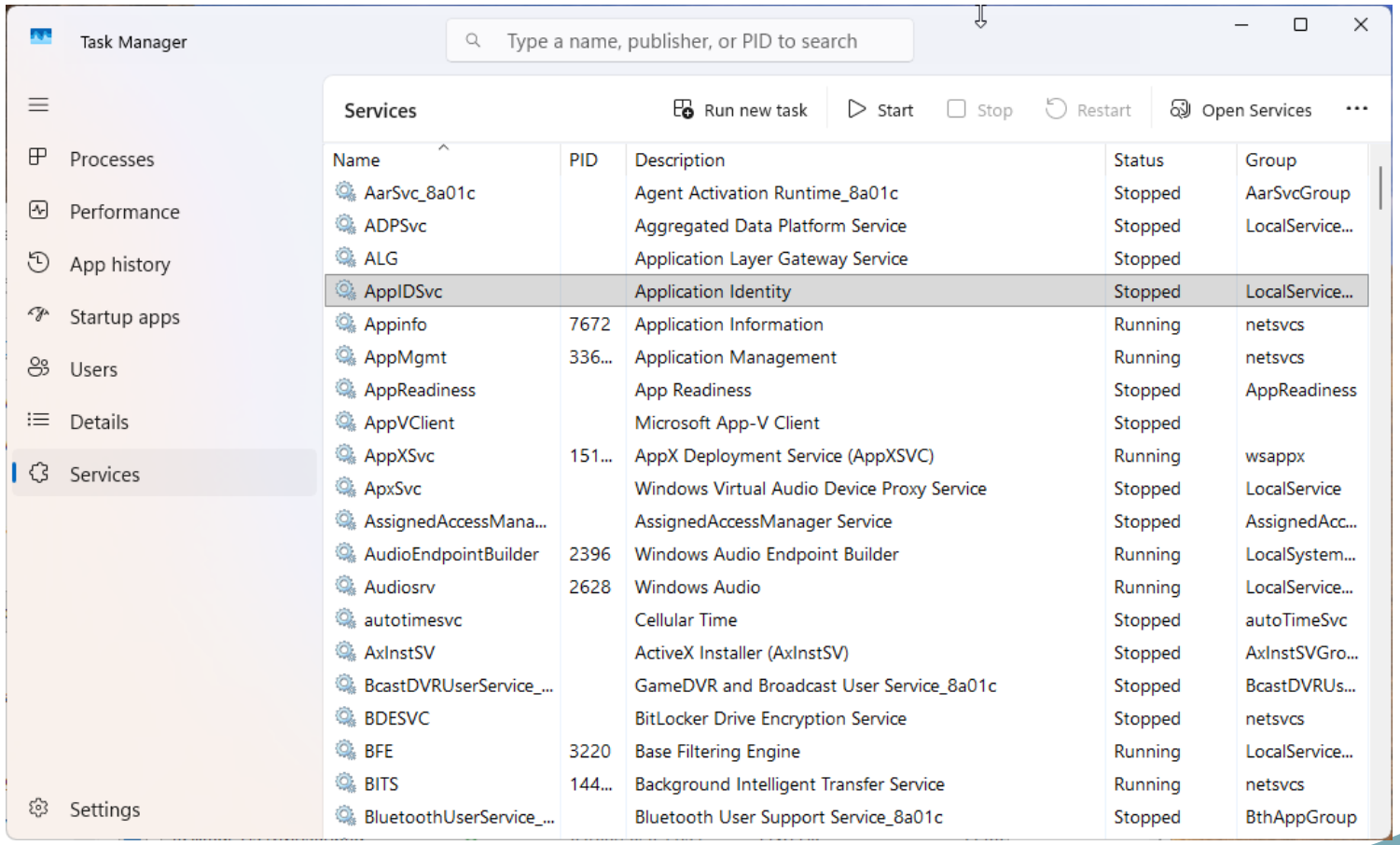


Using Task Manager (Details)



Name	PID	Status	Username	CPU	Memory (active ...	Archite...	Description
adb.exe	48816	Running	les	00	3,944 K	x86	adb.exe
AppActions.exe	13680	Running	les	00	4,980 K	x64	AppActions
ApplePhotoStream...	23664	Running	les	00	1,888 K	x64	iCloud Photo Stream
ApplicationFrame...	9504	Running	les	00	5,444 K	x64	Application Frame Host
AppVShNotify.exe	12584	Running	les	00	452 K	x64	Microsoft Application Virtualization Cli
APSDaemon.exe	1376	Running	les	00	2,832 K	x64	Apple Push
audiodg.exe	28032	Running	LOCAL SE...	01	38,496 K	x64	Windows Audio Device Graph Isolation
AutoDarkModeSvc....	7908	Running	les	00	33,932 K	x64	AutoDarkModeSvc
bash.exe	41252	Running	les	00	580 K	x64	Git for Windows
bash.exe	47236	Running	les	00	588 K	x64	bash.exe
Beeftext.exe	1252	Running	les	00	4,468 K	x64	Beeftext
bloc_0.1.0-dev.21	47832	Running	les	00	600 K	x64	bloc_0.1.0-dev.21
cmd.exe	15700	Running	les	00	868 K	x64	Windows Command Processor
cmd.exe	34412	Running	les	00	392 K	x64	Windows Command Processor
cmd.exe	44364	Running	les	00	2,528 K	x64	Windows Command Processor
Code.exe	14232	Running	les	00	3,740 K	x64	Visual Studio Code
Code.exe	23720	Running	les	00	31,224 K	x64	Visual Studio Code
Code.exe	32720	Running	les	00	220,516 K	x64	Visual Studio Code
Code.exe	34424	Running	les	00	4,360 K	x64	Visual Studio Code

Using Task Manager (Services)



Topics for future meetings