Core Performance Tricks & Common Mistakes

60

3 Types of Client Performance Problems

CPU/GPU ir	n Profiler	Issue Type	Possible Reasons & Examples				
CPU - Game Thread	60ms		Too much going on with gameplay!				
CPU - Render Thread	8ms	Game Thread Bound	 Too many animated meshes Many attached objects on player with collision 				
GPU	60ms	The second s	 Various types of custom animation, ui, or physics 				
Sand The State							
CPU - Game Thread 12	2ms	March Maria	Too many objects, or to process rendering! Extremely birth mesh counts				
CPU - Render Thread	60ms	Render Thread Bound	 Too many overlapping shadows & lights (esp. terrain) Overlapping verlapping context 				
GPU	60ms	A - MARCH - MARCH	Missing distance culling, or showing too much of map				
CPU - Game Thread 14	4ms	10 - 10 - 10 - 10 - 10 - 10 - 10 - 10 -	Graphics card not powerful enough! High particle density and particle size on VEX				
CPU - Render Thread	18ms	GPU Bound	Overlapping decals or overlapping lights				
GPU	60ms	(Less common, narder to prome)	 Player graphics settings too high* 				
CPU - Game Thread 10	6ms	all the and	Will run at 60 EDS, good jobl				
CPU - Render Thread 10	6ms	Ideal	Still can be networking problems creating rubber banding				
GPU 10	6ms		Also check the server for issues				

Quick Performance Overview - Profiler (1)



4 Weeks Ago

- Toggle open with F4 once enabled in the Game Settings Object. Note it only opens in local preview or on the live server for a published game.
- Captures information about the CPU & GPU threads contributing to Frame Rate, both for client and server.
- Very useful for identifying the broad source of performance problems, and especially to identify what the limiting factor is for your game performance **Game Thread CPU, Render Thread CPU, GPU, or Networking**.
- Target 16.3ms Frame Time to reach ~60 FPS for your players.

Play Mode Profiler Documentation:

https://manticoregames.atlassian.net/wiki/spaces/CORE/pages/501121025/Play-Mode+Profiler

Quick Performance Overview - Hierarchy View (2)

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		a la constante de la constante	▷ 🗁 Chat	0.000 ms	•	🚨 Terrain_bg
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	Game Thread time	7 35	👂 🖮 Helper_Nameplate	0.000 ms	•	🖻 🛅 Keppu(Antti)
			MRCi 88 (networked)		•	D 🗁 Kurtis
	Render Thread time		KZ99 (networked)	0.039 ms	•	🖻 🛅 Blake
			🕨 🍵 Hunting Knife (networked)	0.014 ms	•	🖻 🛅 Patrick
	Triangles	۲	Equipment (n) 8ABA1D45C89EEC3E:Hunting Knife	0.002 ms	•	🖻 🛅 Brent
				0.004 ms		🖻 🛅 Konz
	Draw calls		🕨 🔒 Equipment (networked)	0.000 ms	•	🖻 🛅 Gabriel
	Druw cuits	•	ScreenObjectGroup	0.000 ms	۲	🖻 🛅 Bigglebuns
	A CONTRACT OF		ScreenObjectGroup	0.000 ms	©	🖻 🛅 Divided
	Load time	۲	🕨 🖙 ScreenObjectGroup	0.000 ms		🖻 🛅 Roland
	0		🕨 🗖 Generic Reticle (client)	0.081 ms		👂 🖙 Scoreboard snipers
			Come Thread Tim	00		🖻 🛅 Chat
			Gaine Thread Think	50		D - Ul Container

- Multiple stats about hierarchy objects can be viewed either in preview mode or just at edit time.
 - Game Thread Time very helpful for catching pesky LUA scripts doing something inefficiently
 - **Render Thread Time** helpful to identify expensive rendering processes or see expensive parts of the map. Note this is tied to the camera view.
 - **Triangles** can be used at edit time, helpful to identify expensive meshes
 - Draw Calls tied to material usage, another tool to identify expensive art assets
 - Load Time Hit play to see the load time from various hierarchy elements
- Can view objects in the player in preview mode this can be extremely useful as well!

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8	Terrain_bg		۲	
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Þ 📂	Keppu(Antti)	2.942 s	۲	
d 🛅	Kurtis	0.049 s	۲	
d 🛅	Blake		۲	
d 🛅	Patrick	0.028 s	۲	
d 🛅	Brent	0.054 s	۲	
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d 🕞	Scoreboard snipers	3.746 ms	۲	
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₽□	UI Container	0.695 ms	۲	
		0.158 ms	۲	
₽ 💄	Bigglebuns	0.000 ms	۲	
D 🗖		0.484 ms	0	

Load Times

Quick Performance Overview - Server Logs (3)

- Access Server Logs if you are the publisher of a game
 - Publish unlisted to test on the live server.
- Print error messages to the server logs for help debugging

CLIENT SERVER LOGS																							
At A Glance Timing Network	Frame Time: 33.3 In Bytes Per Seco	75 ms nd: 0			Gan	ne Thread	Time: 1.0					Render	Thre	ad Time: 0						GP	U Time:	0.000 m	
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240										Fram	ie Time												
Timers														Fram	e Cour	ters							
Stat Name	с	alls Inc. Time ((ms) Inc. Tim	ne (%)				Timing	i Graph					Sessi	on Cou	Inter	s						
Game Thread														Static	Core Ol	ojects			55				
Game Engine Tick Time		0.78 ms	72.4%											Client	Jojects -only Co	re Obi	iects		55				
World Tick Time		0.73 ms	94.3%											Serve	r-only C	ore Ot	ojects						
Total Object Tick Time		0.35 ms	47.6%											Runti	ne Stati	c Core	Objec						
Character Animation Tin	ne 2	0.19 ms	55.9%											Conne	ected Co	re Obj	ects						
Physics Sim Time		0.01 ms	2.3%	-										Mem	ory Co	unter	s		1.000				
Render Thread			L											Physi	n Memo cs Memo	ry orv			1%				
														Lua M	lemory				1%				
												11/											
								and the second															

18 Common Mistakes

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Merging meshes will dramatically improve the frame rate for large, object heavy maps especially when many
objects need to render simultaneously! See the Render Thread improvements below.



#17 - Too Many Shadows & Area Lights

- Shadows can be very expensive for GPU and CPU Render times they are one of the easiest things to change to improve performance!
- Shadow casting lights are especially expensive
- Especially, watch out for shadow casting area lights overlapping with lots of other lights!



▼ Instance Properties		Advanced Sett	
Cull Distance	Min 100.0 m	Max 200.0 m	
Cast Shadows	×		c
Affect Distance Field Lighting			
Cast Shadows as Two Sided			
Receives Decals	¥		

- High CPU cost associated with animating objects which still use collision (6x more!)
 - Note we changed client context folders to default with collision off as a way to mitigate this particular issue
- Recommendation simply make sure anything which is animating has collision off!



🔺 🗟 house_Windmill_collisionON	0.392 ms	•
▷ 🗟 windmill_geo	0.000 ms	۲
▷ 🗟 windmill_base	0.000 ms	•
blades		۲
A house_Windmill_collisionOFF	0.070 ms	۲
▷ 🗟 windmill_geo	0.000 ms	۲
▷ 🗟 windmill_base	0.000 ms	۲
Þ 👼 blades		۲
Total Counts for [blades] Networked: 0 Non-Networked: 83 Total: 83		
Child [Windmill_center_cog] Networked: 0 Non - Networked : 82 Total : 82		
Child [Object Rotator Continuous] Networked: 0 Non - Networked : 1 Total : 1		

Collision

#15 - Large Moving Triggers or Trigger Based Volumes

- Extremely high CPU cost associated with moving large triggers over areas which have "Interacts with Triggers" checked to be true
 - Note: we changed this setting to default OFF in order to mitigate the issue



#14 - Complex Player Attachments!

- Objects attached to the player are especially expensive - use these sparingly!
- If these objects have collision on them, the cost will increase CPU game thread costs dramatically - make sure collision (& camera collision) are turned off.





Total Counts for [Orc Hunter Costume] Networked: 0 | Non-Networked: 435 | Total: 435

Child [root] Networked: 0 | Non - Networked : 1 | Total : 1

Child [head] Networked: 0 | Non - Networked : 246 | Total : 246

Child [neck] Networked: 0 | Non - Networked : 1 | Total : 1

Child [left_clavicle] Networked: 0 | Non - Networked: 1 | Total: 1

Child [left_shoulder] Networked: 0 | Non - Networked: 1 | Total: 1

Child [left_elbow] Networked: 0 | Non - Networked : 1 | Total : 1

Child [left_arm_prop] Networked: 0 | Non - Networked: 1 | Total: 1

Child [left_wrist] Networked: 0 | Non - Networked : 1 | Total : 1

Child [right_clavicle]

Early Hunter Costume from upcoming game

#13 - Single Player Preview vs. Live Server

- **Single Player Preview** Client and server are the same princess and run at the same display framerate. There is no networking happening, you know everything immediately.
- **Multiplayer Preview** Editor is the server and approximates a dedicated server, but only approximates. Still runs at display framerate. Clients won't have lag or packet loss. This gets most of the way to a live server but is not 100% accurate and can still hide problems.
- Live Server In the published game, server is running at 30hz and clients will have packet loss. Order and duration of script based processes can be potentially problematic. Very common problem is trying to do something to a player (i.e. equip something) before other scripts have loaded.



#12 Outline Object & Callouts

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 Depen highly through Other a of the of 	iding on the complexity kitbash object, the "Outline Object" asset can be CPU intensive, especially if you're duplicating the asset many times hout the level! approaches can be equally effective at highlighting an object at a fraction cost, for example "Callout VFX"	 Outline Object Callout Sparkle 	0.005 ms 0.000 ms	
	Approach A:	 GatherNode_Sunflower Item_SpawnPoint (client) GatherTrigger (client) ItemModel (client) ItemModel (client) MergedModel (client) Outline (client) Outline2 (client) SparkleVFX (client) GatherNode Sunflower 	0.036 ms 0.000 ms 0.0000 ms 0.000 ms 0.0000 ms 0.0000 ms 0.0000 ms 0.0000 ms 0.0000 ms 0.0000 ms 0.00000 ms 0.0000 ms 0.00000 ms 0.00000 ms 0.00000 ms 0.00000000 ms 0.00000000000000000000000000000000000	
P द Iten Approach B:	nModel (client) 0.000 ms C i Total Counts for [ItemModel] Networked: 0 Non-Networked: 63 Total: 63 Child [MergedModel] Networked: 0 Non - Networked : 63 Total : 63	 GatherNode_Sunflower Item_SpawnPoint (client) GatherTrigger (client) ItemModel (client) ItemModel (client) MergedModel (client) Outline3 (client) Outline (client) Outline (client) 	0.695 ms 0.000 ms 0.0000 ms 0.0000 ms 0.0000 ms 0.0000 ms 0.0000 ms 0.0000 ms 0.0000 ms 0.0000 ms 0.0000 ms 0	ostl ²

A STAR WAR BOOKS

#11 - Accumulating Listeners

- Stay mindful of "Listener" in the performance profiler these can lead to large gameplay spikes as seen to the right.
- Scripts destroyed that are connected to equipment will stay in memory until the equipment is destroyed.
- Caching objects from server / client UserData like (x = object.serverUserData) that isn't cleared out will stop Objects from being destroyed.

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	2	1.0					
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			Calls	inc. Time (i	115)	inc. time	(//)
			1	96.07 ms	Bigg	93.5%	
			1	92.56 ms	11-m	96.4%	
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			6424	50.41 ms	1	b12471F1%7	07
BuckClie	ent		1	0.59 ms	Street .	1.4%	_
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ime			2	0.04 ms		o. Goder	Z
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#10 - Lighting with Dynamic Shadows

- Avoid increasing Shadow Cascade Count (distance shadows) to a high number as a quick fix for terrain shadow casting.
- Instead, use invisible objects to create distance shadows
 - Visibility on, invisible material







#9 - Too Many Decals & No Draw Distances!

- Too many decals in an environment will drive up GPU costs significantly in the case of Strike Team the map uses ~900 decals for the gritty urban atmosphere.
- Profiling the same location with an without any decals shows ~5ms delta to the GPU time.
- **Recommendation**: utilize the draw distance setting to turn off decals which wouldn't be relevant given the player location (i.e. across the map)





CLIENT LOGS			For Planet	
At A Glance Timing Network	Frame Time: 17.022 ma In Bytes Per Second: 0	Game Thread Time: 4.702 ms	Render Thread Time: 12.501 ms	GPU Time: 16.950 ms
Resume D			In 13 and an	al and and an and an and a state of a state
CLIENT LOGS	Construction of the local division of the lo		e For Players	
At A View Client-side Tim	Performance data .me: 10.233 ms In Bytes Per Second: 0	Game Thread Time: 1.432 mp	Render Thread Time: 12,000 ms	OPU Time: 11.547 ms
23.29 mi	and the state of a first of a fir	nation and the land of the land of the state	-	unhahandahahanda
240			Frame Time	

- High GPU Cost associated with overlapping light attenuations
 - Cost ramps up exponentially especially when shadows are used extensively
- Tempting to use overlapping lights, especially with area lights & spotlights which cover a large amount of visual space and look cool
- Guidelines use lights intentionally and to evoke a specific effect. Monitor GPU costs to make sure things aren't getting out of hand



#7 - Not Using UI Contexts!

Total Counts for [UI Container]

Networked: 0 | Non-Networked: 12,420 | Total: 12,420

- Extreme example: ~10k UI objects on screen in a dynamic context
 - Typically worth 1-3ms of CPU time in savings
- Large cost to the CPU thread under UI Tick Time
 - Note that Static Context will only update UI when called explicitly

	ame Thread T	Time: 19.4	96 ms	Game Thread Time: 6, 132 m Static Context	is Cont	lent Type	Dynamic Dynamic Static Texture	
CLIENT LOGS	DER 201	1990	2KA	07 <i>66</i> 0 (906)	9:366 A			
At A Glance Timing Network	Frame Time: 20.362 ms In Bytes Per Second: 0	200	592	Game Thread Time: 20.456 ms	Render Thread Time: 0.100 ms	2	GPL	J Time: 19.674 ms
Resume								
Timers		500	8		Frame Time Frame Counters			
Stat Name	Calls	Inc. Time (ms)	Inc. Time (%)	Timing Graph	Static Mesh Triodius I			
Game Thread	La Sila	960	ORC		Animated Mesh Brow C	talis		
Game Engine Tick Time	DEFE	1.61 ms	7.9%					
World Tick Time		1.36 ms	84.4%		Terrain Tribinglas Draw			
Total Object Tick Time		1.17 ms	86.3%		Session Counters			
Character Animation Time	10	0.31 ms	26.1%		Core Objects		12434	
Physics Sim Time UI Tick Time	500	0.04 ms 17.66 ms	86.3%	010000000	Static Core Objects Client-only Core Object		12433 1	
Render Thread	WEEK	DESS	CC-	200000000000000000000000000000000000000	Game Thread	- Part	CO S	
Total Scene Rendering Time	5050	10.24 ms	125.0%	02	Game Engine Tick Time	アントく	1.58 ms	25.8%
Rendering Setup Time	DESC	9.01 ms	88.0%		World Tale Time	1200	1 31	00.70
Shadow Depths Rendering Tin		0.04 ms	0.4%	10 m 2 5 5 6 0	World lick line		1.51 ms	02.1%
Base Pass Rendering Time	6220	0.02 ms	0.2%	No N	Total Object Tick Time		1.12 ms	85.2%
Lighting Time	N-100	0.15 ms	1.5%		Character Animation Time	10	0.28 ms	24.7%
Bender Einish Time	7200	0.00 ms	0.0%	0.220000000000	Physics Sim Time	2	0.03 ms	2.9%
UI Render Time	1020	6.31 ms	77.0%		UI Tick Time	610	4.05 ms	66.0%

#6 - High Triangle Counts

- Check triangle counts for objects, especially with curved surfaces, and make sure that you aren't using more triangles than actually required for environment art!
- Recommendation reduce to or find the minimal number of assets needed to create your environment!
 - If you're really looking to optimize, find creative ways to express your art with the less expensive kitbashing!



Single Mesh vs Individual Planks



≠ 🔓 pier_rope	23,808	۵ 🕯
🍞 Cylinder	384	۲
🕆 Cylinder	384	۲
🍞 Ring - Thick	4,608	۲
👕 Ring - Thick	4,608	۲
📬 Ring - Thick	4,608	۲
📬 Ring - Thick	4,608	۲
🗊 Ring - Thick	4,608	۲

Ring for "Rope" - could be reduced?

#5 - VFX, large Particle Size & Density

- Using only 5 VFX smoke volume objects you can easily tank GPU performance by increasing both particle density & particle size to make it look "thicker"
 - Examples below are 5x5x5, 25 density, and 1-5 particle size
- Particle simulation adds to game thread cost

Particle

 Guidance - use minimal values for density/particle size to get the same appearance





#4 - Missing Lifespans on Spawned FX

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- When spawning SFX or VFX, especially for weapons and equipment, make sure that the hierarchy isn't filling up with objects that don't expire
 - Default lifespan is set to 0, so you need to enter this manually 0
 - Alternatively, it is good practice to clean up objects if you have a 0 systematic approach for spawning them
 - Be sure to check both server & client! 0
- These objects will accumulate over time and eventually crash the game essentially a memory leak. May be subtle at first!
- Also note that spawning in lots of objects for weapon FX (muzzle flashes, impact FX, etc.) can get very expensive quickly!





#3 - Too Many Mesh Objects!

- Aim for around 30,000 non-networked objects for your total map size. The actual number of objects depends greatly on the type of objects used.
 - 10k = Almost never an issue
 - 20k = Not an issue for most players
 - 30k = Can see perf issues for some players
 - 40k = Many players will have perf issues
- Mesh merging will help increase the number of total objects possible for your map.
- Most visible on the Render Thread CPU times



#2 - Incorrect Use of Networking Contexts!

Networked Contexts

Client Context - Networked context for anything which matters to the client, but does not require that all players see the exact same thing at the exact same time. VFX, UI, SFX, etc. are almost always in a client context. **Static Context** - Used for spawning in chunks of collision without individually networking the meshes.

Networked Context - The most precious commodity for multiplayer games! Used for gameplay critical elements which need to be synchronized for all players in the game, for example a soccer ball which all players can interact with in a game.

Common mistake involves having more networked than is actually necessary - this will lead to rubber banding and other lag issues!

🛎 🗟 Mage Elf Tornado Placement Frost (networked)	۵ 🔒
2D Basic Shapes Decal (client)	©
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4 🞼 VFX (client)	@ @
Tornado VFX_test (client)	© 🔒
Smoke Puff Radial VFX (client)	۵ (
Electrical Arc Volume (client)	•
Swirling Dust VFX (client)	⊘ 8
Swirling Dust VFX (client)	⊘ ∦
★ Fire Volume VFX (client)	۵ 🖁
Nature Wind Steady 01 SFX (client)	© 🔒
Magic Wind Blast Long 01 SFX (client)	
Correct	



🔺 🚾 paddles	۲
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😚 Cylinder (networked)	۲
🗊 Cube (networked)	۲
🗊 Crescent - 03 (networked)	۲
🗊 Capsule (networked)	۲
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😚 Cylinder (networked)	۲
🗊 Cube (networked)	۲
🗊 Crescent - 03 (networked)	۲
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Could be in Static Context!

4 🖙 Mage Elf Tornado Placement Frost (networked)	۵ 🕯
🔺 📣 Magic Wind Blast Long 01 SFX (networked)	
🔕 2D Basic Shapes Decal (networked)	۲
🚇 TornadoFadeOut (networked)	۲
🔺 疇 VFX (networked)	⊗ 8
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💠 Smoke Puff Radial VFX (networked)	۲
Electrical Arc Volume (networked)	۲
💠 Swirling Dust VFX (networked)	⊗ 8
🛠 Swirling Dust VFX (networked)	۵
	۲
💠 Fire Volume VFX (networked)	۲
📣 Nature Wind Steady 01 SFX (networked)	⊘ 8
Very Incorrect & Terribly Expe	nsivelll

#1 - Assumptions about Player Count!



#1 - Assumptions about Player Count!



The Real #1

Be mindful of things which don't impact the Player Experience, but are expensive for game performance. Use common sense!

- Does the player care about X/Y/Z?
- Is there a cheaper version of X/Y/Z which creates an equivalent player experience?
- What can I pull out of my game without the experience toppling over



Useful Tools!

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FPS Tracker - Coming soon to CC!

<u>FPS Tracker - average out FPS for high level adjustment</u> (will be available on Community Content!)

- Great to use for simple A/B comparisons or high level assessments of frame rates for games
- Use "/fps show" to turn on the panel
- Use "/fps reset" to start the clock back at 0
- Tracks a few categories:
 - Time since load
 - Current FPS
 - Overall min/max FPS
 - Average FPS since load (very useful!)
 - Last 5s average (very useful!)
 - Last 5s min/max

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current: 59.65 fps	
OV	veral min: 7.09
ove	erall max: 60.00
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5s av	avg (min): 59.80 vg (max): 59.99



Performance Mapper

Performance Mapper Tool

(will be available on Community Content!)

- Tracks and stores player data over time for frame rate given a specific location on that map.
- Colors correspond to the quality of the frame rate for all accumulated data.
- Great for testing a large, complex map with lots of potential "hotspots" suffering from worse performance.
 - Utilize chat commands to download, clear, display data



Other Misc Tips!

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Low Fidelity Versions (part 1)

Use high fidelity and low fidelity versions of complex assets (tanks!)

- For your own tank, render the high fidelity version (more objects, better VFX, etc.)
- For other player tanks, typically far away, use a lower fidelity model with fewer overall objects.
 - Check if you have the local player and equip the corresponding object.







Total Counts for [TANK_SKIN_Default_GER_Panzer3_LP] Networked: 0 | Non-Networked: 241 | Total: 241

Child [AdjustmentPoint] Networked: 0 | Non - Networked : 239 | Total : 239

Child [AllyOutline] Networked: 0 | Non - Networked: 1 | Total : 1

Child [EnemyOutline] Networked: 0 | Non - Networked : 1 | Total : 1

Total Counts for [TANK_SKIN_Default_GER_Panzer3] Networked: 0 | Non-Networked: 443 | Total: 443

Child [AdjustmentPoint] Networked: 0 | Non - Networked : 441 | Total : 441

Child [AllyOutline] Networked: 0 | Non - Networked : 1 | Total : 1

Child [EnemyOutline] Networked: 0 | Non - Networked: 1 | Total: 1

#15 - Low Fidelity Versions (part 2)



UI Tick Time Breakdown

Profiler Tool & UI Tick Time

- Note that the "UI Tick Time" field has a cost associated with having the profiler open (~2-4ms) to actually render the UI visuals. This is categorized under the Game Thread CPU time.
- When closed, this cost is not incurred although there is a very small cost to having it activated in your game generally.
- Therefore you should be aware that the Game Thread CPU time is actually lower than displayed in the aggregate ms count. It may be better to optimize the render thread before the game thread given this information.



Questions!

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