

How can I diagnose why my FreeLibrary isn't freeing the library?

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A customer had some code that called `FreeLibrary`, and they expected the library to be freed, but it wasn't happening. They suspect that there was an unmatched call to `LoadLibrary` and was wondering if there were any diagnostic tools that would help them find it.

Application Verifier to the rescue.

Application Verifier maintains a history of module loads and unloads, and you can use [the !avrfl -dlls](#) debugger extension to view that log. For each module that is loaded and unloaded, it records a stack trace of the `LoadLibrary` and `FreeLibrary`.

The customer reported back that this debugger extension found the problem. Their code used the `HKEY_PERFORMANCE_DATA` registry key to read some performance counters, and opening the performance counter was triggering an additional DLL load.

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