Apply Debugging Techniques

Last updated and reviewed: Jul 11, 2022
Time needed to execute: 10-15 minutes
Skill level: Advanced

Background:
With the addition of GA4 debug view, you can look at any data from the last 30 minutes coming into your Analytics account in detail by enabling debug mode with the Chrome extension or by using Google Tag Manager.

Purpose:
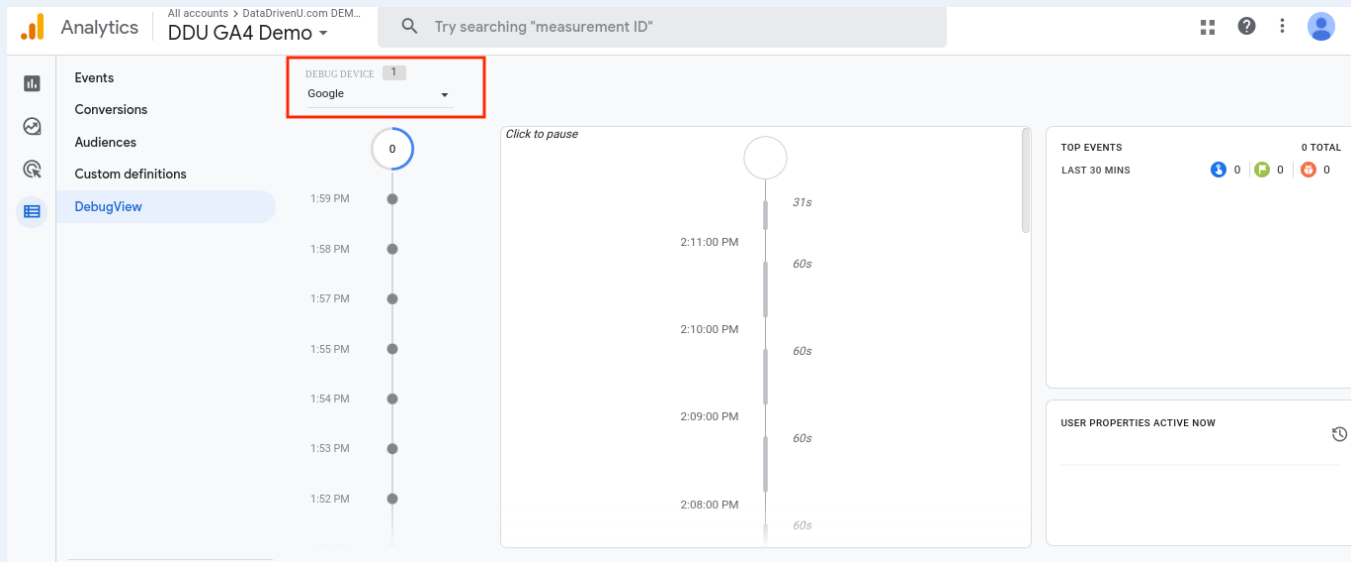Apply debugging techniques to investigate data in real time.

Process Steps:
- ☐ Step 1: Open The Debugview
- ☐ Step 2: Investigate A Triggered Event
- ☐ Step 3: Investigate A Specific Parameter In Top Events
- ☐ Step 4: Investigate User Properties In Debug Mode

⬛ **Before You Start:** Have you enabled the Debugger in GA4? If you have not yet done so, please follow the steps in the *Installing GA4 [3002] - Enable the Debug View* before using the debugger.

STEP 1: OPEN THE DEBUGVIEW

☐ On the left pane, click *Configure* and then *DebugView*

The first column you see contains a series of circles. Each one represents one of the most recent 30 minutes. The number inside the circle shows the number of events counted for that minute.

Proceed to step 2 to investigate and debug an event.

STEP 2: INVESTIGATE A TRIGGERED EVENT

☐ Click on one of the circles to show events that registered during that minute.

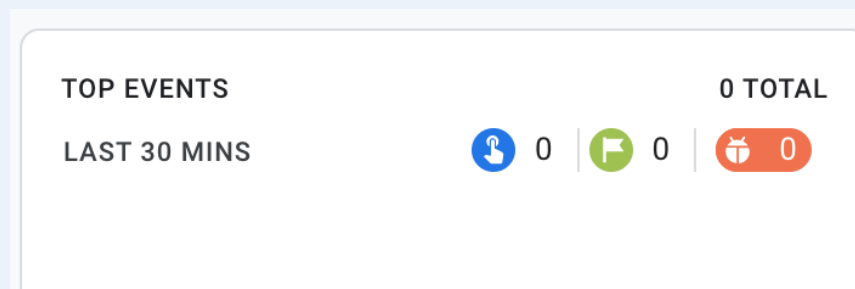In the middle column, you will see the events recorded in detail minute by minute, each with a timestamp.

☐ Click on the event you want to investigate.

A list of parameters will be displayed for that particular event.

STEP 3: INVESTIGATE A SPECIFIC PARAMETER IN TOP EVENTS

☐ Click on one of the top events listed in the upper right.

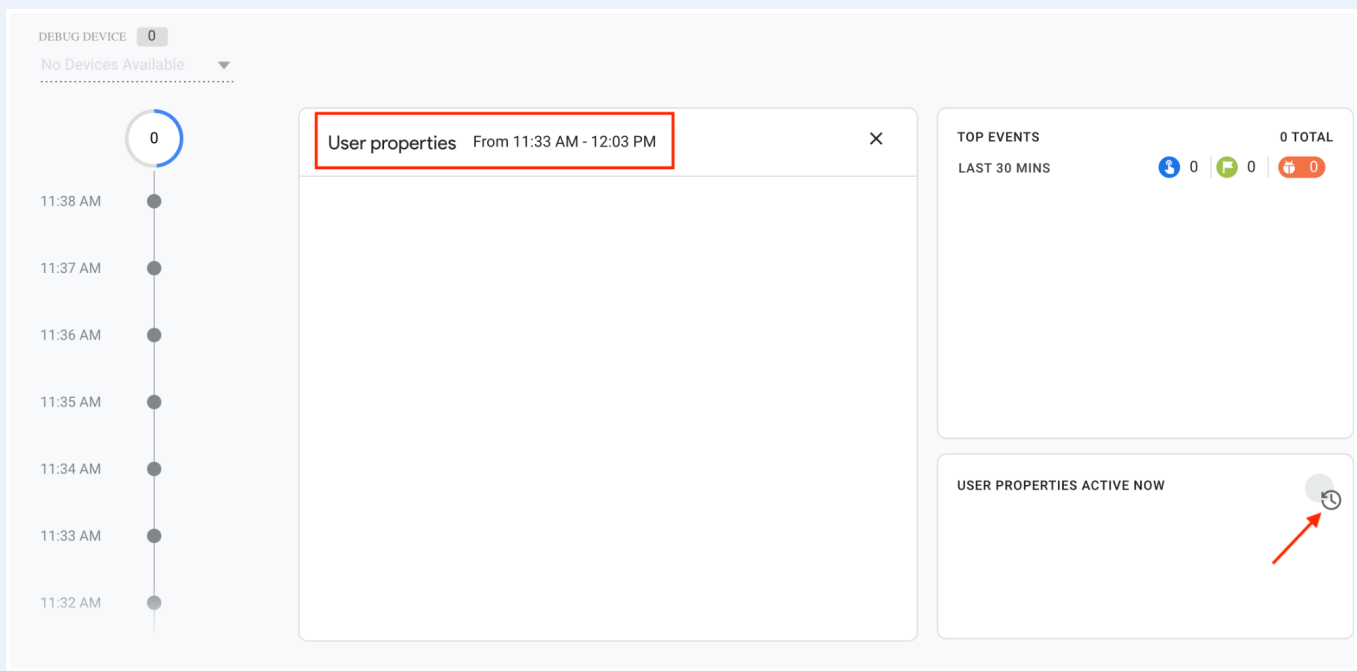These are the most popular events over the last 30 minutes.

☐ Select a specific parameter.

You'll see the timestamps of each parameter that was sent with the corresponding event over the last 30 minutes.

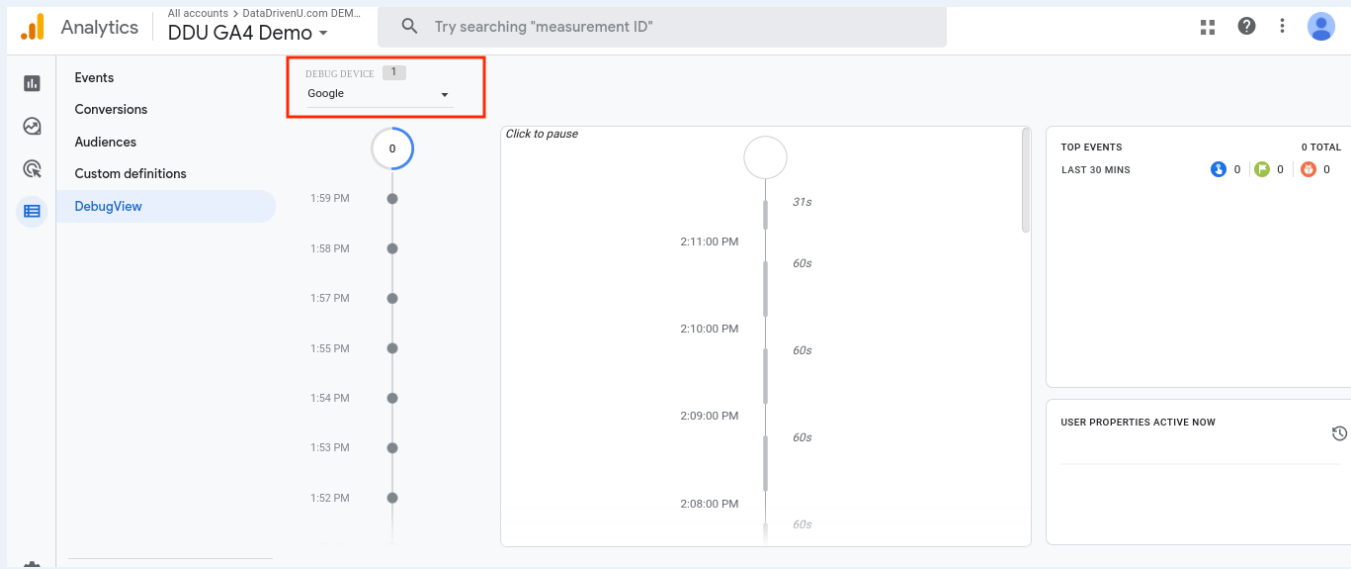## STEP 4: INVESTIGATE USER PROPERTIES IN DEBUG MODE

You can check the User Properties pane on the bottom right of the DebugView, which shows current user properties for selected devices running in debug mode.

☐ Under User Properties, click on the clock icon to see changes over the past 30 minutes.

Finally, you'll notice there is a device selector on the top.

☐ Select which device's data you want to run through debug mode.

Note: Data is color-coded in debug mode. You'll see events in blue, conversions in green, and user properties in orange.

☐ Objective: I used the above debugging techniques in Google Analytics 4.