

Re: XP SP-2 System Boot Fails using /3GB switch in Boot.ini

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<http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/WinXP/microsoft.public.windowsxp.accessibility/2006-11/msg00053.html>

- *From:* "Mike Hall – MS MVP Windows Shell/User" <mikehall@xxxxxxxx>
 - *Date:* Sun, 12 Nov 2006 16:26:26 -0500
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Like it or not, some part of installed RAM has to be available for kernel processes, pci memory address, video etc. The fact that a system does not make the user aware of this until such time as 4gb is installed does not take away from the that fact. By using the /3gb switch in a system where only 3gb was installed, the system was attempting to do as asked, but in doing so was cutting away resources needed for the 'system' to operate.

Even in a 64bit system which accurately reports 4gb installed RAM, a portion of that is required for system processes, and so will not be directly available to Windows purely because the system will not allow it.

As far as I am aware, Windows XP can't use more than 2gb for any one single process, so forcing by using the /3gb switch will not work for just one process anyway.

To rebuild your boot.ini file such that the machine boots properly, go to this website..

<http://support.microsoft.com/kb/330184>

—
Mike Hall
MS-MVP Windows Shell/User

"Gaikotsu" <Gaikotsu@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx> wrote in message news:718CC440-DA30-4572-8D06-9CAD71DDDCCEC@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx

Andrew,

Thanks for the response I'm glad there is an explanantion.

I DO need the 3GB switch! I am an illustrator and I work heavily in Photoshop. The programers at Adobe saw fit to limit Photoshop to 1.7 GIG of RAM. However, if you apply the 3GB switch it will allow upto 2.8 GIG of

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RAM.

This will assist me in having less data to swap on 'scratch' discs. A simple 200MB file will take 5 minutes just to gaussian blur :(.

I want to increase performance in Photoshop. I have a decent system...I just want it to run like one ;).

-Gaikotsu

"Andrew E." wrote:

On a new hd, specially SATA it doesn't get recognized, to solve this, download the MS-DOS utility from its mfg web site. Install to a MS-DOS formatted floppy, boot to floppy, run the formatting/burn in utilities. Also, you don't need to use a 3GB switch, what does this accomplish.... Also, make sure the BIOS is set for SATA, by default it isn't.

"Gaikotsu" wrote:

Greetings,

I am trying to increase the amount of Physical Memory used by Photoshop CS2. It is stated by Adobe that this can be accomplished by using the /3GB switch in Boot.ini on a Windows Xp Professional Service Pack 2 system. I have this version and I am using SP2.

When I place the /3GB switch in Boot.ini the system fails to boot. The system will post, then there is a Blue Screen, however it goes by in an instant and it doesn't fully display. The system then reboots itself. It will do this in a continual loop. Windows Recovery Console will not repair the problem as it cannot properly see the Partition on the Boot Drive. I believe that this is because it's a Serial ATA drive. Even when

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using
F6 to
load in the Serial ATA driver, it still cannot read the partition.
It
states
that the file system is [unknown] and that there maybe
corruption that
is
unrecoverable. Obviously this is BS as all I did was change
the
Boot.ini
file. I resolved the issue by installing Windows to a new
drive and
used
that Windows session to change the Boot.ini file back to
normal.

With that said, is there a way to use this switch with my
system?
Perhaps I
didn't place it in the right place? Is the order in which the
switches
are
executed important?

Here are my system specs:

Mainboard: ASUS P4800 SE
CPU: Intel P4 3.0 Ghz (Presscott)
Memory: 2x 512MB PC3200 Corsair 2x 1024MB PC3200
Corsair (Running in
Dual
Channel)
Drives:
1) Maxtor 300GIG Serial ATA 7200RPM 16mb cache (2
partitions of 150GIG)
2) Maxtor 160GIG E-IDE UATA 7200 RPM 8mb Cache
(Contains the Windows
Swap)
3) Western Digital 40GIG E-IDE ATA 7200 RPM 4mb
Cache
4) Creative DVD-ROM
5) Creative DVD-RW
VIDEO: AGP 8x Biostar 6800 Ultra 512MB using
Forceware 93.71(latest)
SOUND: SundBlaster Audigy 2 ZS
OS: Windows XP Professional Service Pack 2 Version 2002

Thanks in Advance!

-Gaikotsu

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