

## Re: XP Pro – Swap File Size for Modern Systems

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<http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/WinXP/microsoft.public.windowsxp.general/2004-04/5988.html>

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**From:** Rick \ (rick\_at\_mvps.org)

**Date:** 04/06/04

Date: Tue, 6 Apr 2004 10:16:16 -0400

Hi,

If you want full memory dumps for analyzing crashes, then you want the minimum size to at least be equal to the installed ram. If you don't, then set a minimum size equal to that which is in normal use. To determine this "optimal" size for your system, you yourself must monitor its size – no one is going to be able to tell you what that is. It depends on your usage habits and the software your load. I notice that you include video editing – this in itself occupies a fairly large amount of ram, and the more you have the better off you'll be. I would \*suggest\* that you set your minimum size to ~512MB at this point and see how it goes. Do not under any circumstances set a maximum, unless you like 'out of memory' errors.

The default cluster size for NTFS is 4k, and you should leave that alone. If you are using FAT32, you should leave that at the default cluster size for the partition as well. If you want to put the page file on a separate partition, that is fine, but put it on a partition that is not used for anything else. You probably should get a better understanding of what virtual memory is before you begin, this page may help:

<http://aumha.org/win5/a/xpvm.htm>

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Best of Luck,

Rick Rogers aka "Nutcase" MS-MVP - Win9x

Windows isn't rocket science! That's my other hobby!

<http://mvp.support.microsoft.com/>

Associate Expert - WinXP - Expert Zone

[www.microsoft.com/windowsxp/expertzone](http://www.microsoft.com/windowsxp/expertzone)

Win98 Help - [www.rickrogers.org](http://www.rickrogers.org)

"Jeff McAhren" <mcahren@hotmail.com> wrote in message

news:Op4P4\$9GEHA.2416@TK2MSFTNGP12.phx.gbl...

> Sorry for this question, but I have read so much contradictory data on

> this,

> I can't get a straight answer. I seems that while opinions are plentiful,

> not many seem to be based on fact, or the rules date back to the days when

> a

> nice system had a 4GB disk and 16MB of RAM.

>

> What is the optimal size for the swap file for Windows XP Pro. I

> currently

> have 256MB RAM, but I'm planning on adding another 256MB (512MB total) in

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> the not too distant future.  
>  
> This is my home computer. I use it for normal the home stuff (email,  
> internet, excel, word, money), and for home movie editing / encoding and  
> DVD  
> burning, which is very resource intensive.  
>  
> Is it still recommended to make the swap file size static? Should it  
> indeed  
> be on it's own partition? What is the optimal cluster size for that  
> partition?  
>  
> Thanks!  
>  
> Jeff McAhren  
>  
>