

## Re: Can't set pagefile beyond 2047 MB

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<http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/WinXP/microsoft.public.windowsxp.general/2005-01/2510.html>

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**From:** R. McCarty (*PcEngWork-NoSpam\_\_at\_mindspring.com*)

**Date:** 01/03/05

Date: Mon, 03 Jan 2005 15:46:24 GMT

You can actually monitor & test Pagefile usage with a couple of XP tools. One, Perfmon.Msc will show you in %, total Pagefile usage. You do have to add counters for Pagefile ( Usage, Peak Usage).

By using TaskMgr, Performance – you can monitor Memory usage (The PF meter).

My system has 1.0 Gigabytes of memory, so take that into account when reading the values presented below.

On my System I have a 128 Min Pagefile. When no applications are running my PF meter runs at 187 Megabytes and the Pagefile % will be at 11%. Under heavy loading (VPC, Word, Outlook, OE & Streets & Trips) memory usage climbs to 527 Megabytes and the Pagefile percentage climbs to 27% or 34 Megabytes of the Pagefile. My VPC uses 256 megabytes for the Windows 2000 instance.

The point of all this is that as long as available Physical memory is available to XP, it won't make extensive use of the Pagefile.

Because of memory requirements, I now recommend that all my customers do not purchase a PC that has less than 512 Megabytes of memory.

If you spend 30–45 minutes testing your own system, you can see in real world terms how XP utilizes memory.

"Alex Nichol" <alex.n.mvpdts@ntlworld.delete.com> wrote in message news:ifoit016mk52etd3b3bm2frdsddeuq9qk@4ax.com...

> *perris wrote:*

>

>>[*the idea that the more memory the bigger the pagefile*] "*That's backwards.*

>>*The more memory you have, the \*less\* page file*

>>*you need.*

>>

>>*absolutely incorrect.*

>

> *For a given workload it is entirely correct.*

>

> *You seem unable to understand that nothing is written into the page file*

> *(other than a small amount the system seems to park there for*

> *contingencies) until there is insufficient room in RAM. It is then used*

> *for overflow. On large RAM this may be never – or it may be quite early*

- > *if the workload is very heavy. Hence the advice (which you will also*
- > *find in Ed Bott's 'Windows XP Inside out') to set initial size at 100*
- > *\*in the first instance\*. If the size of the file grows, update the*
- > *initial size accordingly, to cover all normal use.*
- >
- >>*every bit of memory a user has in use needs backing on the hardrive.*
- >
- > *Now that \*is\* incorrect. The total VM allocation in use must be*
- > *contained in the sum of RAM and page file. As above – \*nothing\* is*
- > *written to page file until RAM overflows. If there is a significant page*
- > *file actual use, then RAM is marginally adequate at best – get more. Or*
- > *do not load so many things to sit around doing nothing.*
- >
- > *Also realise that there is a total limit of virtual memory space set but*
- > *the underlying system memory model; RAM plus page file of more than 4GB*
- > *is certainly no use (apart from the case of Fast User Switching), and*
- > *more than 3 GB very dubious*
- >
- >
- >>*the only users that don't need to increase the size of the pagefile when*
- >>*they have more memory are the users that don't use the extra memory they*
- >>*installed.*
- >
- > *And so is that*
- >
- > *And that is all I am going to say.*
- >
- > --
- > *Alex Nichol MS MVP (Windows Technologies)*
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