

Re: Do I need a Page File?

Source:

<http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/WinXP/microsoft.public.windowsxp.general/2005-11/msg05186.html>

- *From:* "Richard Urban" <richardurbanREMOVETHIS@xxxxxxxxxxx>
 - *Date:* Fri, 25 Nov 2005 09:33:34 -0500
-

We're not all as smart as you David, and most of us are certainly not as coarse!

Isn't it true that virtual memory will still be used whether, or not, a pagefile exists? Is it not independent of the pagefile?

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Regards,

Richard Urban
Microsoft MVP Windows Shell/User

Quote from George Ankner:
If you knew as much as you think you know,
You would realize that you don't know what you thought you knew!

"David Candy" <. > wrote in message
news:%23qTcxRc8FHA.3504@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx
That's a stupid comment. Intel designs the virtual memory.

--

Read David defending the concept of violence.
http://margokingston.typepad.com/harry_version_2/2005/10/entering_the_ga.html#more

=====
"Richard Urban" <richardurbanREMOVETHIS@xxxxxxxxxxx> wrote in message
news:%23e18qVU8FHA.3416@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx
> "Jim" <null@xxxxxxxx> wrote in message
> [news:YOqhf.33604\\$qw.10572@xxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:news:YOqhf.33604$qw.10572@xxxxxxxxxxx)
>>
>> "Ken Blake, MVP" <kblake@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx> wrote in message
>> [news:eC\\$34ZT8FHA.1028@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:news:eC$34ZT8FHA.1028@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx)
>>> boe wrote:
>>>
>>> > I have 2 GIGs of ram. I don't think I've ever seen my task manager
>>> > tell me I was using more than 1 GIG of RAM. I'd like to avoid it

Re: Do I need a Page File?

>>> > ever being touched. Can I do that or does Windows XP really need the
>>> > page file to run?
>>>
>>>
>>> Yes.
>>>
>>> Note two important points:
>>>
>>> 1. Windows preallocates things to memory, before it even needs them; in
>> many
>>> cases some of those preallocations are never used. Some of those
>>> preallocations are made in the page file. If there is no page file, all
>>> those allocations which will never be used have to be made in real memory.
>> The
>>> result is that getting rid of the page files means that you will never
>>> be
>>> able to use all of your real memory.
>>>
>>
>> This is the one topic that always gets me riled up. Windows may indeed
>> require the paging file, but it's totally illogical. If our systems had
>> unlimited amounts of RAM, we wouldn't even NEED a paging file. In
>> *theory*, the paging file ONLY exists for paging real memory into
>> virtual
>> memory when real memory is otherwise exhausted. That's the ONLY reason
>> the
>> concept even exists! Again, and this is key, if we had oodles and oodles
>> of
>> cheap RAM, why in the world would anyone have a paging file? Heck, how
>> can
>> it be more efficient EVER to take something OUT of RAM and write to the
>> HD,
>> one of the slowest components in the system? That's precisely why we
>> tell
>> ppl to ADD RAM when paging gets out of hand.
>>
>> If I have 500 gazillion bytes of RAM, I sure as heck want Windows to
>> stuff
>> everything it needs in memory into that RAM, not on some slow virtual
>> memory
>> paging file!
>>
>> It's NEVER EVER EVER more efficient to take something out of RAM and
>> stick
>> it into a HD's file, EVER. The fact that MS does this is NOT because
>> it's
>> efficient, it's because MS has abused the concept of the virtual paging
>> system for other purposes. In theory, you should be able to completely
>> rip
>> out the virtual paging subsystem and continue using the OS normally. The
>> only issue, if you did this, would be, of course, that once RAM was

Re: Do I need a Page File?

>> exhausted, you're DEAD. Virtually memory is merely a lifeboat because
>> RAM
>> is not inexhaustable, and until recently, could not be had in great
>> amounts
>> at economical prices. But I say for third time, if we had endless
>> amounts
>> of RAM, noone would have invented the virtual paging system at all.
>> EVERYTHING would be loaded into memory and left there, we're it's most
>> efficiently stored and accessed.
>>
>> What has happened is that MS has so distorted the purpose and use of the
>> paging file, that it has now built-in various dependencies, such as
>> described here by the MVP. I've noticed myself that when I have tons of
>> RAM
>> available, damn Windows insists on still using of the paging file. THIS
>> IS
>> CRAZY! Windows should use RAM period. And if RAM is exhausted, THEN and
>> ONLY then should the virtual memory subsystem page RAM in and out of the
>> paging file. But as I said, it doesn't surprise me that MS has messed up
>> Windows by using the virtual paging system for purposes it was never
>> intended.
>>
>> Sorry folks, but this is one topic I see repeatedly talked about and
>> totally
>> misunderstood by even the MVPs. If I have 4GB of RAM on my system,
>> there's
>> no good reason, in theory, if the virtual memory subsystem is being used
>> *properly* that I can't disable it. My only disadvantage should be that
>> if
>> I indeed exhaust RAM, I'm dead. That's the risk I take, and should be
>> the
>> ONLY risk I face.
>>
>>
>>> 2. There is no possible benefit to getting rid of the page file. If
>> Windows
>>> never needs to use it, then it won't (don't mix up allocation to it with
>> use
>>> of it). Having it there so it's available if you need it can only help
>> you.
>>> It never hurts you.
>>>
>>
>> Ironically, it's because MS abuses the virtual memory subsystem that
>> having
>> the virtual memory subsystem enabled actually *may* hurt you, at least in
>> terms of performance. At least if I disable it, that FORCES Windows to
>> use
>> RAM, not the stupid paging file. If you're telling me that when the
>> paging
>> file is disabled, I won't be able to take advantage of these

Re: Do I need a Page File?

Re: Do I need a Page File?

>> "preallocations", it's only because Windows is coded up to differentiate
>> between a pagable and non-pagable system. IOW, when the page file is
>> disabled, Windows doesn't preallocate, when paging is enabled, it does.
>> But
>> that's just bad programming, Window should be allocating RAM as necessary
>> in
>> real memory, ALL THE TIME. The virtual memory subsystem should be
>> managing
>> the memory access, with the understanding that when real memory is
>> nearing
>> exhaustion, it's off to the paging file we go (if present), and should be
>> completely transparent to Windows generally.
>>
>> That's why I say, Windows may indeed work the way you describe, but by
>> doing
>> so, it's created a situation that makes it difficult for ppl to disable
>> the
>> paging file, and for no good reason. If Windows actually only used the
>> paging file when RAM was truly exhausted, I'd be in FULL AGREEMENT that
>> there's no good reason not to have it enabled, just in case. But
>> ironically, it's because Windows *does* abuse the paging file, in fact
>> uses
>> it long before RAM is anywhere near exhaustion, that I'm actually MORE
>> inclined to disable it, if only to stop Windows from doing this! At
>> least
>> it forces Windows to always use RAM.
>>
>> JMTC
>
> *****
>
> Except that Windows XP was designed for certain "minimum" specifications,
> and at the time 256 meg of RAM was, more or less, the standard. Under
> these
> circumstances the pageing file is very necessary. But I agree that
> Microsoft should have looked into the future a bit and included some sort
> of
> override capability.
>
> --
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>
> Regards,
>
> Richard Urban
> Microsoft MVP Windows Shell/User
>
> Quote from George Ankner:
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> You would realize that you don't know what you thought you knew!
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Re: Do I need a Page File?

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>
>>
>> Jim
>>
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>>> For more information, read this article by the late Alex Nichol, MVP:
>>>
>>> "Virtual Memory in Windows XP" <http://www.aumha.org/win5/a/xpvm.htm>
>>>
>>> --
>>> Ken Blake – Microsoft MVP Windows: Shell/User
>>> Please reply to the newsgroup
>>>
>>>
>>
>>
>
>

• **References:**

- ◆ ***Do I need a Page File?***
 ◇ From: boe
- ◆ ***Re: Do I need a Page File?***
 ◇ From: Ken Blake, MVP
- ◆ ***Re: Do I need a Page File?***
 ◇ From: Jim
- ◆ ***Re: Do I need a Page File?***
 ◇ From: Richard Urban

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- Next by Date: ***Resizing Partitions***
- Previous by thread: ***Re: Do I need a Page File?***
- Next by thread: ***Re: Do I need a Page File?***
- Index(es):
 - ◆ ***Date***
 - ◆ ***Thread***