

Re: Virtual memory on systems with a lot of RAM

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 - *Date:* Sun, 31 Dec 2006 11:28:40 -0500
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Miha wrote:

But I don't get this "To take advantage". How can be using slow hard drive advantage over using 1000x times faster RAM if having plenty of RAM?

Miha

This is a over-simplified, but ... RAM will hold most everything you need that you're running. Being interpretive, XP will, when the time is not otherwise used, make guesses at what else you might want to do and toss that into virtual ram. That can even include apps related to the app you're running, and which you've run and closed down. So, immediate-use things are in RAM. "Maybe" use stuff gets flowed off into VM. Graphics and especially video will fill your couple Gig RAM quickly so you'll see the pagefile growing then if you were to watch it. I'm referring to the editors here, not to the images themselves.

Things are constantly being swapped back and forth between RAM and Virtual RAM as you change the things you do in a program and work on various other things, and especially when you have multiple applications running all at once is when you'll definitely see advantages.

The more RAM you have, the less (not nothing) you have in VM, so the faster things can run. For normal processes, XP likes to have 512 to a Gig of RAM, so you're in decent shape. Remember, there's a lot going on behind the scenes in an os.

HTH
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