

Re: RAM question

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<http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/WinXP/microsoft.public.windowsxp.hardware/2007-09/msg00440.html>

- *From:* AW <AW@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>
 - *Date:* Sun, 23 Sep 2007 07:46:01 -0700
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Paul

Please see below.

Go and everyone else who has contributed – many thanks for your advice. I am not too good with computers but just know the basics. I think that you are correct and I've become horribly confused. I was looking at the first screen (which you say is the DOS screen) and didn't know that 128MB of RAM was the maximum that can load. Right clicking 'My Computer' does show 512MB of RAM.

I had a problem some months ago when video games and sometimes other applications locked up totally and I had to restart. I was advised on another forum (or possibly this one) to alter the BIOS setting 'DRAM Timing Settings' to an 'AGP Aperture Size' of 256MB i.e half my total RAM. Does this mean therefore that I have lost 256MB of my RAM before I even start computing? I will ask my original question again and hope that someone can answer it. If I buy another 512MB stick of RAM will I see a big difference in performance or hardly any? If I did buy the stick and installed it should I up the 'DRAM Timing Settings' to an 'AGP Aperture Size' of 512MB or leave it at 256MB.

Many thanks again

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AW

"Paul" wrote:

AW wrote:

Do you mean under the 'Performance' Tab?

Physical Memory (K)

Total 523K

Available 127K

System Cache 234K

Kernel Memory (K)

Re: RAM question

Total 59772
Paged 41784
Unpaged 17988

Does this tell you anything and if so is it incorrect and how do I remedy the situation? As I said earlier I was going to buy a similar 512MB and put this in – would this help?

Thanks

Could you tell us the make and model number of the motherboard ?
Or, if you bought the computer from Dell or HP, what the make and model number of the computer is ? (Because we may be able to figure out the motherboard and chipset from that info.)

Some chipsets have limits to the range of addresses they can generate for row and column address. If you plug a 512MB DIMM into a chipset which supports 256MB sized sticks max, sometimes that will register as a 128MB stick. The reduction in capacity is due to the limitations of addressing in the hardware.

Usually, you'll get some warning of this, if you visit Crucial.com or Kingston.com and use their search engine for memory upgrades. Based on seeing the limits of the size of memory they are selling, that will give you a hint as to what DIMMs might be too big for the computer.

Paul