

## Re: Old computer with little memory...bigger page file help?

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[http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/WinXP/microsoft.public.windowsxp.help\\_and\\_support/2007-09/msg00752.htm](http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/WinXP/microsoft.public.windowsxp.help_and_support/2007-09/msg00752.htm)

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- *From:* xiowan <[xiowan@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:xiowan@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx)>
  - *Date:* Wed, 12 Sep 2007 20:48:01 -0700
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Hi Ken Blake:

Thanks for your comprehensive reply. I am not surprised that the older hardware is the cause of the slow/poor functioning of the pc. I did mistake the speed of the processor.....it's 500 Mhz instead of 400 Mhz.....whoopee! I would have just saved some of the parts and tossed it but since I already had everything needed to restore it to operating condition and am giving it to someone in need, I spent some spare time and old parts and hopefully he can learn to use a computer and keep in contact with distant relatives at lower cost than via phone as well as play his cd collection while he surfs the net. I'm not sure I'll even be able to teach him how to use the pc since he is the victim of a stroke and will have a slow learning curve but it's always nice to try to help someone if I can. Oh, and thanks for your advice too!

xiowan.....in tucson

"Ken Blake, MVP" wrote:

On Tue, 11 Sep 2007 23:08:02 -0700, Andrew E. <[eckrichco@xxxxxxx](mailto:eckrichco@xxxxxxx)> wrote:

Windows 98 runs on FAT32 file system

No, not correct. Windows 98 runs on any and all combinations of FAT32, FAT16, and FAT12.

,xp runs with NTFS

Also not correct. Windows XP runs on all combinations of the file

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system above (FAT32, FAT16, and FAT12) as well as NTFS.

,convert the OS.

To do so,open cmd,type:CONVERT C: /FS:NTFS

Very poor advice. Doing as you suggest is highly likely to create 512-byte clusters instead of the default 4K ones, which will make his performance worse, not better. To avoid the result of 512-bytes clusters, before converting, read <http://www.aumha.org/a/ntfscvt.htm>

Moreover, it is highly unlikely that changing from FAT32 to NTFS will solve his problems.

After run disk clean up & defrag..As for memory,set the old hd as a storage hd,& set with a page file in system properties,set both to "let windows manage" click set 2X,close out,maybe format 1st in NTFS.

Also,one can upgrade from 98 to xp,however a clean install of xp is a better way (boot to xp cd),one needs both retail cds.

Unlike with older Windows versions, an upgrade installation to XP replaces almost everything and usually works very well. Since it's much easier than a clean installation, it's almost always worth at least trying. Worst case, if problems develop, you can always reinstall cleanly.

However, in his case, he apparently did a Windows 98 installation immediately followed by a Windows XP upgrade, which for all practical purposes is the same as a clean installation of XP.

"xiowan" wrote:

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Hi all:

I was given an old (98SE) Compaq pc and am fixing it up with some parts I had around to give to a handicapped resident in my apartment complex. I have upgraded to with XP Home and increased the memory to the maximum the board will handle...384 MBs.

I see from what you say below that you have onboard video, so that your 384MB is really only 320MB. Depending on what apps you run, that may or may not be adequate for Windows XP. But realize that even if your apps aren't very demanding, 256-384MB is at the very bottom of the range that is acceptable for XP.

The AMD processor operates at 400 Mhz

That is also at the bottom end of the range of acceptable speeds. You can run XP with a 400MHz CPU and 320MB of RAM, but performance will always be marginal at best. Some people can tolerate the poor performance you will get with such a machine; others can not.

and I added an old pci controller card which allowed me to install a used 120 GB IDE drive to replace the 10 GB drive. After re-installing Win98SE and upgrading to XP Home

Just for the future, note that you didn't need to do that. The requirement to use an upgrade version is to \*own\* a previous qualifying version's installation CD, not to have it installed. When setup doesn't find a previous qualifying version installed, it will prompt you to insert its CD as proof of ownership. Just insert the previous version's CD, and follow the prompts. Everything proceeds quite normally and quite legitimately.

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the pc works ok but is subject to long delays when installing Windows update downloads or other large downloads. It sometimes freezes during intensive cpu use. It will access the internet, play music, send & receive emails ok but before I give it to the handicapped man I wondered if it would help to increase the size of the page file since the memory is small and the onboard video & audio take away 64 MBs. I really have no idea if it would make the pc more responsive and how to do that but if it would help I would appreciate any input you might offer.

Changing the page file settings won't improve anything; I would just stick with the defaults. In all probability this machine's performance issues are because it's inherently an old low-powered machine, and, short of doing major hardware upgrades (which would probably not be cost-effective) there's little that can be done to improve it.

One remaining point: Malware infestation is an increasingly common problem these days, and is often the cause of poor performance. If this machine has been connected to the internet it has been subject to getting infected. What software protection do you use (firewall, anti-spyware, and anti-spyware), and have you kept them up to date?

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Ken Blake, Microsoft MVP Windows – Shell/User  
Please Reply to the Newsgroup