

# Re: Understanding Paging and Performance Monitor Counters

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*Source:*

[http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/WinXP/microsoft.public.windowsxp.help\\_and\\_support/2008-12/msg01629.htm](http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/WinXP/microsoft.public.windowsxp.help_and_support/2008-12/msg01629.htm)

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- *From:* TomM <tommy@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>
  - *Date:* Fri, 19 Dec 2008 04:23:01 -0800
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Thanks Gerry,

I have to collect info on servral PC's at multiple location, which is why I opted for Perfmance moniotr, as I could save the output for later analysis.

Seems like We've got a RAM/paging issue, I just need to prove it before opening my big mouth

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THM

"Gerry" wrote:

Tom

You should be able to gather more information from Task Manager. With the Processes tab open select View, Select, Columns and check the boxes before Peak Memory Usage and Virtual Memory size. What are the figures for the 6 processes using the largest amounts?

Are computers left on 24/7?

What Add-Ons are being used with Internet Explorer? In Internet Explorer select Tools, Manage Add Ons, Enable or Disable Add Ons.

Are there performance variations fom one computer to another?

Any evidence of unexplained CPU usage. You can never rule out malware.

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Hope this helps.

## Re: Understanding Paging and Performance Monitor Counters

Gerry

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FCA

Stourport, England

Enquire, plan and execute

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TomM wrote:

Gerry,

PC's on (clients) Corporaste Network. RAM would typically be 1 or 2GB.

I've used Taskmgr, and know there is a high commit, but am now trying to narraow things down a bit. Task Manager would typically show a commit of between 900MB to 1.2GB on a 1Gb PC.

The Limit would be installed RAM + Pagefile size.

My instinct would be to add RAM, but I need to justify it, as they have a large PC estate (many thousands)

Again becuae it's a corporate environment, I've no Control over the McAffe subscription. It is the preferred product at the moment. The ePO management team are side stepping this one, and I'm left trying to prove it either way.

I did take a look at Pagefilemon, but becuase of said constraints, I won't get permission to run it on the network.

Tom

Who is we? Are they commercial or home computers?

McAfee ( and Norton ) are well known for creating performance issues. A simple look at pagefile usage will tell you if the system is making excessive use of pagefile.

How much RAM?

Try Ctrl+Alt+Delete to select Task Manager and click the Performance Tab. Under Commit Charge what is the Total, the Limit and the Peak?

How long does the McAfee subscription have to run? An alternative would be to add RAM memory.

You can get more accurate information on pagefile usage using

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pagefilemon, a small freeware utility.

Use page file monitor to observe what is the peak usage.

Start it to

run immediately after start-up and look at the log.

Pagefilemon takes

snapshots. You need to run it at the beginning of the session

at then

run it again at intervals throughout the sessions. The log is

Pagefile log.txt. If you right click on the file in Windows

Explorer

and select Send to, Desktop (Create Shortcut). The same

applies to

XP\_PageFileMon.exe.

A small utility to monitor pagefile usage:

[http://www.dougknox.com/xp/utills/xp\\_pagefilemon.htm](http://www.dougknox.com/xp/utills/xp_pagefilemon.htm)

Note that programs using undo features, particularly those associated

with graphics and photo editing, require large amounts of memory so

if you use this type of programme check these first observing how

the page usage increases when they start and whether the usage

decreases when you close the programme.

You can get clues as to what is generating peak memory demands but

this is not a precise science, more a matter of judgement.

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Hope this helps.

Gerry

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FCA

Stourport, England

Enquire, plan and execute

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TomM wrote:

I'm trying to pinpoint some performance issues we are a having whereby PC's start running slowly and

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grinding to a halt, at approximately the same time as the AV update window. I suspect that memory usage is an issue and that the PC's may be heavily paging leading to the slowdown. I am trying to find out why this is happening.

I have created a Performance Monitor log to include the following counters

```
"\Memory\Committed Bytes"  
"\Memory\Pages Output/sec"  
"\Memory\Pages/sec"  
"\Process\FrameworkService)\Page File Bytes"  
"\Process\FrameworkService Bytes Peak"  
"\Processor{_Total}\% Processor Time"
```

The trouble is that having gathered the counters I'm having trouble actually interpreting them. The sample window is 2 hrs, to try and get a before and after understanding of what is happening I think, but am open to correction, that the 3 main counters which I should be interested in are  
\Memory\Committed Bytes  
Memory\Pages/sec"  
\Process\FrameworkService\Page File Bytes Peak

FrameworkService is a component of the McAfee ePo suite

I'd like to be able to show you the graphical representation, but in summary this is what I'm seeing

\Memory\Committed Bytes is showing at maximum 100 on the scale for the duration of the sample  
\Memory\Pages/sec – peaking every few minutes to 80, 90, 95 on the scale for the duration of the observation, with a sharp flurry of high activity directly after the time when the FrameworkService

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shows a rise

\Process(FrameworkService)\Page File Bytes

Peak –

trundles along happily at around 20 on the

graph, rises sharply to

100 on the scale, drops back and rises almost

immediately. It then

flatlines and stays at 100 on the scale until

the end of the sample

I haven't mentioned installed RAM, or the

actual figures from the

sample, as the pattern appears to be the same

on PC's with 1 GB and

2GB. I can give figures if it helps, but I think

pattern is relevant

From my limited explanation, is anyone able

to help me interpret

this behaviour.

Why is Memory committed Bytes constant

at 100 on the scale

Why is the FrameworkService flatlining ?,

what does this mean, and

what would be the results of this on PC

behaviour

Thanks