

## Re: Too Much Memory

**Source:**

[http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/WinXP/microsoft.public.windowsxp.perform\\_maintain/2004-07/2808.html](http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/WinXP/microsoft.public.windowsxp.perform_maintain/2004-07/2808.html)

---

**From:** Gerry Cornell (*gcjc\_at\_btinternet.com*)

**Date:** 07/19/04

Date: Mon, 19 Jul 2004 13:33:46 +0100

Increasing the amount of RAM for a start may be one way but unless you answer questions we cannot determine whether that is the right way to proceed. Use the SINGLE utility suggested to determine what is the size of the swap file.

There is also a probable issue of misreporting on your machine but until we get the correct figures it is difficult to determine what is going on!

There are three ways to get a performance boost. Increase the capacity of the hardware. Cut out unnecessary programmes running in the background and regular houeskeeping. My standard text follows.

Poor system performance can be the result of a single problem or a combination of factors. Listed below are issues, which you may wish to examine if you are experiencing poor performance after the boot process has completed. Some items may help with slow starting of Windows XP but the list has not been prepared for tackling that problem. Work through the list until you achieve an acceptable result.

Regular and effective housekeeping is essential. What you do and how often you do it will depend

on how you use your computer. A suggested routine may include:

1. In Outlook Express empty your Deleted Items folder.
2. In Outlook Express run File, Folder, Compact All whilst OFFLINE.
3. Run Disk Cleanup. Start, Programs, Accessories, System Tools, Disk Cleanup with Temporary Internet Files, Offline Web Pages (optional), System Restore ( more Options tab ) and Recycle Bin selected for deletion. If you have more than one drive / partition you may need to do this operation for each drive / partition.
4. Remove Cookies. Start, Control Panel, Internet Options, General, Delete Cookies.
5. Run Disk Defragmenter.

Check whether you could reduce the number of days the History of sites visited is retained. Start,

Control Panel, Internet Options, General, History.

Spyware causes many problems. If not installed download Adaware and / or update Reference file

from <http://www.javasoftusa.com/support/download/> and use it to remove

parasites. If Spyware

persists as a problem try a Hosts file.

[http://www.accs-net.com/hosts/what\\_is\\_hosts.html](http://www.accs-net.com/hosts/what_is_hosts.html)

Slow performance resulting from insufficient memory, causing over reliance on virtual memory,

may be especially noticed by those upgrading to Windows XP from an earlier version of Windows.

Windows XP will run with 64 MB of RAM memory. However, a minimum of 256 MB is

recommended and many users will recommend 512 MB. You may check on pagefile (virtual

memory) usage with Page File Monitor for XP:

<http://www.dougknox.com/>

Check how much free space you have on the hard drive / partition where your pagefile is located.

You need a minimum of 15% but 20% or more is better.

Check your setting for the Indexing Service. Start, Administrative Tools, Services, Indexing

Service. The default setting is Manual. Check that it is not running. More information here:

[http://www.blackviper.com/WinXP/service411.htm#Indexing\\_Service](http://www.blackviper.com/WinXP/service411.htm#Indexing_Service)

You can have too many programmes running in the background. Close programmes/windows after

use. Check whether all the programmes loading when Windows is started are really necessary.

<http://aumha.org/a/loads.htm>

Check whether you can identify slow performance with a particular programme.

Look in Google to

see whether others have encountered the same problem and found a solution.

<http://groups.google.com/>

Are there any error messages in Event Viewer? You can access Event Viewer by selecting Start,

Administrative Tools, and Event Viewer. When researching the meaning of the error, information

regarding Event ID: and Source Description is important.

HOW TO: View and Manage Event Logs in Event Viewer in Windows XP

<http://support.microsoft.com/default.aspx?scid=kb:en-us:308427&Product=winxp>

~~~~~

Hope this helps.

Gerry

~~~~~  
FCA

Stourport, Worcs, England  
Enquire, plan and execute.  
~~~~~

"Michael Soland" <MichaelSoland@discussions.microsoft.com> wrote in message  
news:592CD479-A104-42A6-82D7-19B4AA350D4A@microsoft.com...

> *Hi Gerry,*

>

> *Thanks for recommending some utilities, however, I would prefer and answer*  
to my question: "is there a gentle way of coaxing programs to stay resident  
in memory?" [First post of this thread].

>

> *My pagefile.sys file stays at 102,400KB. I could go lower, but I don't*  
want to decrease performance if or when the pagefile needs to increase in  
size. Running all sorts of programs and crunching data does not increase the  
size of the pagefile.

>

> *I'm just looking for a way to get a performance boost. Virtual memory*  
slows everything down because of the inherent abstraction and IO to a slower  
medium.

> *-Michael*

>

> *"Gerry Cornell" wrote:*

>

> *> Michael*

> >

> > *You are misinterpreting what you are seeing!*

> >

> > *Right click on the My Computer icon on your Desktop and select*  
Properties.

> > *The amount of RAM memory is stated on the General tab. It is unlikely*  
that

> > *you have 4,096 mb or 3,506 mb for that matter!*

> >

> > *"This is the amount of virtual memory that windows reports it is using."*

No

> > *it is the amount of disk space set aside for virtual memory. Whether it*  
is

> > *being used is another matter.*

> >

> > *The size of pagefile.sys is not an indicator of virtual memory being*  
used.

> > *Allocations of virtual memory are made to applications for their use as*  
and

> > *when they need it. That does not mean they are using it ( you make this*

> > *point yourself ). Read more in the link below:*

> > *<http://aumha.org/win5/a/xpvm.htm>*

>>  
>> *The Article above contains a link to a small Pagefile utility created by  
>> Bill James, which measures the pagefile in use:  
>> <http://billsway.com/notes%5Fpublic/WinXP%5FTweaks/>  
>>  
>> *Page file in use is the key factor. If you are using too much virtual  
memory  
>> you may benefit from adding RAM memory. However, we need to know how  
much  
>> virtual memory you are using and how much RAM you have?  
>>  
>> *How old is your computer? Was the machine bought with Windows XP  
installed  
>> or did it come with an earlier version of Windows installed?  
>>  
>> *Done you have more than one hard drive? Are any drives partitioned?  
>>  
>> ~~~~~  
>>  
>>  
>> *Hope this helps.*  
>>  
>> *Gerry*  
>> ~~~~~  
>> *FCA*  
>>  
>> *Stourport, Worcs, England*  
>> *Enquire, plan and execute.*  
>> ~~~~~  
>> *Please tell the newsgroup how any  
>> suggested solution worked for you.  
>> <http://dts-l.org/goodpost.htm>  
>> ~~~~~  
>>  
>>  
>>  
>> *"Michael Soland" <MichaelSoland@discussions.microsoft.com> wrote in  
message  
>> news:0F7F085B-F6CD-4DBA-9EA2-5F2F7D2410C4@microsoft.com...  
>>> I have 4096 MB of physical memory. My BIOS reports that I have 3506 MB  
of  
>> memory. This is a known issue with my motherboard.  
>>>  
>>> *There is an easy way to view the amount of virtual memory currently  
used  
>> by the system. Go to Control Panel->System->Advanced->Performance,  
>> Settings->Advanced->Virtual Memory, Changed. The bottom part of the  
window  
>> that pops up will say "Total paging file size for all drives." This is  
the  
>> amount of virtual memory that windows reports it is using.*******

> > >  
> > > *If you want to check this information out yourself, all that you need to*  
> > *do is find a little file called "pagefile.sys." This file can live in the*  
> > *root directory of any hard drive connected to your system. The Virtual*  
> > *Memory screen described above will tell you which drive it is on. If that's*  
> > *confusing, it is probably at C:\pagefile.sys. To view the file, go to My*  
> > *Computer->Tools->Folder Options->View. Now select "Display contents of*  
> > *system folders" and "Show hidden files and folders" and deselect "Hide*  
> > *protected operating system files." This will allow you to see*  
pagefile.sys.  
> > *Check its size and poof, you know how much virtual memory your system*  
has  
> > *allocated (it is another question altogether if it is using it).*  
> > >  
> > > *Can somebody answer my original questions please?*  
> > > *-Michael*  
> > >  
> > > *"Gerry Cornell" wrote:*  
> > >  
> > > > *Michael*  
> > > >  
> > > > *How much RAM memory? How do you know how much virtual memory is*  
being  
> > *used?*  
> > > > *There is no utility in Windows XP which gives you virtual memory*  
usage!  
> > *You*  
> > > > *need a third party utility to get that information!*  
> > > >  
> > > >  
> > > > ~~~~~  
> > > >  
> > > >  
> > > > *Hope this helps.*  
> > > >  
> > > > *Gerry*  
> > > > ~~~~~  
> > > > *FCA*  
> > > >  
> > > > *Stourport, Worcs, England*  
> > > > *Enquire, plan and execute.*  
> > > > ~~~~~  
> > > > *Please tell the newsgroup how any*  
> > > > *suggested solution worked for you.*  
> > > > *<http://dts-l.org/goodpost.htm>*  
> > > > ~~~~~  
> > > >  
> > > >

>>>>  
>>>> *"Michael Soland" <MichaelSoland@discussions.microsoft.com> wrote in*  
>> *message*  
>>>> *news:6C3C4A0B-51B7-4455-A5A1-608ACE9BA782@microsoft.com...*  
>>>>> *I have a beast of a system running Windows XP Pro, when it should*  
>> *probably*  
>>>> *be running Server 2003. I have a problem with too much memory and*  
not  
>> *enough*  
>>>> *programs to run. The Task Manager reports that my system cruises at*  
304  
>> *MB*  
>>>> *of memory used. I know that turning off Virtual Memory is a bad*  
thing,  
>> *but*  
>>>> *is there a gentle way of coaxing programs to stay resident in*  
memory?  
>>>>>  
>>>>> *I'd also like to know if there is a way to associate a certain*  
program  
>> *to*  
>>>> *run on a particular processor (in a multi-processor machine) each*  
time  
>> *the*  
>>>> *program is invoked.*  
>>>>>  
>>>>>  
>>  
>>