

Re: Win XP Pro & Disk Thrashing

Source:

http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/WinXP/microsoft.public.windowsxp.perform_maintain/2007-01/msg00508.htm

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Have you installed a third party memory managent utility? These can create rather than solve problems!

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

You may find it helpful to know exactly how much of your pagefile is being used. Use page file monitor to observe what is the peak usage. Start it to run immediately after start-up and look at the log at the end of the session. The log is Pagefilelog.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.dougnnox.com/xp/utls/xp_pagefilemon.htm

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Hope this helps.

Gerry

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FCA

Stourport, England

Enquire, plan and execute

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Omicron wrote:

The system is a Dell desktop (an 8100) running at 1.4 GHz with 512MB RAM and 12 GB free HD space on a 20 GB drive. Fully registered Windows XP Pro SP2 is the OS (all patches and critical updates installed).

Drives are fully Defragged. Updated Norton AV. No AdWare detected by AdAware and A-Squared. The Cleaner says there are no Trojans. A few online scans from several sites (Penecillin; Micro; McAfee; etc) indicate that there is nothing lurking about. Temp files are cleaned out, as are any downloaded Internet files.

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With the above conditions, I had the swap file set so that Windows could control it. On initial boot-up, thrashing was not an issue. However, after a little use of such things such as IE6 and/or Office Word 2000, disk thrashing became impossible. The HD light would remain on and the system became almost useless. Windows Task Manager indicated almost an endless movement of memory from RAM to Swap file and back. Therefore, the HD was on almost constantly and the system slowed to a stand-still. Shutting down all applications did not stop the problem. Background processes showed nothing unusually running. Playing with recommended combinations of virtual memory settings and then re-booting showed virtually no improvement whatsoever.

So, I installed a second HD. The Swap file (pagefile.sys) now resides on a second, 1.1 GB hard drive. This drive is dedicated solely for the virtual memory. Per severa