

Re: msconfig

Source:

http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/WinXP/microsoft.public.windowsxp.perform_maintain/2008-06/msg00139.htm

- *From:* qiman <qiman@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>
 - *Date:* Thu, 12 Jun 2008 15:00:19 -0700
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Gerry,

Thank you. You have given me the information I unknowingly needed. I do need to better grasp all the info you sharde with me, which I hope are online resources. I have AMD 2.8 running on an a850e HP maxed out at 1 gb add on memory. I hope to use video making software from Serif. My wife so kindly purchased for me.

Back to the issue. My immediate problem is answered by your last entry. Autoruns is where I need to go first. I have a huge processes list running on Task Manager and I thought to limit startups but they seem to come right back if you use them from programs.

I need to become more learned in hoe Windows works on this level and any guidance would be appreciated.

I have tried to monitor Task manager and two things I have noted are system idle at 98 to 985is one and another is when I attempt to use video productionas in movie editing (not even encoding) the Task manager will show 1005.

Leads me to autorun as you suggest. I will look for any other help you can give and will go to Autorun as you suggest and start to keep better track of all my actions to see the outcomes. Thank you very much, Richard

"Gerry" wrote:

Freeing up memory is the wrong way to look at what I think you are seeking to achieve, better system performance. You need to either add RAM memory or curtail excessive use of the pagefile. There are a number of ways to proceed.

How much RAM memory do you have and what is your typical pagefile usage?

Try Ctrl+Alt+Delete to select Task Manager and click the Performance

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Tab. Under Commit Charge what is the Total, the Limit and the Peak?

You can get more accurate information on pagefile usage using 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

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.

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?

Do you leave the computer on 24/7?

I would be interested in seeing a Disk Defragmenter report. Open Disk Defragmenter and click on Analyse. Select View Report and click on Save As and Save. Now find VolumeC.txt in your My Documents Folder and post a copy. Do this before running Disk Defragmenter as it is more informative.

The last request is asked to get background information not because I think you might need to run Disk Defragmenter! You may do but that is another question.

When you have identified, which programmes are generating excessive or untimely demands for memory you have the choice of modifying their behaviour or replacing them with an alternative. The first move should be to see if you can change the programme so that it is available on demand (when you need it) from just loading automatically when you boot. Look in the programme setting to see whether there are options. If that is not possible then use Autoruns to disable it from starting when you boot. Autoruns is far more suited to what you have in mind than msconfig. It also identifies more start up items than msconfig.

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<http://www.microsoft.com/technet/sysinternals/ProcessesAndThreads/Autoruns.msp>

With Autoruns you can uncheck an item, which disables it from starting, or you can right click an item and then delete it. If you uncheck you can recheck to re-enable the item. It is a much safer approach than editing the Registry. Another useful feature of the programme is that you can right click an item and select Search Online to get information about the item selected.

Another change to be considered concerns automatic daily scanning by your anti virus etc. Often these are timed to occur either when you boot or shortly after. A change to another time may be beneficial. Look at the settings in your anti-virus.

Often users are "sold" anti-virus and other security software that offers protection at a high cost in terms of performance. Norton and McAfee products are well known for this downside. Perfectly adequate freeware software is available without these adverse side effects.

Something else to watch. Too many Internet Explorer Add-ons.

When you have carried out a review of what is going on on your computer, making appropriate changes, you may establish a need to add more RAM. However, do not overlook that adding RAM may not improve performance if something else like a low CPU speed is holding the system back.

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Hope this helps.

Gerry

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FCA

Stourport, England

Enquire, plan and execute

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qiman wrote:

would like to learn how to set to my parameters to free up memory and speed.

I will need to know what is absolutely needed and what can be modified.

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Any assets out there to help? thank you

As Leonard said you do not free up RAM