

## Re: Alocated Memory Error (SQLSERVER)

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*Source:*

<http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/Windows/microsoft.public.windows.server.sbs/2006-08/msg01370.html>

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- *From:* "somebody" <[somebody@xxxxxxxx](mailto:somebody@xxxxxxxx)>
  - *Date:* Thu, 03 Aug 2006 17:01:04 GMT
- 

Same here. This has seemed to have fixed my issue too (though the cause remains a mystery).

I changed it to 256 since three other similarly configured machine have mssql\$sbsmonitoring hovering around 215mb. After i applied the fix the memory for the process dropped from 990 to 330.

FWIW, the instructions were fine but i did have to make the following changes to Windows Task Manager which were not noted... had to go into 'view' to add the PID column and had to check off 'show processors for all users'. Of course this seems obvious now, but I mention it as I had not used Task Manger to display the PID before and suspect others with this problem have not either.

Thank you.

"N. Hughes" <[quadrantcomputerNOSPAM@xxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:quadrantcomputerNOSPAM@xxxxxxxxxxxx)> wrote in message [news:uTzibFntGHA.5032@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:news:uTzibFntGHA.5032@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx)

And as an update from me, after following Susan Bradley's blog and implementing those changes on my "problem" server, I am pleased to report that after 24 hours the sqlserver instances have not increased their memory share. In fact, the staff reported that ordinary performance (file open/close/printing etc.) seems to be quicker! Hmmmmm!

Regards  
Norm Hughes

"Dave Nickason [SBS MVP]" <[gwdibble@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:gwdibble@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx)> wrote in message [news:%23UIKBkktGHA.3684@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:news:%23UIKBkktGHA.3684@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx)

I suspect that this starting with an update is coincidental. I'm far from a SQL guru, but my understanding is that the MSDE instances are designed

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to grab available RAM for performance reasons, similar to the way Exchange does it. The procedures in the KB and Susan's blog are designed to avoid this behavior for instances like Monitoring, where performance is not as critical and you don't want it grabbing all that RAM.

I just reference that particular KB because I find it concise and easy to follow. The procedure works fine for other MSDE instances – I've actually done it with Monitoring – you just substitute the name of the instance in question for "MSFW" in the KB steps.

I can't explain why you're seeing this on just one of several similarly configured servers. As Norm says, it seems like this comes up somewhat frequently, but it's definitely not a universal problem or we'd see it a lot more. Either that or most boxes do it but most users don't notice. I know that the only reason I ever looked into it myself was the allocated memory alerts, and those were actually caused by an improperly configured alert threshold rather than an error in MSDE configuration.

"somebody" <somebody@xxxxxxxx> wrote in message  
[news:EI\\$Zg.2671\\$Sy2.2220@xxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:news:EI$Zg.2671$Sy2.2220@xxxxxxxxxxxx)

Thank you both for your suggestions and open discussion.  
FWIW I am not using sbs 2003 premium, just the standard edition.  
And I have other machines of the same hardware and configuration at a couple of other location that seem to also have three sqlsrv services running but non ever going about 200mb of memory usage. This one is unlike the others. And though I am going to try the suggested fix I still don't understand what created this issue when other systems that I installed in the same (and generic) way do not have this problem. It seems to have started after the installation of a critical update (which just makes me wonder which is worse, to ignore a critical update intended to close a security hole or the apply the update that is suppose to fix it... ugh).  
Thanks again.

"N. Hughes" <quadrantcomputerNOSPAM@xxxxxxxxxxxx>  
wrote in message  
[news:O9EqPbbtGHA.2260@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:news:O9EqPbbtGHA.2260@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx)

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Thanks for your comments Dave. That long link was to an archive in Yahoo Groups, but yes, your link is to the original doc and is faster and simpler!

I'll let you know how I go – just off to the site now (it's Wed.

morning in Melbourne!)

Cheers

Norm Hughes

"Dave Nickason [SBS MVP]"

<gwdibble@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>

wrote in

message

[news:ug51ZKbtGHA.2020@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:news:ug51ZKbtGHA.2020@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx)

I can't get anywhere with the link you posted, but Susan's blog does

have a procedure that's very similar to the one I use. It might be

this one, or just search her blog for "allocated memory alerts."

<http://msmvps.com/blogs/bradley/archive/2005/05/22/48500.aspx>

If I remember correctly, Susan has actually done it, so the method she blogged is proven to work satisfactorily. I think her procedure and the one in the KB I posted are very similar, and the only reason I refer people to the KB is that it's MS documentation and may be simpler. I've done the one in the KB twice, so we know they both work. I think the two procedures are just different ways of using osql to get to the same result, and I'm confident that whichever you use will work satisfactorily.

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The one kicker is that MS is apparently unwilling to give a firm number on what you should throttle the RAM to. They point to obvious reasons – everyone runs differently configured hardware and software, so YMMV. From the blog, it looks like Susan chose 100 mb. I chose 128. We're both happy, so I think that's a good neighborhood to try. As I said, I think it's important to document anything like this in case you get an unpleasant surprise.

On your observation that this is becoming more prevalent, IMO as people try to limit RAM usage by the MSDE instances, we should all post what we do and how it works out for us. Maybe we can get a consensus going as to what specific numbers to recommend. I chose 128 almost from thin air, and it's only because I've been using it for 4 or 5 months that I'm willing to put that number out there as a possibility for someone else to use.

"N. Hughes"

<quadrantcomputerNOSPAM@xxxxxxxxxxxx>

wrote in message

[news:uhKb2uatGHA.2020@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:news:uhKb2uatGHA.2020@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx)

I've had this issue on one site which

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runs SBS  
2003  
Premium  
with SQL  
Server 2000  
SP4, but  
ISA is not  
installed.  
The  
memory  
problem on  
my  
client's  
server (2Gb  
RAM)  
seems to be  
due to the  
SQLAgent\$SBSMonitoring  
and  
MSSQL\$SBSMonitoring  
instances.  
The gradual  
grabbing of  
RAM by  
these  
instances is  
excessive  
and not  
related to  
the Alerts  
configuration.  
It seems to  
be coming  
more and  
more  
prevalent, at  
least  
judging by  
NG posts.  
Changing  
the SQL  
Enterprise  
Manager  
memory  
settings  
does not  
work. Susan  
Bradley  
posted what  
I  
hope is a

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fix, will be  
onsite to  
test it today.

<http://www.sbsarchive.com/search.php?search=sql+memory&op=1&>

Thanks to  
Daryl  
Maunder of  
the  
Melbourne  
SBSUG for  
advising me  
of  
this link.

Dave, you  
might like  
to comment  
further?  
Regards  
Norm  
Hughes

"Dave  
Nickason  
[SBS  
MVP]"

<gwdibble@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>

wrote in  
message

<news:eiOrPIatGHA.4748@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>

I'll  
give  
you  
the  
short  
answer  
and  
please  
feel  
free  
to  
post  
back  
if  
you  
have  
questions.

-

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See

<http://blogs.technet.com/sbs/archive/2006/06/07/433707.aspx>

If

you

think

the

alert

is

misconfigured,

fix

that

and

give

it

a

while

to

see

what

happens

(ignore

the

part

about

this

happening

when

adding

ram

since

the

same

guidelines

apply

anyway).

If

you're

not

familiar

with

this

site,

I

recommend

bookmarking

it

for

future

reference

–

these

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are  
the  
top  
SBS  
gurus  
at  
MS  
support.

–  
If  
the  
above  
isn't  
your  
answer,  
open  
Task  
Manager  
and  
view  
the  
Processes,  
with  
the  
PID  
column  
showing.  
Get  
the  
PID  
for  
the  
SQL  
instance  
in  
question.  
Open  
a  
command  
prompt  
and  
type  
"tasklist  
/svc"  
without  
the  
quotes.  
Find  
that  
PID

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and  
note  
which  
instance  
of  
SQL  
is  
the  
culprit  
(for  
example,  
SBSMONITORING,  
MSFW).

–  
You  
can  
throttle  
the  
instance  
to  
use  
less  
RAM  
following  
the  
procedure  
in  
the  
following  
KB.  
If  
the  
instance  
whose  
ram  
usage  
you  
want  
to  
throttle  
back  
is  
not  
MSFW,  
substitute  
the  
correct  
instance  
name  
in

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place  
of  
MSFW  
when  
following  
the  
steps.  
Use  
a  
memory  
threshold  
you  
consider  
to  
be  
practical  
–  
I've  
used  
128  
MB  
for  
MSFW  
and  
monitoring.  
SharePoint  
and  
WSUS  
haven't  
used  
an  
unusual  
amount  
of  
RAM  
so  
I've  
left  
those  
in  
their  
default  
configurations.  
Please  
carefully  
note  
any  
changes  
you  
make  
in

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case  
of  
unintended  
results.

You  
may  
experience  
high  
memory  
usage  
on  
an  
ISA  
Server  
2004-based  
computer  
that  
logs  
messages  
to  
an  
MSDE  
database

<http://support.microsoft.com/kb/909636/en-us>

"somebody"  
<somebody@xxxxxxxx>  
wrote  
in  
message  
[news:2wLzg.7636\\$L31.4664@xxxxxxxxxxxx](news:2wLzg.7636$L31.4664@xxxxxxxxxxxx)

I  
have  
a  
fully  
patched  
SBS  
2003  
installation  
that  
has  
a  
problem  
with  
SQLSERVER  
demanding  
more  
memory

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the  
longer  
the  
system  
stays  
active.  
When  
I  
reboot  
it  
start  
out  
normally  
(like  
other  
SBS  
2003  
servers  
I  
help  
support)  
but  
over  
time  
it  
grows  
to  
900mb  
of  
total  
system  
memory  
and  
critical  
errors  
are  
reported  
to  
me  
about  
the  
same.

I  
don't  
use  
exchange  
server  
(we  
use  
pop

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mail  
provided  
by  
our  
ISP  
and  
which  
is  
collected  
by  
outlook  
directly  
–  
not  
using  
pop–connector  
or  
shared  
exchange  
server  
address  
book  
or  
anything  
exchange  
related).  
However  
my  
daily  
status  
report  
is  
sent  
out  
from  
the  
server  
and  
I  
think  
that  
uses  
exchange  
server  
to  
send  
the  
daily  
report.  
  
How

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can  
I  
track  
down  
the  
cause  
of  
this  
error  
before  
it  
becomes  
a  
problem.  
I  
haven't  
had  
any  
problem  
come  
of  
this,  
but  
that  
is  
likely  
due  
to  
the  
many  
recent  
Windows  
updates  
that  
require  
restarts  
about  
every  
other  
week...  
if  
I  
left  
this  
server  
running  
for  
a  
long  
time  
I

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fear  
it  
will  
run  
out  
of  
memory.

Thank  
you!