

Virtual Memory

What is virtual memory? This is a computer system's way of continuing to work when you've used up the available RAM (Random Access Memory). It uses your hard drive's Free space as "memory".

It is better to allow Windows make decisions re how much virtual memory to create and use. When you restart your computer, your RAM memory becomes available again and Virtual memory is not needed unless you again demand more RAM Memory by the programs you run than is available.

If you're using too little RAM or your hard drive is about full, this could cause the computer to put a message your "Virtual Memory is Low".

Playing games or using lots of graphics often require large amounts of RAM memory. You may need to add more RAM to your computer.

To find out how much RAM memory and hard drive FREE space you have, rightclick the MY COMPUTER icon on your desktop and click PROPERTIES. Near the bottom of that screen you'll see listed the amount of RAM memory installed in your computer. Close that screen and doubleclick the MY COMPUTER. Rightclick the C:\ hard drive and click Properties to see how much hard disk FREE space you have.

If you insist on managing the amount of virtual memory rather than allowing Windows to do that, here is how to change Virtual Memory in XP.

To change the amount of virtual memory in XP do the following:

1. Right click on My Computer.
2. Click on the **Advanced** tab.
3. In the Performance section, click on **Settings**.
4. In the Performance Options window, click on the **Advanced** tab.
5. In the Virtual Memory section, click on **Change**.
6. Select the disk drive, usually the C drive, and put a dot next to **Custom Size**.
7. Change the Initial and Maximum sizes to use and then click on the **Set** button.
8. Click on **OK**.

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