

STACK OVERFLOW CONDITION

Message: Increase the setting of 'MinSP's' in System.INI

"This error can occur when Windows 98 encounters an internal overflow of the stacks used by 32-bit Windows device drivers. Please note that this is not related to the "Stacks=" line in the Config.sys file, which is used for 16-bit MS-DOS device drivers.

Stack overflow conditions are indicative of errors in the device driver. Device drivers are allocated 4 kilobytes (one page) of space to be used as a stack. If the device driver uses more than 4 kilobytes of memory, a stack overflow condition occurs.

Windows 98 sets aside a number of extra memory pages (spare stack pages) to be used temporarily to prevent a system "crash" due to a stack overflow condition. When the stack overflow condition has passed, Windows 98 reclaims the temporary page.

If Windows 98 detects that it has run out of spare stack pages, the warning message stated above is displayed. Windows 98 continues to operate normally unless a device driver encounters a stack overflow condition when there are no free spare stack pages.

Resolutions: -

Review spare stack pages used by 32-bit Windows device drivers.

=====

Go to start-run, type "sysedit" without the quotation mark and OK to open the System Configuration Editor. Select the system.ini window.

Go to the section and add the following line to the [386Enh] section of the System.ini file.

```
[386Enh]
MinSPs=12
```

Save the system.ini. Exit the System Configuration Editor and restart the computer.

If the problem persists, increase the number of spare stack pages in increments of 4 (for example 12, 16, 32, 64).

NOTE: Each spare stack page requires 4 kilobytes of memory.

There should never be an odd number. It should be in increments of "4" as noted!!!

Be aware that, increase the number too high may cause resources lower in the RAM area below 1Mb and have adverse effect in system performance.

Windows98 in default value is MinSPs=8 (which is hidden in the system).

If you've got error from stack pages of MinSPs, you should increase from 8 to 12 and test onwards for your system. The adding of such a line in system.ini will override the default value.

Patricia / pslh

Comment from LeeTutor 12/19/2001 05:59PM PST

This Microsoft Knowledge Base article may be of help to you:

Q145799 How to Troubleshoot Windows Internal Stack Overflow Errors"