

Re: new memory = more swap?

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Date: 03/25/04

To: For users of Fedora Core releases <fedora-list@redhat.com>

Date: Thu, 25 Mar 2004 13:26:26 -0600

On Thu, 2004-03-25 at 13:09, Matt Morgan wrote:

> On 03/25/2004 01:50 PM, John Thompson wrote:

>

> > Craig Thomas wrote:

> >

> > > I have 256MB ram and a 502MB swap, and want to increase to 384MB

> > > ram, [i know, i know it's an old machine]. I've read in the RH

> > > manual and else where that double the amount of ram is "right". If

> > > I want more swap but don't have any unpartitioned space left, what

> > > are my options? (I do, however, have lots of free space on my

> > > drive).

> > >

> > >

> > The advice that swap=2(RAM) dates from the time when RAM was

> expensive and few user machines had more than 64MB.

> >

> > These days most people have plenty of RAM and thus require less swap

> space. I have 384MB RAM and a 256MB swap partition that is seldom

> more than 25% used.

> >

> >

> >

> Is it still also true, though, that swap should at a minimum = RAM

> (this

> is knowledge that dates back to early versions of SCO, which was weird

> anyway, I know)? If so, then having more swap than RAM may be

> worthwhile

> anyway, because you probably have plenty of disk space, and you might

> add RAM later (and you won't have to repartition at that point if you

> have extra swap).

>

> I realize it's also a lot easier to repartition these days, too. But I

> still like to avoid it.

>

> Can you have too much swap? (Disk space issues aside). If I have 512

> Mb

> of RAM, and set up a 1Gb swap partition, did I make a mistake?

Fedora: Re: new memory = more swap?

I'm not sure that it would be a mistake. I suspect that the answer will be to a large extent specific to the use of the system such as what apps do you run, how many apps simultaneously, are you compiling apps, is this a server or workstation, what services do you run. Things like that.

My older i8200 Dell laptop had 1GB of RAM and a 1GB swap. There were times when perhaps 30–40% of the swap space was in use.

My new Dell i5150 laptop has 2GB of RAM, and I rarely ever see more than 30–50 MB of swap in use and it is used largely in the same way as the i8200 was. As I am typing this, it is 0 MB in use.

The guidelines are just that, guidelines. You need to have a better feel for your system's utilization and based upon that, adjust accordingly. Obviously, the more swapping that takes place, the slower the system response will be in general.

HTH,

Marc Schwartz

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