

## Re: [SLE] swap space question in 9.3 install

**Source:** <http://linux.derkeiler.com/Mailing-Lists/SuSE/2005-07/1536.html>

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**From:** Jerry Feldman ([gaf\\_at\\_blu.org](mailto:gaf_at_blu.org))

**Date:** 07/18/05

To: [suse-linux-e@suse.com](mailto:suse-linux-e@suse.com)

Date: Mon, 18 Jul 2005 11:05:21 -0400

On Monday 18 July 2005 10:27 am, Greg Wallace wrote:

> *So the space is set aside for memory swapping, thus "swap", right? And,  
> as you say, the os won't store any permanent files there. The os can  
> then dump RAM buffers into it in whole, starting right at the beginning  
> of the swap space and moving forward, without worrying about stepping on  
> any files.*

There are no permanent files ever stored in swap. In essence, the name swap is a misnomer. Your memory is divided up into pages. The page size is a function of the hardware and OS. The Linux kernel only needs to store dirty pages in the swap space. During periods of high memory use, systems may start to use the swap space excessively.

(I don't want to get into a detailed technical discussion of how paging works).

Also note that Linux supports either a separate swap partition, a swap file, or both. The `swapon(8)` command may be used to turn paging areas on or off.

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