

## Solution to the problem

***"The System has reached the maximum size allowed for the system part of the registry – Additional storage requests will be ignored"***

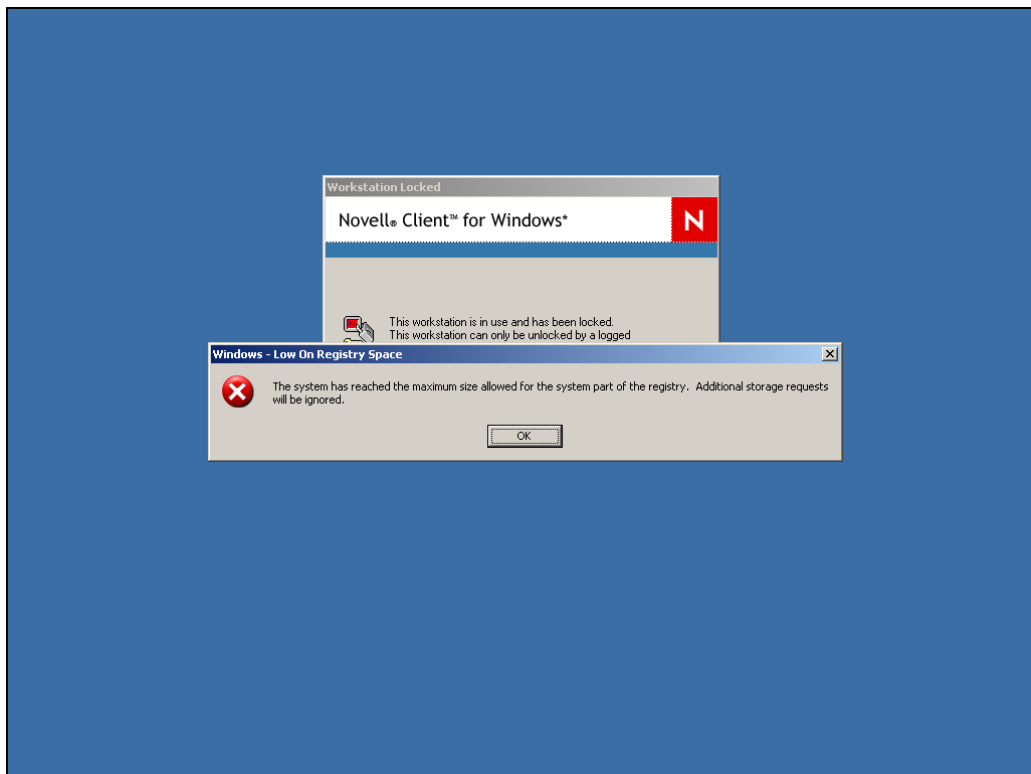
### How you got here

You were happily using your Windows XP PC or Windows 2003 Server and then, suddenly, one day you get a warning window giving you the following error message :

Window Title : **Windows – Low on Registry Space**

Error Message : **The system has reached the maximum size allowed for the system part of the registry. Additional storage requests will be ignored.**

Much like the following screenshot :



### The solution

The most annoying feature of this error message is that there is no published solution on the Microsoft website for it.

With the benefit of hindsight, however, we're not surprised because, from our findings, the message is a red herring : it has nothing to do with a maximum size of part of the registry having been reached (Windows 2003 Server and Windows XP do not have a maximum size for the registry or part of the registry), the problem is actually that **your Windows swap file (paging file) is corrupted !**

In our own experience this problem seems to occur in the following circumstances :

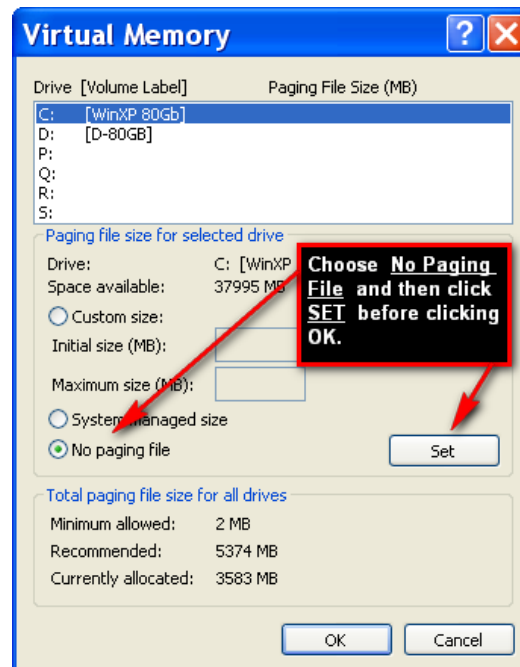
- After the installation of Service Pack 2 on Windows 2003 servers.
- After a change of hardware
- And by far the most common occurrence that we have seen is when a change of antivirus software, or a major update to antivirus software, is performed. For example, at the time of writing the installation of AVG File Server edition, or a major upgrade to it (v7.5 to v8.0), can cause this on a Windows 2003 Server.

For anyone else experiencing this specific "Low on Registry Space" error who does not fall in either of the above two categories, the corruption may have occurred during a power surge or power cut (if your PC is not protected by a UPS), or during a freeze of your PC/server, or, lastly, your hard disk may be going bad and starting to corrupt files and the paging file (if you think it may be the latter, monitor the situation carefully – check, in particular, for *NTFS errors* in the System log of the Event Viewer).

The solution detailed below, which zeroizes and re-creates the paging file (swap file), is one which has worked for us time after time in tests, every time. Here goes :

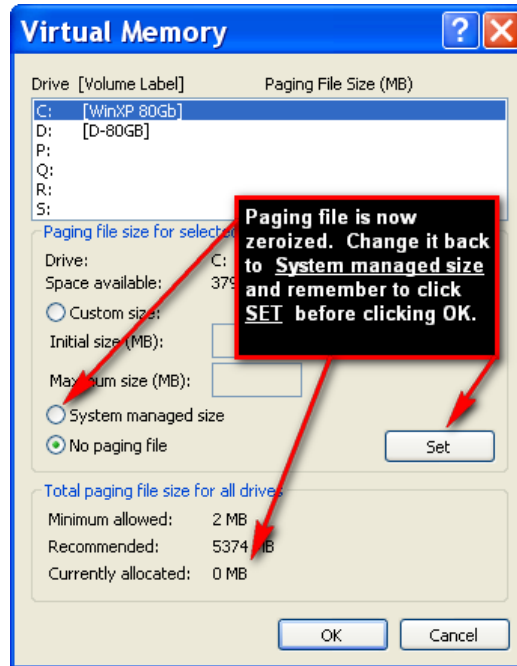
- Go to the **Control Panel**.
- Open the **System** icon.
- Choose the **Advanced** tab.
- Click **Settings** in the Performance sub-section.
- Choose the **Advanced** tab.
- Click **CHANGE** in the Virtual Memory section.

- Choose **No Paging File**.
- Click **SET** as shown below :

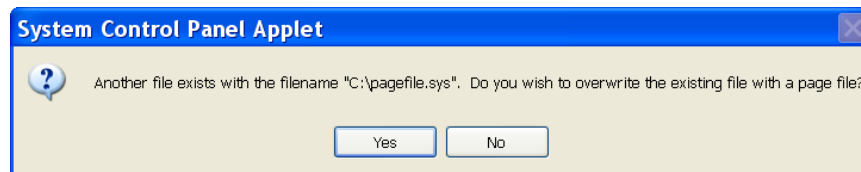


- Click **OK**.
- OK** yourself all the way out back to the Control Panel.
- You may or may not be asked to reboot your PC / Server. **Reboot anyway**.
- On reboot go back into the Virtual Memory settings as per the steps below.
- Go to the **Control Panel**.
- Open the **System** icon.
- Choose the **Advanced** tab.
- Click **Settings** in the Performance sub-section.

- Choose the **Advanced** tab.
- Click **CHANGE** in the Virtual Memory section. You will now see that the paging file has a zero size :



- As shown above, change the paging file setting to **System managed size**.
- Click **SET**.
- Click **OK**.
- At this point you may be asked if you want to overwrite the old paging file – **Answer YES !**



- OK** yourself all the way out back to the Control Panel.

- You may or may not be asked to reboot your PC / Server. **Reboot anyway.**
  
- That's it. You're done !**

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