

Popular Threads on Solosez

How Much Memory Do I Need?

Group: I have 256 but now that I have several law programs on my system my tech tells me I am running out of memory. How much memory does the average solo have? No pun intended Thanks!

Doris M. Dozier Walters, Georgetown, Texas

I'm running 2 gig.

Scot I. Barer, California

I have 512 mg at home and at work. depending on your need, that might be just about the standard now. won't be long before 1 gig is a standard.

Hard to believe, almost. My first computer, bought 14 years ago, had 8 kb of memory and an 80 mg hard drive. And that is nothing compared to some of the rigs you old-timers had in the 80's.

Frederick Mischler, Dayton, Ohio

My laptop has 768M and my desktops have 1 gig each. I consider 512M the functional minimum for new machines and 1G a good target for an average machine.

Greg Broiles, San Jose, California

I'd go for at least 512MB or a whole gigabyte. Memory is cheap and programmers tend to write bloatware.

All these hot shots think they have skill. Lets see them write something that can run in 2K. Heck I'll spot them 32K.

John A. Davidson

----- 1 meg.

It's the new standard. If you want to do dictation (Dragon) it's all but required.

Roger Traversa



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According to my resident computer engineer (my brother) 512MB of RAM is rapidly becoming the new "standard minimum." That is, in the near future no one will assume a computer with less than that amount of RAM.

Warren C. Caswell, Danielsville, Georgia

I order machines with 1GB min. New ones have 2GB. Many people "get by" with 512MB. All assume one variant or another of XP in use as operating system.

<http://www.crucial.com> is good for correct selection and pricing.

Darrell G. Stewart, San Antonio, Texas

I recently purchased a laptop from Dell. They are currently recommending 512mb as the standard. However, Microsoft has requested that Dell make one gig the standard in the near future.

Natalie J. Painter, Mooresville, North Carolina

512 works for me

Joel P. Bennett, Washington, DC

That's a bit tight nowadays. Run over to <http://newegg.com> or a similar vendor and, depending on the machine, buy a stick of 512 meg. RAM (for an older machine) or 1 gig (if it's newer and you will be keeping it for years).

Me, I've got a gig in my desktop and 768 in my notebook (upgraded from 256 -- but it's a cheap Compaq and not intended as a desktop replacement).

Mike Koenecke, Richardson, Texas

As with all things computer-related, what's fast enough or big enough today will be obsolete quickly. If you can get 1 gig of RAM, do it. It'll take longer before you'll need to worry about RAM again.

David C. Kocab, Royal Oak, Michigan

I've seen several people throw numbers at you. None have asked any pertinent questions. First, what OS are you running and what type/speed

of chip. Memory does not cure every slowdown. If you are running Windows 98 on an older machine, more memory won't help. If you are running Windows XP on a Pentium 4 chip, or comparable, more memory is likely to help. However, what applications are you running at the same time? That will go a long way to figuring out how much you need.

With that having been said, the low end for a current machine is 512MB. If you are going to do voice recognition, the bottom number is 1GB. If you are working on complex relational databases and doing other tasks at the same time, then you may benefit from more.

You note that your tech person has recommended more. Did you ask why? Did you ask what result you might expect?

Bruce Dorner, Londonderry, New Hampshire

for memory check www.crucial.com

Joel P. Bennett, Washington, DC

My desktop is about three years old max and has XP with Pentium 4. I have Time Matters, ProDoc, and other similar law programs for my practice areas. I am not particularly running slower, tech just said I was 75% full. I have an older laptop that has 256 but do not use it much except in a pinch for drafting and then jumping files to the desktop. I don't usually have more than one software program running at the same time though I can say I have had a few times. Sounds like 1 or 2 Gig is what I should get. 2 Gig would give me peace of mind.

Doris Walters

I just got a new Dell with 1 gig.

I figured that should be fine for now- Memory is easy to add so I can always add another gig later when and if needed.

Lew Wiener

Was the tech telling you that your hard drive was 75% full or that when you operating your machine normally during the day it was using 75% of the available RAM? Two very different things and unless he was examining the machine while you had the normal collection of programs running and the normal work load on those applications; he could not know the latter.

This would represent a very light load on your computer and it should be fine with 512M just to be a contrarian. 1G won't hurt, but I don't think you

will notice a difference either. 2G would be overkill based upon your comments.

I do not profess to know anything about the memory management subsystems in XP, but normally machines don't slow down just because you are using 75% or even 80% of the available RAM. They slow down when the OS, data, and applications require more RAM than is made available by the memory management systems in the OS. At that point you start swapping out to the hard drive and that makes things slow down. When the available hard disk space is nearly completely used up as over 85% to 95%, things start to fall apart too.

Ed Lawson

Just a little note for those thinking of buying a computer during this year. Don't buy one until you have checked if it at least meets the then current hardware requirements for Vista which is the current name given by MSFT for it next OS. Not if the box will be compatible with or will run, blah, blah, blah. Check if the box meets the requirements to run Vista with all features.

Ed Lawson

You may not be able to put that much RAM in it. Older computers, and yours does qualify as being older, have a limit as to how much RAM they can have installed.

When you say the tech said you were "75% full", was he talking about your hard drive or RAM utilization?

If I were you, I'd think about spending some bucks on a new computer. Find out what it would cost to get RAM...older computers often take RAM types that are not as readily available, thereby increasing the cost. A new hard drive will be under \$200. A new computer with BIG hard drive, 1 gig of RAM, faster processor will be under \$1,000, monitor included.

Tom Simchak, Houston, Texas

A tip I picked up from Solosez a while back.

Press Ctrl-alt-del to pull up the windows task manager.

Select the "Performance" tab.

If the Total Commit Charge exceeds the Total Physical Memory, there's your first indication you need more ram.

Your expansion options are limited to your mother board. I upgraded to 1 gig from 256 on my 3.5 year old machine. A significant difference.

Circuit City was running some great promotions on Kingston brand memory.

Long Duong

Ed- Good point

In fact I had a copy of Walt Mossberg's Tech Personal Tech column from the Wall St Journal column of sometime last Oct which I used as a guide. He spelled out the minimum requirements for Vista- and I made sure my new computed equaled or exceeded them. It was very helpful and Mossberg is usually quite realistic in what one needs in a computer.

The column was in the WSJ archives as recently as a few weeks ago- but I just checked and it doesn't seem to be there anymore. Perhaps someone who gets the WSJ online could still access the column if anyone needs it.

Lew Wiener

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