

Solution for persisting ‘Windows created a temporary paging file on your computer’ error

THURSDAY, AUGUST 18TH, 2011

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My Windows 7 laptop began displaying a notification/error every time I logged in:

Windows created a temporary paging file on your computer because of a problem that occurred with your paging file configuration when you started your computer. The total paging file size for all disk drives may be somewhat larger than the size you specified

After clicking OK, it would open the virtual memory settings without any explanation of what you were supposed to check or do there.

This evidently happens because `pagefile.sys`, the file that Windows uses for virtual memory, has become corrupted in some way.

This Microsoft Answers article¹ recommends running a system file check. Here’s how to run an SFC². This did not solve the problem for me, but it is something you should try first.

Here’s how I cleared it up:

1. Log in under a local Administrator account. (Do this after each restart in these instructions as well.)
2. If it’s not already open, open the virtual memory settings by right-clicking on Computer, → Properties → Advanced System Settings → click the Advanced tab → Under Performance, click Settings, go to Advanced tab, finally under Virtual Memory section click the Change button.

1. http://answers.microsoft.com/en-us/windows/forum/windows_7-performance/windows-7-virtual-memory-keeps-resetting-on/e7ba857a-ba74-4978-9ea7-0c929f75a19d
2. <http://support.microsoft.com/kb/936212/en-us>

3. Uncheck the Automatically manage paging file size for all drives checkbox.
4. Set a "Custom size" for the paging file on the C drive: 0MB initial, 0MB maximum.
5. Click OK, close all dialog boxes, and restart your computer.
6. After logging in again, delete the file `C:\pagefile.sys`
 - (a) To do this, you may need to change your folder settings so you can see it first. Open a window of your C: drive and click *Organize* at the top, then *Folder and Search Options*
 - (b) Click the *View* tab, and make sure *Show hidden files, folders and drives* is turned on, and that *Hide protected system files* is **not** checked.
 - (c) Click OK and go back to your C: drive, find `pagefile.sys` and delete it.
7. Now go back to the virtual memory settings (see step 2 above) and set the paging file for the C: drive to *System managed size*, and then make sure the *Automatically manage paging file size for all drives* checkbox is **checked**.
8. Click OK, close all dialog boxes, and restart your computer.

A summary of what this does: By temporarily turning off virtual memory, you allow yourself to delete the (now-corrupt) paging file. Then when you re-enable virtual memory, Windows automatically builds a new paging file from scratch, and *voilà*, problem solved.

I was helped by this thread at [geekstogo.com](http://www.geekstogo.com)³ although I did not find it necessary to do any editing of the Registry or any of that jazz. Try the simplest solution first, I always say.

Responses

Thank you, That worked for me, thx for taking the time to make a webpage for this, awesome!
(Dave, January 10, 2012)

3. <http://www.geekstogo.com/forum/topic/41071-paging-file-is-gone%3B-correspondng-error-at-startup/>

cant find pagefile.sys

(sam, May 23, 2012)

It doesn't work. When I delete pagefile.sys it said This action can't be completed because the file was open in another program

(Aygo Blogs, July 17, 2012)

YES! Big thanks to you as this was driving me Nucking Futs!! Followed each step as described, and it killed the "Windows has created..." crapola, and restored what's left of any remaining sanity... sincere appreciation.

(Eddie, August 07, 2012)

Aygo,

I had the same problem, and I was able to delete the file by restarting on Safe Mode. Hope it helps!

(Raul Junior, October 11, 2012)

Thanks for this...more help than MS documentation...

Came across this whilst trying to free more space which people may find helpful - turning off hibernation:

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(schilbach, April 09, 2013)

Thank you for this! I'd tried several other solutions, including both the SFC and the "sc config afs start= disabled" command, and none of them worked. This one did - and better still, I actually understood what I was doing!

(Prof. Sancho Panza, May 22, 2013)

Even if I start in safe mode, I am not able to delete it. Please help

(naveenvarshan, June 25, 2013)

Look carefully that you unchecked "Hide protected operating system files". Couldn't find it the first time, but then I realized I've overlooked this option.

(Gabriel Gunawan, October 17, 2013)

so do i, Even if I start in safe mode, I am not able to delete it. Please help

(SiKuple, October 27, 2013)

4. <http://www.howtogeek.com/howto/15140/what-is-hiberfil.sys-and-how-do-i-delete-it/>

If you can't delete pagefile.sys (gives "in use by another program" error), make sure you're running Explorer with Admin privileges: close your Explorer window, then open Start menu, type "explorer" in search, SHIFT-right-click on the Windows Explorer in the results, and click "Run as Administrator".
(Joel A., October 28, 2013)

still not work, i've closed the explorer first, and then i open windows and typed "explorer" then i press shift with right klicked at "Windows Explorer" and "RUN AS ADMIN" then find the pagefile.sys delete and then... ZONK, STILL use by program
(SiKuple, October 31, 2013)

even i choose windows explorer and RUN it as ADMIN i still cant delete pagefile.sys
(SiKuple, October 31, 2013)

I cannot delete the pagifile.sys either. I am always the admin on my computer, moreover, I still went ahead and SHIFT+right-clicked the explorer and I don't get that "Run as admin..." option. This file is indestructible. What else do you recommend? Is there a program running in the background (a "process" in the "Task Manager") that I should kill first?
(J.Balboa, March 30, 2014)

maraming salamat, that worked
-mza.
(mizzuhh, August 27, 2014)

I am getting this problem too. I've followed ALL of the instructions here, but when I go back and click the automatically manage box and reboot, the system doesn't create a paging file, it just shows everything grayed out and it says no paging file. Ugh and Grrrrr
(Tammy, September 13, 2014)

Good day just to add to this...
If you running an HyperV Gen1 VM and getting this message please check that the VHD is not mounted as an iSCSI drive or else the problem will also persist. it needs to be mounted as an Traditional hard drive for the OS to write the Pagefile.
(Johan Kotze, October 27, 2015)

Yep. works fine.. Thanks
(adrian no, January 07, 2016)