

# Problem with SWAP file in ESX 3.0 ...

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[gmreddy](#) 44 posts since

Oct 11, 2007

Hi,

We have one ESX 3.0.1 box on which we have hosted 15 Virtual machines. Hardware configuration is 64GB RAM and 4 quad core cpu. The swap file partition size is 1080 MB.

Now a days we are facing problem with swap file, utilization of swap file is reaching more than 90%. How can I find which VM is using more swap file and how can i rectify this issue?

GMR Tags: 3.0.1, 3.0.2, 3.0.2\_upgrade, 3.5, esx, esx3, esx3.5, esxupdate, virtual\_center



[gmreddy](#) 44 posts since

Oct 11, 2007 **1. Re: Problem with SWAP file in ESX 3.0** Dec 9, 2008 9:12 AM

Hi,

Attached is the output of the file, when I give the 'free' command.

**GMR Attachments:**

-  [abc.JPG](#) (7.6 K)



[weinstein5](#) 6,355 posts since

Nov 19, 2005 **2. Re: Problem with SWAP file in ESX 3.0** Dec 9, 2008 10:41 AM


It is not a VM that utilizes this swap file - it is the Service Console - you might need to increase the memory assigned to your service console which then means you will need to increase the swap space - rule of thumb is swap space needs to be 2x the size of memory assigned to the service console -

If you find this or any other answer useful please consider awarding points by marking the answer correct or helpful



[gmreddy](#) 44 posts since

Oct 11, 2007 **3. Re: Problem with SWAP file in ESX 3.0** Dec 10, 2008 1:36 AM

 in response to: [weinstein5](#)

We have reserved 272MB memory for service console, screen shot attached. We have one more ESX box (same configuration and same settings) in the same environment and it is hosting same number of virtual machines, but we didn't face any issue with that server.

Both servers are not rebooted from past 100 days. Why the problem is only with this ESX, what could be the problem? **Attachments:**

-   [xyz.JPG](#) (5.6 K)

Problem with SWAP file in ESX 3.0 ...



[gmreddy](#) 44 posts since

Oct 11, 2007 4. **Re: Problem with SWAP file in ESX 3.0** Dec 10, 2008 1:36 AM

in response to: [weinstein5](#)

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[gmreddy](#) 44 posts since

Oct 11, 2007 5. **Re: Problem with SWAP file in ESX 3.0** Dec 10, 2008 1:39 AM

in response to: [weinstein5](#)

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- [xyz.JPG](#) (5.6 K)



[wilson94t](#) 95 posts since

Oct 28, 2004 6. **Re: Problem with SWAP file in ESX 3.0** Dec 11, 2008 1:03 AM

in response to: [gmreddy](#)

We found that with the 272MB config, we were always running low on memory, and swapping in the console even without any agents or additional software. Add some agents or monitoring software and this becomes a real problem. Our default? 800MB console. Always.

Before starting with ESX 3.0.1, we contacted VMware and had some lengthy discussions about using RAM configuration. We went over in painful detail exactly what we do, and they recommended that unlike 2.5.x, an 800MB console would not be needed, 272 was the perfect number. We continued to swap, and crashed ESX a few times. Since moving to 800, ESX has returned to a stable condition.

We did run 512MB in some of our smaller systems with success for a few months, that worked well enough. I did not continue to pursue this option because I wanted to run audits across hundreds of ESX servers, and it was easier to just check for 800, rather than build in exceptions for my audits. call me lazy, but 800MB works quite well and while swapping can occur, it is rare.



[wilson94t](#) 95 posts since

Oct 28, 2004 7. **Re: Problem with SWAP file in ESX 3.0** Dec 31, 2008 2:53 PM

So, did you bump up the memory in your service console to resolve the swapping?

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[gmreddy](#) *44 posts since*

Oct 11, 2007 8. **Re: Problem with SWAP file in ESX 3.0** Jan 9, 2009 5:06 AM

in response to: [wilson94t](#) It worked for me. Thanks for your help.