

VM with W2003 64bits & 4GB of RAM ...



[RaMorn](#) 6 posts since

Nov 5, 2008

Hi Folks,

I'm having the following question for you guys...

I had installed a VM with Windows Server 2003 Standard 64 bits, and I assigned to the VM 4GB.

But when it finished the installation it is showing 3.75 Gb....I was digging into the webpages, but it not seems to be related to software (I mean, I didn't find something like a switch to add to boot.ini file or something like this)

Has anyone experienced the same?

The ESX server where it is hosted is a HP Proliant G5 580 Intel.

I'll really appreciate your comments regarding this issue, I need to send official excuses if this could not be addressed.

Thanks!

Raul Tags: vm, 2003, 64bits, less, memory, than, installed



[danpalacios](#) 126 posts since

May 14, 2007 1. **Re: VM with W2003 64bits & 4GB of RAM showing less (3.75GB)** Jul 2, 2009 11:26 AM

That is odd. I would expect that behavior from a 32 bit version .. are you sure it installed as x64? What version of esx are you on?

Another interesting test would be to increase the RAM to 5 GB and see if any more shows up. If you are loosing a fraction of RAM would be a different issue than if you are capped at 3.75



[bjmoore](#) 101 posts since

Mar 9, 2007 2. **Re: VM with W2003 64bits & 4GB of RAM showing less (3.75GB)** Jul 2, 2009 11:27 AM

Try adding the /pae switch to the boot.ini string. I've run into that problem on a lot of Standard edition servers before...not sure if it's resolved with 64-bit OS's.



[RaMorn](#) 6 posts since

Nov 5, 2008 3. **Re: VM with W2003 64bits & 4GB of RAM showing less (3.75GB)** Jul 2, 2009 12:49 PM

👤 in response to: [danpalacios](#)

Yeah, I'm absolutely sure that was installed an x64 version, also during the VM creation, the appropriate OS version was selected, and the ESX host has enabled the VT and EM64T features...

Any thoughts?



[danpalacios](#) 126 posts since

VM with W2003 64bits & 4GB of RAM ...


May 14, 2007 4. **Re: VM with W2003 64bits & 4GB of RAM showing less (3.75GB)** Jul 2, 2009 12:51 PM

 in response to: [RaMorn](#) I would love to know if more RAM shows up if you add more RAM to the VM. Try giving it 5 GB and see what the vm shows.



[RaMorn](#) 6 posts since

Nov 5, 2008 5. **Re: VM with W2003 64bits & 4GB of RAM showing less (3.75GB)** Jul 3, 2009 11:37 AM

 in response to: [danpalacios](#)

Well, I'm back with my testings...

What I found is that if I add more memory (I tested with 5 and with 8 GB) it is always taking 256 MB for something...

Is there any official document indicating this case?

Thank for your comments!



[Sav2k](#) 1 posts since

Sep 29, 2009 6. **Re: VM with W2003 64bits & 4GB of RAM showing less (3.75GB)** Sep 29, 2009 2:07 AM

 in response to: [RaMorn](#)


We are having the same issue. This is only happening on ESX 3.5 with WK23 x64. We have a vSphere on similar hardware to yours and this works correctly showing the full 4 GB.

Does anyone know any more on this?



[avasudevan](#) 1 posts since

Sep 30, 2009 7. **Re: VM with W2003 64bits & 4GB of RAM showing less (3.75GB)** Sep 30, 2009 6:41 PM

 in response to: [Sav2k](#)

This is most likely due to RAM reservation for virtual PCI devices. PCI devices need memory for their IO and those pages are not available to the OS. Hence the gap that you see...