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A/UX: How To Figure Swap Partition Sizes

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Article Change History

08/31/92 - REVIEWED
• For technical accuracy.

TOPIC -----

Can you recommend a good size swap partition for best performance under A/UX? I'm using a 200MB drive and have a Macintosh IIx with 20MB, though I'm also interested in recommendations for a 32MB Macintosh IIx system.

Also, is there any formula (physical RAM +10MB, for instance) for determining a good swap size? I assume the swap size should be larger than the physical RAM in the system.

DISCUSSION -----

The size of swap space should be larger than the physical memory size. Actually, there is no magic "formula".

A standard version of A/UX 2.0, based on an A/UX with 8MB of physical memory, has about 18MB of disk space allocated for swap purposes. 18MB is twice as much as the physical memory. Therefore, if disk space is not a restraint, we recommend two to two and a half times the physical memory size be assigned for swap space. If disk space is a concern, less than twice of physical memory size may be allocated for swap space.

Note that the swapping in and out activity occurs only when the available physical memory is used up. If your applications require large amounts of memory allocation, you should increase the swap size. Use the "swap -l" to view the current free swap size. If you have a reserved A/UX partition, you may use the "swap -a ..." to add additional swap area.

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