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According to an old rule of thumb, your page file or swap should be "double your RAM." But do you really need a 32 GB page file or swap space, which is a relief considering a modern computer might have a solid-state drive with very little space. The Purpose of the Page File or Swap Partition RELATED: What Is the Windows or swap partition on Linux. Both provide additional working memory to your computer. For example, if your computer has 2 GB of RAM and you open a large number of programs or large number of files, your computer might need to store 3 GB of data in its working memory. The computer stores that additional 1 GB of data in its page file or swap space. The page file or swap acts as an "overflow" area to hold the additional 1 GB of data in its page file or swap space. The page file or swap space. The page file or swap space. moves data to its page file or swap partition when it's not being used. If you used an older desktop program for a while to appear, and you'd hear your hard drive grinding away while that disk activity LED flashed — its data was being moved back from your page file or swap partition to its RAM. The RAM is much less common on modern computers that have sufficient amounts of RAM to keep desktop programs in RAM.) Most applications expect to get the memory they request. If your RAM was full and you had no page file, and then you opened another program, the program would likely crash. Having a page file and Swap Partitions Windows and Linux also use their page file and swap space for other purposes: Windows Crash Dumps: On Windows, the page file is used for crash dumps. To create a complete memory dump, the page file must be at least the size of the physical memory + 1 MB. For kernel memory dumps, but kernel dumps might be useful. The required 800 MB page file is fairly small, but it requires you leave your page file enabled and don't disable it. (This information is taken from the Understanding Crash Dumps post at Microsoft TechNet.) Linux Hibernation: On Linux systems, hibernate — the power-down state that saves the contents of your system's RAM to disk so it can be reloaded when you boot up again saves the contents of the system's RAM to the swap partition. This may also be referred to as "suspend to disk." You might assume you need a swap partition as big as the RAM you use — so, if you only regularly use 4 GB of your 16 GB of RAM, you could hibernate to a 4 GB swap partition. However, if you used more than 4 GB of RAM, you might not be able to hibernating — if you never plan on hibernating your computer, you don't need to worry about this. (Windows hibernates by saving data to the C:\hiberfil.sys file, so the page file isn't involved when hibernating on Windows.) The Real Question: How Much Memory Do You Use? There's no one hard-and-fast rule that will tell you how much memory you use. For example, if you have 8 GB of memory but you never ever used more than those 8 GB, you could get by with no paging or swap space at all—it's likely you would need more than 8 GB eventually, of course. On the other hand, you might have a computer with 64 GB of memory, but it might regularly work with 100 GB data sets—you'd probably want at least the 64 GB paging or swap space just to be safe. So a computer with 8 GB of RAM might need a huge page file and a computer with 64 GB of RAM might need a huge page file. 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If you want to manually set a size — not recommended — be sure to bear in mind that what really matters if how much memory your system will use, not just the size of its RAM. Microsoft's documentation notes that: "the reason to configure the page file size has not changed. It has always been about supporting a system crash dump, if it is necessary, or extending the system commit limit, if it is necessary. For example, when a lot of physical memory is installed, a page file might not be required to back the system commit charge during peak usage. The available physical memory alone might be large enough to do this." In other words, it's all about how much memory you'll actually need — the total amount of available memory being the "system commit limit." Linux Requires a Choice RELATED: How to Re-Enable Hibernate in Ubuntu 12.04 On Linux, the equivalent to the Windows paging file is the swap partition when installing Linux. Sure, you could resize your partition for you. Each Linux distribution uses its own installer, and each Linux distribution has some logic in its installer that automatically tries to choose the appropriate swap partition size. Linux distributions typically use the size of your RAM to help decide the size of your RAM plus an additional half a GB or so. This ensures hibernate will work properly. If you're manually partitioning in your Linux installer, the size of your RAM plus a good rule of thumb that will ensure you can actually hibernate your system. That should usually be more than enough swap space, too. If you have a large amount of RAM — 16 GB or so — and you don't need hibernate but do need disk space, you could probably get away with a small 2 GB swap partition. Again, it really depends on how much memory your computer will actually use. But it's a good idea to have some swap space just in case. The old "double the size of the RAM" rule of thumb applied to computers with 1 or 2 GB of RAM. There's no one-size-fits-all answer to how much page file or swap space you need. It all depends on the programs you use and what they need. If you're unsure, sticking with your operating system's defaults is almost always a good idea. Image Credit: William Hook on Flickr, Jean-Etienne Minh-Duy Poirrier on Flickr Did you just download a PDF file containing lots of pages with blank or filler content? You probably want to get rid of them. But how? Surprisingly, it's not that complicated to delete individual pages from a PDF. So below, we shall walk you through several convenient methods to delete pages from a PDF on any desktop or mobile device. Use Edge, Chrome, or Firefox (PC) The easiest way to delete individual pages from a PDF on any desktop or mobile device. Use Edge, Chrome, or Firefox (PC) The easiest way to delete pages from a PDF on any desktop or mobile device. file and excluding the page or pages you don't want. 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