From davidcol Mon Dec 5 10:43:10 1988
To: davidw greglo jodys philba
Cc: peteh ralfha
Subject: Large/Small frame switch
Date: Mon Dec 05 10:38:06 1988

    ition to the recommendations I asked about on Friday, there is
a. .dditional item that should be added to the list. Currently Windows
will use large frame if bankable memory is 280kb or more, small frame
if less.

This number is too small for Excel. Excel needs 128kb swap space, 40kb
data, 30kb fixed code, and 64kb EMS segment. Take that away from the
280kb minimum bank size and that leaves 16kb. 16kb is not enough to
use some features of Excel, like custom dialog boxes. We need this number
to be raised by at least 32kb.

There are clearly 2 ways to address this.
1) Increase the minimum bankable amount to at least 312kb. This would
of course help Excel but might hurt running multiple apps which don't
require as much memory if you are on the border line between large and
small frame.
2) Allow us to set a WIN.INI flag to the amount we need. Thus only Excel
machines would have the larger minimum banking requirement. It's not clear
if #2 is possble, surely depends if this number is determined before or
after WIN.INI is read.

I recommend #1 because it only effects apps when Windows is on the border line between large and small frame. Most of the time the
is more than 312kb anyway. I addition, I believe the 280kb number was choosen for Excel in the first place, we should adjust it so

Thanks,
David

From davidcol Fri Dec 2 15:44:32 1988
To: gregle jodya philba
Cc: davidw petah ralfha
Subject: XMS and SwapSize
Date: Fri Dec 02 15:40:35 1988

As I think you are aware, the Excel group is mounting a serious
effort in trying to resolve some of the conventional memory problems
our customers have encountered. The most serious problem is coming
up with enough free DOS memory to boot Excel. (Not being able to set
our 128kb swapsize is what kills us.)

In researching this area I discovered that the maximum swapsize allowed
is independent of whether Windows uses XMS or not. In theory, Excel
should be able to set a 128kb swapsize with 45kb less DOS memory free
if XMS is present compared to if XMS is not present. David Weiss confirmed
that the computations used to determine the maximum swapsize do not take
into account memory freed by XMS.

I'd like to release a memo very soon that gives my recommendation on what
we can do to improve the Excel memory situation in the very short term.
As part of my recommendation, I think the swapsize computation should
be corrected and a "running update" of Windows and Excel released. Can
I get your feedback on this as soon as possible? I'd like to include in
the memo that you are on board and it's a "done deal". However, if you
think there's a problem due to resources or what ever then I'll raise the
issue in the memo and we can debate the appropriate solution.

The second part of the recommendation which involves you is actually
pretty minor. We'd like to have the [Incompatibility] section of
SETUP.INF for Windows/286 modified to not list 386MAX.SYS since this
currently is compatible with Windows/286. Abruptly terminating setup
has irritated many customers.

I hope you can respond to this soon since I'd like to move as quickly
as possible. Our "window of opportunity" is pretty short.

thanks much,
David

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