CHECK MEMORY AND MEMORY USAGE

With memory, one of the first things to do is find out how much memory (RAM) you have and how much of it is currently being used. You can find out these things and much more in Task Manager.

To check memory and memory usage

1. Right-click on the Taskbar, and then select **Task Manager**.
2. In Task Manager, select **More details** > the **Performance** tab > **Memory**.

First, see how much you have total, and then check the graph and see how much RAM is being used.

If you find that much of your RAM is regularly being used, consider adding more RAM if possible—especially if your PC only has 1 or 2 gigabytes (GB) of RAM. To learn more about what kind of RAM your PC model uses, first look at the memory info in Task Manager, and then visit the PC manufacturer's website for more specific info.

Here's some info about the minimum memory requirements for Windows 10:

1. Windows 10 (32-bit) can run on a PC with 1 GB of RAM, but it runs better with 2 GB. For better performance, add memory so you have 3 GB or more.

2. Windows 10 (64-bit) can run on a PC with 2 GB of RAM, but it runs better with 4 GB. For better performance, add memory so you have 6 GB or more.

Use ReadyBoost to help improve performance

Like earlier versions of Windows, Windows 10 has ReadyBoost. ReadyBoost lets you use a removable drive, like a USB flash drive, to improve your PC's performance without opening your PC and adding more memory (RAM). To use ReadyBoost, you'll need a USB flash drive or a memory card that has at least 500 MB free and a high data transfer rate.

To use ReadyBoost

1. Insert the USB flash drive into a USB port on your PC.
2. On the taskbar, select **File Explorer (or press Windows key + E)**.

3. Right-click on the USB flash drive (or SD card if you used one instead), then select **Properties**.
4. Select the **ReadyBoost** tab, then select **Use this device**.
   Windows determines if the device can use ReadyBoost. If it can't, a message appears to let you know.
5. After Windows determines how much free space to use to optimize memory, select **OK** to reserve this space, so ReadyBoost can use it.

When you look at the contents of the USB flash drive in File Explorer, you'll see a file named ReadyBoost.sfcache on the flash drive. This file shows how much space is reserved for ReadyBoost.

If Windows is installed on a solid state drive (SSD), ReadyBoost can't be used because the SSD drive is already fast and you won't get better performance by using ReadyBoost.

Change the paging file size to improve performance

The paging file is an area on your hard disk that Windows uses like memory. Increasing the paging file size can help improve your PC's performance.

1. In the search box on the taskbar, type **advanced system**, and then select **View advanced system settings**, which has Control panel listed underneath it.
2. The System Properties icon will appear on the Taskbar. Open it from there.
3. In System Properties, on the **Advanced** tab, select **Settings** in the Performance area.
4. In Performance Options, select the **Advanced** tab > **Change** in the Virtual memory area.
5. Uncheck the **Automatically manage paging file size for all drives** check box.
6. Select **Custom size**, then enter an initial size (in MB) and maximum size in the corresponding boxes.
7. Select **Set** > **OK**.
8. Restart your PC by selecting the **Start** button > **Power** > **Restart**.