

# Clean up traces of Pagefile every time you turn off your Windows 10 computer

Pagefile is one of the oldest and most important features on Windows operating systems. This feature acts as a virtual memory on your system. Whenever the memory capacity on the computer is 'alert', Windows moves the least used memory pages to a hidden file called pagefile. By default, the pagefile is automatically created and maintained by Windows.

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This allows Windows to run programs without crashing errors due to low memory capacity. Even if the amount of memory is large, Windows still uses the pagefile for caching when moving or deleting a large number of files and other activities.

And as you know, whenever you turn off your computer, system or assume if you lose power, the contents on memory (RAM) will automatically be 'lost'. But the content on the pagefile is still there, unless Windows removes them. So other users can still 'detect' the pagefile data. If you don't want this to happen, you can force Windows to automatically delete the pagefile every time you turn off Windows.



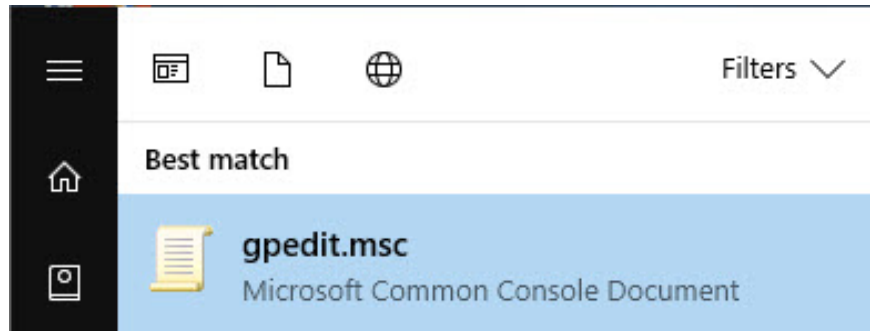
## How to clean up Pagefile traces on a Windows 10 computer?

Also, if you want to know the details about pagefile, you can refer [here](#).

## 1. Use Windows Group Policy Editor

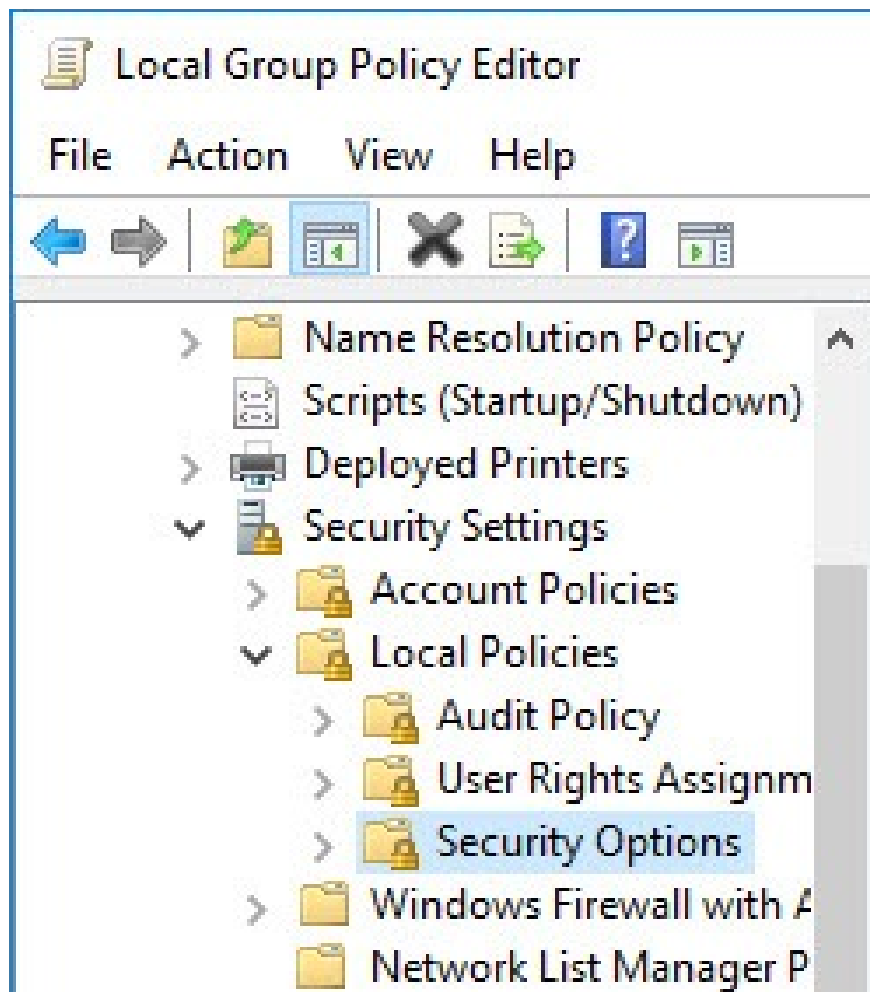
If you use Windows Pro or Enterprise versions, you can use Group Policy Editor to wipe traces of the pagefile automatically. To do this thing:

First enter **gpedit.msc** in the Search box on the Start Menu and press Enter to open the Group Policy Editor window.

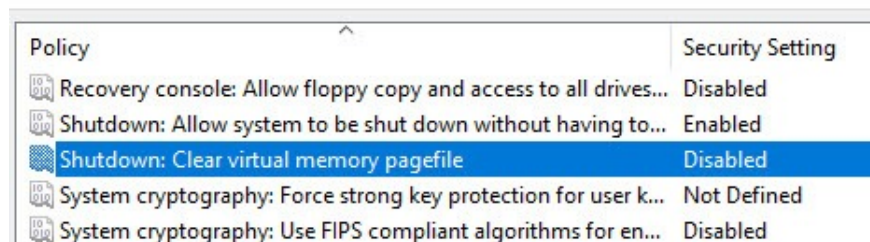


On the Group Policy Editor window, navigate to the key:

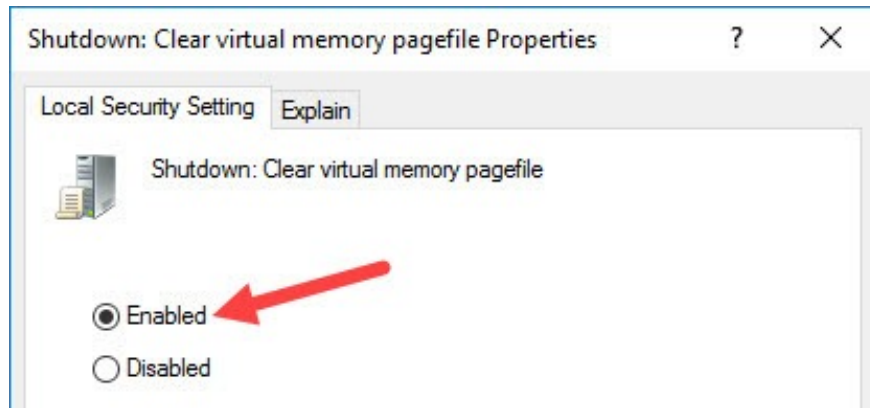
Computer Configuration => Windows Settings => Security Settings => Local Policies => Security Options



In the right pane, find and double-click the policy named '**Shutdown: Clear virtual memory page file**' .



On the Policy settings window, click the **Enabled** button then click **OK** to save the changes.



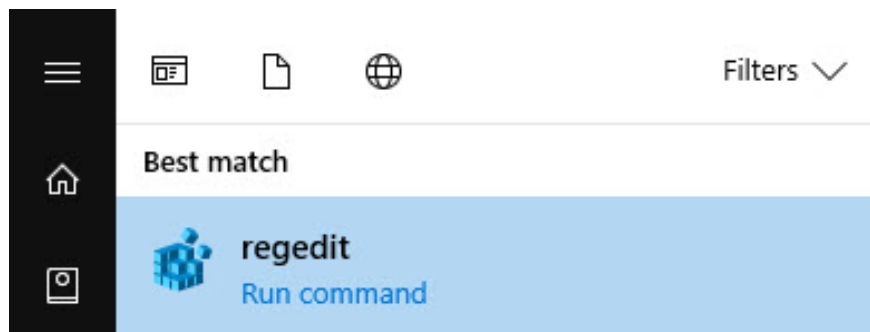
Finally, restart the system to apply the changes.

In case if you want to go back to the original settings, you do the same steps and set the policy 'Shutdown: Clear virtual memory page file' to **Disabled**.

## 2. Use the Windows Registry Editor

If you are using the Windows Home version, you will need to rely on the Windows Registry support to delete the pagefile. To do this thing:

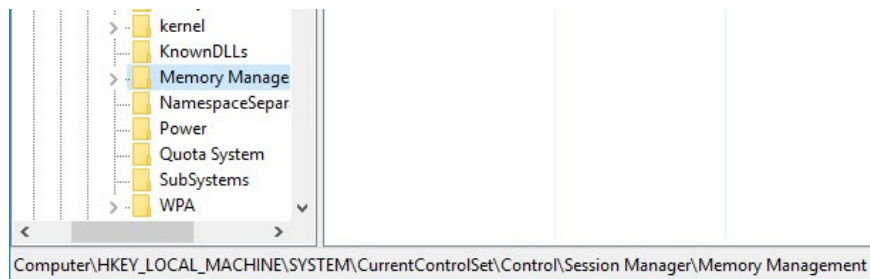
First enter **regedit** in the Search box on the Start Menu and press Enter to open the Windows Registry Editor window.



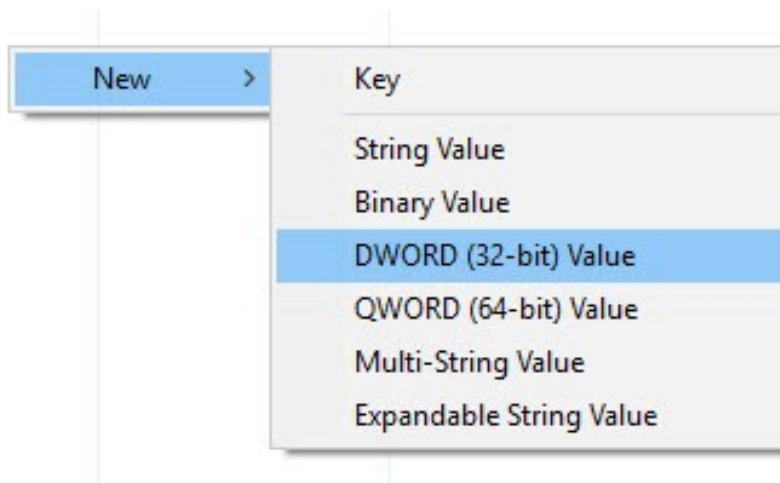
On the Windows registry editor window, navigate to the key:

HKEY\_LOCAL\_MACHINESYSTEMCurrentControlSetControlSession  
Management

ManagerMemory



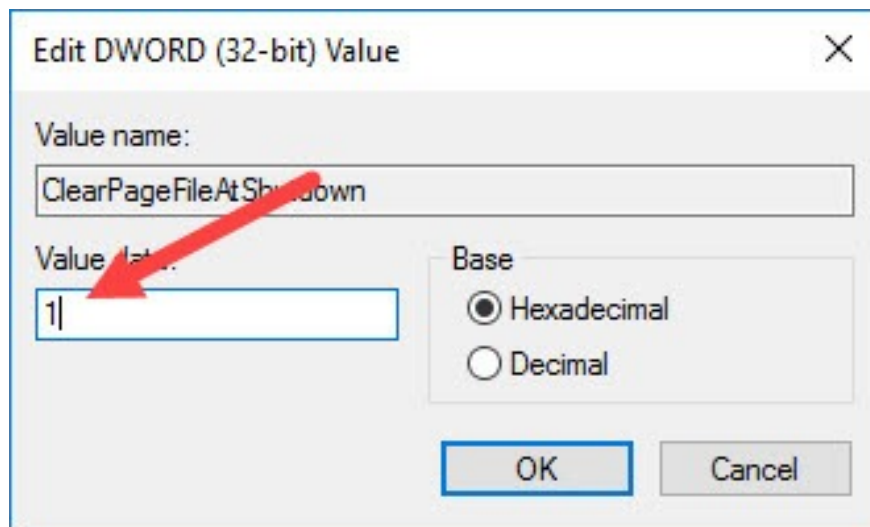
Here you will have to proceed to create a new value. To do this, right-click any space in the right pane, then select **New => DWORD (32-bit) Value** .



Name this new value **ClearPageFileAtShutdown** and then press Enter.

SessionPoolSize	REG_DWORD	0x00000004 (4)
SessionViewSize	REG_DWORD	0x00000030 (48)
SystemPages	REG_DWORD	0x00000000 (0)
ClearPageFileAtShutdown	REG_DWORD	0x00000000 (0)

Once created, double click on the **ClearPageFileAtShutdown** value to open the Properties window. There you enter **1** into **Value Data** frame and then click **OK** to save the changes.



Once completed, you will see the change as shown below.

SecondLevelDataCache	REG_DWORD	0x00000000 (0)
SessionPoolSize	REG_DWORD	0x00000004 (4)
SessionViewSize	REG_DWORD	0x00000030 (48)
SystemPages	REG_DWORD	<del>0x00000000 (0)</del>
ClearPageFileAtShutdo...	REG_DWORD	0x00000001 (1)

Finally proceed to restart your computer to apply changes. From now on when your computer is turned off, Windows will automatically wipe traces of the pagefile.

In case if you want to revert to the original setting, perform the same steps and change the value in Value data to 0 to complete.

### Refer to some of the following articles:

1. Summary of several ways to open virtual keyboard on Windows XP / 7/8 / 8.1 / 10
1. Instructions for activating Keyboard Backlight on Windows 10
1. Prevent Microsoft from collecting system information on Windows 10

### Good luck!

You finished reading the article "**Clean up traces of Pagefile every time you turn off your Windows 10 computer**" edited by the [TipsMake](#) team. We hope this article has provided you with many useful tech tips and tricks. You can search for similar articles on tips and guides. Thank you for reading and for following us regularly.