Memory Configuration

Xitron Navigator Technical Note

May 1, 2002

The Xitron Navigator RIP allows you to make adjustments to the machine's memory usage in order to optimize the RIP's performance. Although changing the memory configuration of the RIP can increase performance, setting the memory incorrectly can reduce performance and even cripple the system (not permanently, but until the settings are corrected).

There are two things that you will have to consider before changing the memory settings on your RIP. First, which operating system you are running (i.e. NT 4.0 Workstation, NT 4.0 Server, Windows 2000 Server, Windows 2000 Professional or MacOS). Each of these operating systems has different memory requirements for the system. The second thing that you will have to consider is whether you are intending to run programs other than the RIP on the computer in question, such as Xaps or Pilot. Never run any other non-Xitron Programs on the same machine as the RIP, as even running simple programs creates an extra demand on resources. In many cases, Xitron will not support problems on a RIP when other programs are running on the same platform.

Note: This document will concentrate on settings for Windows based operating systems. Memory configuration for a Macintosh RIP is covered in a separate Tech. Note

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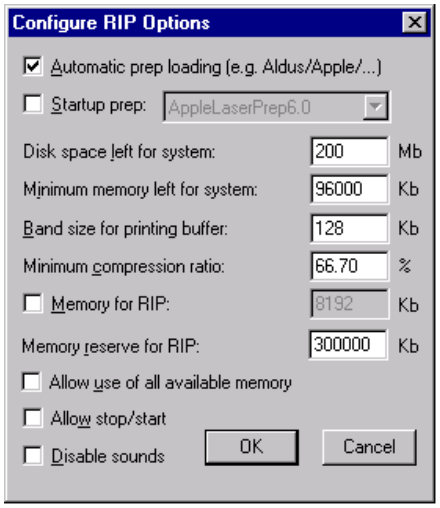
Setting the memory on the Xitron Navigator RIP is extremely easy. However, care must be taken so the performance of the RIP is enhanced and not degraded. To change your memory settings follow the steps listed below:

1. Make sure that the RIP is loaded and that Inputs have been turned off. Inputs must be off because the RIP will not allow you to change major settings when it is waiting for jobs to arrive.

2. Listed under the Xitron RIP heading you will find "Configure RIP." Choosing this option will open the Configure RIP dialogue window. In this window, click on the "Options" button. The Options window, shown below, will appear.

There are three settings of interest in this window, “Disk space left for system,” “Minimum memory left for system,” and “Memory for RIP.” We will not be making changes to any of the other settings.



3. Under “Disk space left for system” type 500. This will insure that 500 Mb of disk space is reserved for use by the system and other programs. It is not a good idea to allow this number to get too small, a shortage of disk space can cause hangs and crashes. We do not recommend that you set this lower than 100. The recommended setting of 500 should be sufficient.

4. Under “Minimum memory left for system” type in a number that fits your operating environment. The table below will give you the memory minimums we suggest for the various operating systems running the Xitron Navigator RIP.

Operating System	Minimum Memory
Windows NT 4.0 Workstation	96 Mb
Windows NT 4.0 Server	128 Mb
Windows 2000 Professional Version of Navigator	128 –196 Mb
Windows 2000 Server Version of Navigator	196-256 Mb

Windows 2000 for 5.3x and older versions of the rip require different memory settings please see the chart below.

Operating System	Minimum Memory
Windows 2000 Server and Professional	2/3 of total memory

Note: These specifications are the minimum requirements to run the system under nominal loads. Additional RAM, additional processors or, faster processors, faster and/or larger hard drives may be necessary to achieve optimal speed and usability. Use the minimum specifications provided as a starting point, final PC configuration must be left to the end user to decide by balancing budget with workflow and speed requirements.

If you allocate too little memory for the system you will encounter error messages, slowdowns, erratic system behavior and perhaps even crashes. Try to allocate no less than the recommended amounts for the system.

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5. Leave “Memory for RIP,” deactivated by leaving the check box unchecked.

6. At this point, click the OK button until you have closed all open windows. You will have to shut down the RIP (software only, not the machine) and restart it before the changes take effect.

You have configured the memory to be used by the RIP and by the Operating System. Further optimization of the RIP’s memory usage can be done by setting the Network Buffer size and the Printer Buffer size. Instructions for optimizing these settings can be found in the Xitron Tech. Note entitled “Optimizing Buffer Settings.”